



Bethlehem, April 8, 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the United Church of Christ,

From Jerusalem and Bethlehem where we are still celebrating The Risen Christ, we, leadership and staff of Kairos Palestine movement, as well as co-authors of the document entitled “A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering”, send you greetings for hope in renewed life.

With profound gratitude and respect, we studied your Resolution of Witness, “A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Towards a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” that will be presented at your 30th General Synod in June 2015. We fully endorse it and pray that the Synod will adopt it unanimously.

By adopting this document your Synod will be acting genuinely and concretely in order to alleviate Palestinian suffering and bring real hope for justice and peace so urgently needed in our part of the world. Your proposed resolution reaffirms your belief in the respect of norms and principles of international law and moral values, it challenges flawed interpretations of biblical texts and government policies and stands firmly in solidarity with the oppressed and the suffering through practical tools. Your approach simply confirms our true mission as Christians.

We appreciate your partnership with and support of Kairos Palestine responding to the cries of the Palestinian Christians, a cry that speaks for all the Palestinians in their rich diversity. In the midst of our affliction, we pursue our call with faith, hope and love and assure you that our spirits cannot be broken. The political, socio-economic and humanitarian situation as well as the abuse/misuse of religion remain very acute in the occupied territories and we urgently require not only prayers but effective action. While the challenges are immense we can succeed together if we also labor as cultivators of hope and ministers of reconciliation.

Like all peoples of the world, we demand freedom, equality and justice. You and other partners, as honest stewards who have shown solidarity with the call of Kairos-Palestine, can heed our appeal through the following actions:

- ‘Come and See’, a call to all the faithful to visit the Holy Land with focus on the Occupied Territories in order to see, hear and experience what is happening. Or, try to be informed through other means in order to understand the realities of injustice.



- Reconsider critically church theologies about the Holy Land, about Israel and other nations, based on truth and the universality of Christian values.
- Ensure the validation and a stronger application of human rights and international law in the Middle East.
- Heed our call to all churches and congregations, in light of the prolonged aggressions and oppression against the Palestinian people, to support economic measures and pressure through joining the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign (BDS). As in other liberation struggles, this is a growing global movement of creative and non-violent resistance that seeks respect for international law and freedom, equality and justice to the Palestinian people.

We truly hope that the General Synod of the UCC in June 2015 will adopt a prophetic resolution of witness as a clear signal that the Israeli occupation and its settlements, both in East Jerusalem and in the West Bank, as well as the inhuman siege of the Gaza Strip, are illegal under international law and should end.

Kairos-Palestine reiterates strongly the endorsement of your remarkable draft resolution. We pray that not only the United Church of Christ, but also other churches and their members see it as a clarion call to follow.

With gratitude, hope and solidarity,

Most truly,

Hind Khoury
General Secretary