

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

What does the Bible say?

Doom to those who acquire house after house, who annex field to field until there is no more space left and only you live alone in the land. **(Isaiah 5:8)**

They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying “peace, peace,” when there is no peace. **(Jeremiah 6:14)**

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. **(Proverbs 31:8-9)**



What does the United Methodist Church say?

We urge the church to care and work for systemic justice for all people affected by war, and to advocate for peacemaking and nonviolent conflict transformation in global and local conflicts. **(Social Principles, ¶ 163.F)**

We affirm the important work of the United Nations in promoting peace and security, championing human dignity and human rights, and advocating for sustainable development. **(Social Principles, ¶ 163)**

The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and also the Syrian Golan Heights, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued blockade of Gaza where over half the residents are children, the military detention of Palestinian children – often without trial, 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. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4108, “Opposition to Israeli Settlements on Palestinian Land”)**

In our call for an end to the Israeli occupation we affirm the church’s commitment to nonviolent responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and acknowledge the need to hear the voices of all those—Muslim, Christian and Jewish—harmed by the conflict, including the Palestinian Christians as voiced in the Kairos Palestine document. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4108, “Opposition to Israeli Settlements on Palestinian Land”)**

We ask all companies that profit from and/or support settlements through their business activities to examine these and stop any business that contributes to serious violations of international law, promotes systemic discrimination, or otherwise supports ongoing military occupation or attempted annexation. The United Methodist Church does not support a boycott of products made in Israel. Our opposition is to products made by companies operating in occupied Palestinian territories. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #4108, “Opposition to Israeli Settlements on Palestinian Land”)**



OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

What do the facts say?

- Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed since the bombardment of Gaza that began after October 7, 2023.¹
- As of early 2023, there are 565 movement obstacles in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, often between Palestinian cities and not Palestine and Israel.²
- 28,000 Palestinian structures have been demolished in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since 1967.³
- Most Gazans do not have access to safe drinking water, worsening with the recent hostilities. Moreover, 100 Palestinian villages pre-existing the founding of the state exist in Israel, but are not recognized by the Israeli government and receive no services (water, electricity, sanitation, roads, etc.) from the Israeli government.⁴



¹ Reuters ² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ³ UN Human Rights Council,

⁴ Jewish Voice for Peace

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Educate** yourself and your local community on the situation in Israel and Palestine. Stand with Palestinian Christians by taking action with organizations like United Methodists for Kairos Response at www.kairosresponse.org.
- **Read** the Kairos Document, a call by Palestinian Christians to Christians around the world to help fight the Israeli occupation: <https://www.kairospalestine.ps/index.php/about-kairos/kairos-palestine-document>
- **Participate** in non-violent economic measures that will aid in ending the occupation, support investments in the Palestinian economy, and join in activities that will help bring peace to both Palestinians and Israelis.
- **Meet** with your elected officials to advocate for policies that support a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel.
- **Sign up** for email alerts focused on Israel and Palestine at <https://www.umcjustice.org/>.



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Updated 2025

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The United Methodist Church