

## **Additional Information**

### **Israel and Palestine 2007-2008 Mission Study**

Copies of this and other resources for the United Methodist mission study on Israel-Palestine are available at <http://resources.gbqm-umc.org/israelpalestine/>

#### **Contents:**

- UN Resolutions #242 and #338
- United Methodist Resolutions
- Resources from *The Link* (a lexicon and article by David Wildman)
- Bibliography
- Photos for "The Way of the Cross"

#### **UN RESOLUTIONS**

##### **UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 (1967) OF 22 NOVEMBER 1967**

Read and print UN Resolution 242, "The situation in the Middle East," at the following link:

<http://www.un.org/documents/sc/res/1967/scres67.htm>

##### **RESOLUTION 338 (1973) OF 22 OCTOBER 1973**

Read and print UN Resolution 338, "Cease-Fire in the Middle East," at the following link:

<http://www.un.org/documents/sc/res/1973/scres73.htm>

# UNITED METHODIST RESOLUTIONS

## 75. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY (YOM HASHOAH)

In recent years, Jewish communities have developed the custom of remembering the Holocaust (Shoah) on the Jewish calendar at a designated time each year. This observance has become a powerful means of educating people about this historical atrocity and sensitizing them to present and potential violence rooted in racial hatred.

WHEREAS, “In the twentieth century there is particular shame in the failure of most of the church to challenge the policies of governments that were responsible for the unspeakable atrocities of the Holocaust” (“Building New Bridges in Hope,” Book of Resolutions 1996);

WHEREAS, as the same document observes, “[t]he Christian Church has a profound obligation to correct historical and theological teachings that have led to false and pejorative perceptions of Judaism and contributed to persecution and hatred of Jews”; and

WHEREAS, we are currently (May 2000) remembering the 55th anniversary of the end of World War II;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the 2000 General Conference calls The United Methodist Church to contrition and repentance of its complicity in “the long history of persecution of the Jewish people” and asks the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns to give special programmatic emphasis to Holocaust awareness and to prepare resources for use in local congregations, annual conferences, and their Conference Commissions on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns or equivalent structures to enable them to become more aware of the Holocaust and its impact, and

*Be it further resolved*, as a sign of our contrition and our solidarity with the Jewish community, the General Conference urges the promotion of observance of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, each spring in United Methodist local congregations and urges the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, in cooperation with other agencies of The United Methodist Church, in a time of increasing anti-Semitism, to work with our own denominations’ history with regard to this tragedy and find ways to support the work against anti-Semitism in the world today and to prepare resources for local congregations to observe Yom HaShoah.

We continue to pray for God’s grace to speak in Jesus’ name against bigotry, hatred, genocide, or other crimes against humanity whenever we encounter them.

ADOPTED 2000

See “Social Principles,” ¶ 162, *The Book of Resolutions*, 2004. Used by permission.

## 292. HOLY LAND TOURS

Concern has been raised across the church about special opportunities that are often being missed by United Methodists traveling to Israel/Palestine, often called the Holy Land. Christians indigenous to the area have also sharpened the question by wondering why they are so often ignored by Christian pilgrims to the region. Why, they ask, do travelers tend to honor the inanimate stones that testify to Jesus' life and ministry while ignoring the "living stones," the indigenous Christians who represent an unbroken line of discipleship to Jesus in the land that he called home?

Travelers to this land have the opportunity to be ambassadors of unity and concern to the churches and Christians in a troubled land. They also have an opportunity to learn from the spiritual traditions of the churches indigenous to the Middle East. Further, they have a special opportunity to discover firsthand the realities of a region of deep meaning and vital importance to Christians, as well as to Jews and Muslims,

*Therefore, The United Methodist Church:*

1. strongly affirms the resolution of the 1984 General Conference, offering "encouragement of all leaders of and participants in 'Holy Land tours' to contact indigenous Christian leaders in the Middle East, and to hear the concerns of both the Israelis and Palestinians who live there, as well as visit the biblical and historical sites" ("The Arab-Israeli Conflict," *The Book of Resolutions, 1984*, page 280);

2. asks the bishops, clergy, members, agencies, and congregations of The United Methodist Church, as they plan visits to the Holy Land, to devote at least 20 percent of the program time to contact with indigenous Christian leaders and to hearing the concerns of Palestinians and Israelis on the current crisis of Palestinian self-determination;

3. recommends that United Methodists planning individual or group tours to Israel/Palestine consult with the United Methodist liaison in Jerusalem and the Middle East Council of Churches Ecumenical Travel Office to seek opportunities to worship with indigenous Christian congregations and to visit United Methodist-supported mission sites;

4. asks the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society to prepare specific recommendations for United Methodists traveling in the Middle East and other sensitive regions of the world;

5. recommends that United Methodist-sponsored tours use the denomination's joint seminar program in pre-departure seminars for the travelers;

6. urges that travelers use, as advance study materials, positions adopted by General Conference and by general church agencies relating to the Middle East;

7. extends sincere appreciation to those United Methodists who have facilitated the implementation of the above recommendations in tours they have sponsored or participated in during the first quadrennium following adoption of this resolution;

8. expresses deep concern that many tours sponsored or arranged by United Methodist bishops, pastors, and laity do not schedule opportunity for all participants to enter into partnership with the indigenous Christians for the recommended program time and, therefore, fail to “Walk With the Living Stones” in their strides toward Palestinian self-determination, their rich spiritual heritage, and their faithful contemporary witness;

9. expresses deep concern that evidence continues to accumulate that Christianity is dying in the land of Jesus through economic, social, and political pressures, which have greatly diminished the numbers and percentage of Christians in the Holy Land. United Methodist bishops and other organizers of Holy Land tours have a special responsibility to adhere to these recommendations to strengthen the witness of the remaining Palestinian disciples of the Living Lord;

10. affirms the presence of The United Methodist Church in Jerusalem through our liaison office;

11. encourages tour leaders to consult with the United Methodist liaison office in Jerusalem in order to facilitate adherence to these recommendations;

12. instructs the Joint Panel on International Affairs of our general agencies to monitor and report to the General Conference regarding the implementation of this resolution;

13. underscores the significance of Bethlehem 2000, which celebrated two millennia of Christianity in the land of Jesus;

14. urges close cooperation with the Middle East Council of Churches and other indigenous Christian groups to facilitate informed, alternative travel opportunities to the region; and

15. commends the General Board of Global Ministries for initiating visits to the Bible lands that explore issues of justice and peace among all participants in the region, with special emphasis upon the concerns of our Palestinian Christian colleagues.

ADOPTED 1992  
AMENDED AND READOPTED 1996  
AMENDED AND READOPTED 2000

See “Social Principles,” ¶ 165A, B, and D, *The Book of Resolutions, 2004*. Used by permission.

## **312. OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN PALESTINIAN LAND**

We join with Palestinian Christians as well as our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters in feeling a deep sense of rootedness to the land that has special meaning for our three religious traditions. We celebrate the diversity of religious customs and traditions throughout the Middle East.

Jerusalem is sacred to all the children of Abraham: Jews, Muslims, and Christians. We have a vision of a shared Jerusalem as a city of peace and reconciliation, where indigenous Palestinians and Israelis can live as neighbors and, along with visitors and tourists, have access to holy sites and exercise freedom of religious expression. The peaceful resolution of Jerusalem's status is crucial to the success of the whole process of making a just and lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

We seek for all people in the region an end to military occupation, freedom from violence, and full respect for the human rights of all under international law.

WHEREAS, the prophet Isaiah cautioned against coveting the lands and homes of one's neighbors: "Ah, you who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is room for no one but you, and you are left to live alone in the midst of the land!" (Isaiah 5:8); and

WHEREAS, the continuing confiscation of Palestinian land for construction of settlements and the building of a separation wall violates basic understanding of human rights, subverts the peace process, destroys the hope of both Israelis and Palestinians who are working for and longing for peace, and fosters a sense of desperation that can only lead to further violence; and

WHEREAS, continued and often intensified closures, curfews, dehumanizing check points, home demolitions, uprooted trees, bulldozed fields, and confiscation of Palestinian land and water by the government of Israel have devastated economic infrastructure and development in the West Bank and Gaza, have caused a massive deterioration of the living standards of all Palestinians...and an increasing sense of hopelessness and frustration; and

WHEREAS, targeted assassinations, suicide bombings, and attacks against civilians by both Israelis and Palestinians heighten the fear and suffering of all; and

WHEREAS, people in the United States, through their taxes, provide several billion dollars in economic and military assistance to the State of Israel each year, which allows for the building of bypass roads and settlements that are illegal according to the Fourth Geneva Convention;

WHEREAS, the church continues to work with ecumenical and interfaith bodies to advocate for Palestinian self-determination and an end to Israeli occupation; to affirm

Israel's right to exist within secure borders; to affirm the right of return for Palestinian refugees under international law; to call for region-wide disarmament; to urge Israelis and Palestinians to stop human rights violations and attacks on civilians, such as targeted assassinations and suicide bombings; and to urge the U.S. government to initiate an arms embargo on the entire Middle East region;

*Therefore, be it resolved,* that The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a "Greater Israel" that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings.

*Be it further resolved,* that we urge the U.S. government to end all military aid to the region, and second to redistribute the large amount of aid now given to Israel and Egypt; to support economic development efforts of nongovernmental organizations throughout the region, including religious institutions, human rights groups, labor unions, and professional groups within Palestinian communities.

The United Methodist Church requests that the government of the United States, working in cooperation with the United Nations and other nations, urge the state of Israel to:

1. cease the confiscation of Palestinian lands and water for any reason;
2. cease the building of new, or expansion of existing, settlements and/or bypass roads in the occupied territories including East Jerusalem;
3. lift the closures and curfews on all Palestinian towns by completely withdrawing Israeli military forces to the Green Line (the 1948 ceasefire line between Israel and the West Bank);
4. dismantle that segment of the Wall of Separation constructed since May 2002 that is not being built on the Green Line but on Palestinian land that is separating Palestinian farmers from their fields.

We also urge the Palestinian Authority and all Palestinian religious leaders to continue to publicly condemn violence against Israeli civilians and to use nonviolent acts of disobedience to resist the occupation and the illegal settlements.

We urge all United Methodists in the U.S. to:

1. advocate with the U.S. administration and Congress to implement the above steps;
2. encourage members of each congregation to study the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from all perspectives by inviting speakers to church events, reading books,

using audio-visual resources in educational forums, and getting information from Web sites.

3. provide financial support to the Palestinian people through contributions to the General Board of Global Ministries;

4. support, and participate in, the work of international peace and human rights organizations to provide protection for Palestinians and Israelis seeking nonviolently to end the occupation; and

5. reach out to local synagogues, mosques, and Christian faith groups by engaging in interfaith and ecumenical dialogue on how to promote justice and peace in the Holy Land; and

That the General Board of Global Ministries, working together with the General Board of Church & Society and interfaith organizations, develop advocacy packets for use in local congregations to promote a just and lasting peace and human rights for all in the region.

ADOPTED 2004

See "Social Principles," ¶ 165, *The Book of Resolutions, 2004*. Used by permission.

### **323. UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS ON THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT**

WHEREAS, negotiations between the State of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority still have not achieved a just and lasting peace for the Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Security Council has passed numerous resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338, that outline a framework for a just and lasting peace; and

WHEREAS, the UMC recognizes and affirms the role of the United Nations in the resolution of this conflict and has already affirmed that the “principles embodied in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 provide an agreed upon formula to achieve security and peace for all states in the area” (see “The Current Arab-Israeli Crisis”),

*Therefore, be it resolved,* that The United Methodist Church calls upon the United States, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to accept the authority of Security Council resolutions and abide by Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as all other relevant Security Council resolutions, that provide a framework for bringing this conflict to a just and permanent end.

ADOPTED 2000

See “Social Principles,” ¶ 165A, B, C, and D, *The Book of Resolutions, 2004*. Used by permission.

## **RESOURCES FROM THE LINK**

Americans for Middle East Understanding (AMEU) publishes *The Link* on a bimonthly basis.

**THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT: A LEXICON** by J. Martin Bailey, *The Link*, April-May 2002, Volume 35, Issue 2

Read and print this resource at the following link:

<http://www.ameu.org/page.asp?iid=126&aid=169>  
<http://www.ameu.org/printer.asp?iid=126&aid=169> (print-friendly)

**WHY DIVESTMENT? AND WHY NOW?** by David Wildman, *The Link*, August-September 2006, Volume 39, Issue 3

Read and print this article at the following link:

<http://www.ameu.org/printer.asp?iid=267&aid=577>  
[http://www.ameu.org/uploads/vol39\\_issue3\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ameu.org/uploads/vol39_issue3_2006.pdf) (16 pages)

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Hayes, Tom, "People and the Land: Coming to a PBS Station Near You?" AMEU: *The Link*, November-December 1997, Volume 30, Issue 5.

Palumbo, Michael, "What Happened to Palestine? The Revisionists Revisited," AMEU: *The Link*, September-October 1990, Volume 23, Issue 4.

Pappé, Ilan, "What Really Happened Fifty Years Ago?" AMEU: *The Link*, January-March 1998, Volume 31, Issue 1.

### Websites

The Alternative Information Center (AIC) is a joint Palestinian-Israeli organization that prioritizes political advocacy, critical analysis, and information-sharing on the Palestinian and Israeli societies as well as on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In doing so, the AIC promotes responsible cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis based on the values of social and political justice, equality, solidarity, community involvement, and respect for the full inalienable national rights of all Palestinian people.

<http://www.alternativenews.org>

Americans for Middle East Understanding (AMEU) was founded 39 years ago by Americans whose professions in medicine, church ministry, archaeology, and diplomacy had taken them to the Middle East. AMEU strives to create in the United States a deeper appreciation of the culture, history, and current events in that area. To achieve this goal, AMEU publishes *The Link* on a bimonthly basis and sponsors educational programs. <http://www.ameu.org/ameu.asp>

Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem (ARIJ), founded in 1990, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable development in the occupied Palestinian territories and the self-reliance of the Palestinian people through greater control over their natural resources. <http://www.arij.org>

ATFP (American Task Force on Palestine) Mideast News: World Press Roundup is a free educational and informational service read each day by decision makers, academics, journalists, and activists worldwide. <http://www.atfpnews.org>

BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights takes a rights-based approach to the Palestinian refugee issue through research, advocacy, and support of community participation in the search for durable solutions. BADIL (*ba-deel*) is an Arabic word that means “alternative.” BADIL’s alternative approach to the question of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons is based on international law, relevant UN resolutions, and the participation of refugees themselves.  
<http://www.badil.org/index.html>

*CHALLENGE* is a leftist magazine focusing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict within a global context. Published in Tel Aviv-Jaffa by Arabs and Jews, it features political analysis, investigative reporting, interviews, eyewitness reports, gender studies, arts, and more. <http://www.challenge-mag.com>

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a coalition of 21 public policy offices of national churches and agencies—Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant. CMEP began its work in 1984 out of the conviction that the policy perspectives and extensive Middle East experience of our member bodies should be more widely known in the public policy arena. We therefore seek to maintain an ongoing dialogue with Congress, the administration, and the diplomatic community, to advance such concerns, assessments, and advocacy positions. <http://www.cmep.org/sites.htm>

Education for Just Peace in the Middle East does business as the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. <http://www.endtheoccupation.org>

Gush Shalom (translated from Hebrew, the name means “The Peace Bloc”) is the hard core of the Israeli peace movement. Often described as “resolute,” “militant,” “radical,” or “consistent,” it is known for its unwavering stand in times of crisis, such as the al-Aksa intifada. For years now, Gush Shalom has played a leading role in determining the moral and political agenda of the peace forces in Israel, as well as in breaking the so-called “national consensus” based on misinformation. Gush Shalom is an extra-parliamentary organization, independent of any party or other political grouping. Some of its activists do belong to political parties, but the Gush is not aligned to any particular party. [http://zope.gush-shalom.org/index\\_en.html](http://zope.gush-shalom.org/index_en.html)

*Haaretz Daily News.* <http://www.haaretz.com>

Human Rights Watch is dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world. More than 150 dedicated professionals work for Human Rights Watch around the world, including lawyers, journalists, academics, and country experts of many nationalities and diverse backgrounds. Human Rights Watch often joins forces with human rights groups from other countries to further mutual common goals. It is the largest human rights organization based in the United States. Researchers conduct fact-finding investigations into human rights abuses in all regions of the world, and Human Rights Watch then publishes those findings in dozens of books and reports every year, generating extensive coverage in local and international media.  
<http://hrw.org>

The Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD) is a nonviolent, direct-action group originally established to oppose and resist Israeli demolition of Palestinian houses in the Occupied Territories. Since its founding, ICAHD's activities have extended to three interrelated spheres: resistance and protest actions in the Occupied Territories; efforts to bring the reality of the Occupation to Israeli society; and mobilizing the international community for a just peace. <http://www.icahd.org/eng>. See also: Jeff Halper, "The Matrix of Control," from Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD). <http://www.icahd.org/eng/articles.asp?menu=6&submenu=3>

Middle East Policy (ISSN 1061-1924) provides a forum for viewpoints on recent developments that affect US - Middle East Policy. For subscription information, visit [Blackwell Publishing](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com) at [subscrip@blackwellpub.com](mailto:subscrip@blackwellpub.com) or 1-800-835-6770. The Middle East Policy Council was founded in 1981 to expand public discussion and understanding of issues affecting US policy in the Middle East. The Council is a nonprofit educational organization whose activities extend throughout the United States. <http://www.mepec.org/main/main.asp>

Sabeel is an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land who seek a just peace based on two states—Palestine and Israel—as defined by international law and existing United Nations resolutions. Sabeel promotes theological, moral, and legal principles for peace as outlined in the Jerusalem Sabeel Document. Friends of Sabeel - North America (FOSNA) works in the US and Canada to support the vision of Sabeel, cultivating the support of American churches through cosponsored regional educational conferences, alternative pilgrimage, witness trips, and international gatherings in the Holy Land. <http://fosna.org>

Wi'am "Cordial Relationships" have been supported by Global Ministries with Mission Intern assignments in recent years. The Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center began operation in March of 1995. Known as "Wi'am" (which in Arabic means "cordial relationships"), the Center helps to resolve disputes within the Palestinian community by complementing the traditional Arab form of mediation, *Sulha*, with Western models of conflict resolution. When Wi'am opened its doors, a vacuum of authority existed in West Bank society. The authority of the Israeli military occupation had never been accepted, and there was no clear Palestinian authority outside Gaza and Jericho. Since many of the traditional village leaders (*mukhtars*) were appointed by the Israelis during the occupation, their legitimacy was no longer fully accepted by the community. <http://www.planet.edu/~alaslak>

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## **Videos/DVDs**

*Beyond the Mirage: The Face of the Occupation*. Americans for a Just Peace in the Middle East (AJPME). Israeli and Palestinian human rights advocates challenge the misconceptions most Americans have about the occupation and Palestinian resistance to it. (2002, 47 minutes, DVD)

*Children of the Nakba*. Mennonite Central Committee. Why the issue of the Palestinian refugees is an integral part of resolving the conflict. Comes with useful study guides. (2005, 26 minutes, DVD/VHS)

*Frontiers of Dreams and Fears*. Mai Masri. Focuses on the lives of two Palestinian girls growing up in refugee camps in Beirut and Bethlehem. (2002, 58 minutes, VHS)

*Gaza Strip*. James Longley. American documentary filmmaker James Longley traveled to the Gaza Strip in January of 2001, planning to stay for two weeks and collect preliminary material for a film about the Palestinian intifada. He threw away his return ticket and stayed for another three months, shooting over 75 hours of material throughout the Gaza Strip. Arabic with English subtitles. (2002, 74 minutes, DVD/VHS)

*Imagine....* AJPME. The state of Palestinian education under Israeli Occupation. Excellent for discussion groups. (2005, 15 minutes, DVD)

*Palestine Is Still the Issue.* J. Pilger. Candid assessment by an award-winning journalist from Australia. (2002, 53 minutes, DVD)

*Palestinian Costumes and Embroidery: A Precious Legacy.* F. and H. Munayyer. A rare collection of Palestinian dresses and accessories modeled against the background of Palestinian music, with commentary tracing the designs back to Canaanite times. (1990, 38 minutes, VHS)

*Peace, Propaganda, and the Promised Land.* MEF (Media Education Foundation). Excellent analysis of how the US media slants its coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Provides comparisons with European media. (2004, 80 minutes, DVD)

*People and the Land.* DMZ. This is the controversial documentary by Tom Hayes that has appeared on over 40 PBS stations. (1997, 57 minutes, VHS)

The videos/DVDs listed above are available from Americans for Middle East Understanding.

**Mailing Address:**

Americans for Middle East Understanding (AMEU)  
475 Riverside Drive, Room 245  
New York, New York, 10115-0245  
Telephone: 212-870-2053  
Fax: 212-870-2050  
Email: [info@ameu.org](mailto:info@ameu.org)

*Searching for Peace in the Middle East: A Film by Landrum Bolling.* Jimmy Carter describes the film: "A superb presentation of the intricate relations between Israelis and Palestinians, presented dramatically by people from both sides. Their combined proposals, clearly presented, comprise the only pathway to peace, with justice, in the Holy Land." (2006, 30 minutes, DVD)

**Available from:**

Foundation for Middle East Peace  
1761 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone: 202-835-365  
Website: [www.fmep.org](http://www.fmep.org)

## THE WAY OF THE CROSS PHOTOS



### For Those Leading a study on Israel-Palestine:

The study guide by Sandra Olewine suggests that part of the study be a contemporary Way of the Cross. To help create the places on this spiritual journey, photos have been posted on this website that you can download for use in the study. These photos are in black and white.

The Study Guide suggests that you print nine photos as 8" X 10" prints. Please choose a variety of photos from the 33 that are posted at <http://resources.gb-gm-umc.org/ipphotos/>, download them to your computer, and then print them.



Credits: David Wildman (top left) and Bob May (bottom right), General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church

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Copies of this and other resources for the United Methodist mission study on Israel-Palestine are available at <http://resources.gb-gm-umc.org/israelpalestine/>