

RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Submitted by Peacemakers of Macalester Plymouth United Church of St. Paul, MN
March 6, 2005

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ affirms the right of both Israeli and Palestinian peoples to live in peace, side-by-side in secure and independent states;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ has passed resolutions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict opposing all acts of violence and violation of human and civil rights and upholding statutes of international law, especially UN Resolutions 194, 242, and 338;

WHEREAS Israel's 38-year military occupation of Palestinian land and people continues perpetuating structures and acts of state violence that have been condemned by the United Church of Christ and the international community as categorically illegal and inhumane;

WHEREAS this illegal occupation not only has caused enormous suffering, economic disaster, injustice and humiliation in the Palestinian community, it also undermines long-term security for the state of Israel and prospects for peace throughout the Middle East;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ at General Synod 2001, endorsed the World Council of Churches "Decade to Overcome Violence" and the focus of ending the occupation of Palestine;

WHEREAS economic sanctions are a proven means of active nonviolent peacemaking historically utilized by the Church and currently advocated in this situation by our Palestinian Christian sisters and brothers, the World Council of Churches, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and other partners seeking to end the occupation and secure peace with justice for Palestinians and Israelis;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ,

- 1) Directs the Acting Conference Minister to communicate this resolution with the Jewish Community Relations Committee of Minnesota and similar organizations within the Palestinian community in Minnesota, expressing clearly our desire to play a constructive role in establishing peace with justice in Israel and Palestine; and,
- 2) Directs the Acting Conference Minister to initiate local dialog on peace in Israel and Palestine with our Jewish and Palestinian neighbors in Minnesota, inviting other members of the Conference to participate in such dialog at his discretion; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference,

- 1) Calls on the Corporate Social Responsibility Ministry of the United Church of Christ to guide the Pension Board and the United Church Foundation to begin the process of using economic leverage to support the creation of an economically viable Palestinian state and to oppose the continued illegal Israeli occupation of the West Bank; and,
- 2) Calls on the Corporate Social Responsibility Ministry to provide educational materials that can be used by all settings to understand “economic leverage.” For purposes of clarification, at the present time we understand that “economic leverage” includes but is not limited to investments that strengthen Palestinian businesses, joint Palestinian-Israeli economic ventures, efforts to build and rebuild Palestinian infrastructure, shareholder resolutions, targeted purchasing, boycotts, and as a last resort, selective divestment from corporations involved in expanding and maintaining illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, and the construction of the “security fence.” We seek particular guidance in identifying corporations and businesses that serve the causes of peace and justice in that region.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to Minnesota Conference delegates to the 2005 General Synod as a matter of information as they consider similar resolutions at Synod.