

Ramallah, 27 June 2022

H.E. Sudarshana Devadhar
Bishop
The Boston Episcopal Area and New England Annual Conference

Excellency,

I am honored to extend to The New England Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) our most sincere appreciation and gratitude for its principled positions toward the rights of the people of the Holy Land, including Palestinian Christians. Such positions are particularly significant during these critical times of constant assault against peace and human rights, where cruel and inhumane oppression is the painful norm for the Palestinian people in the Holy Land.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the New England Conference of the UMC taking the lead to promote Palestinian rights, divesting from companies supporting the continuation of this oppression, seeking a just and sustainable peace for all people in the Holy Land, and offering tangible ways of working toward that goal. Your invaluable position is more vital than ever; as it reflects the principled commitment to promote and defend the integrity, equality, and rights of all peoples, including those living in the Holy Land.

The international community has an opportunity before it to right wrongs, stand on principle, uphold international law, and apply it without fear or favor or double standards, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. It is the collective duty of the international community to confront and defeat apartheid in Palestine similar to their significant role in ending apartheid in South Africa. We, therefore, thank you for speaking up and taking such a principled stand that will no doubt inspire others to follow your lead.

The Palestinian people draw hope and strength from acts of solidarity and support expressed worldwide for freedom and justice. We believe that your resolution to non-violently oppose both apartheid and occupation will inspire others to stand on the right side of history and act towards ending the flagrant violations of international law and human rights, and help achieve the long-sought peace the Palestinian people deserve.

The people of Palestine, especially Palestinian Christians, look to you for your continued and effective support that stands true to the goals of peace and justice.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter made available to all relevant members of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Respectfully yours,



Dr. Ramzi Khouri

Head of the Higher Presidential Committee
Of Churches Affairs in Palestine



C.C. Mr. William P. Aldrich
Chairperson
Divestment Task Force
New England Conference of the United Methodist Church

