

The Holy Land holds profound significance for United Methodists, as it does for all Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Christians can “walk where Jesus walked” and perhaps feel a connection never before experienced.

For decades, millions of Christians have come to the Holy Land only as spectators, touring holy sites as they would museums, not knowing that these are living places of worship and never realizing that their pilgrimage was missing something very important: meaningful interaction with descendants of the original disciples of Christ who have kept our faith alive in the land of Christ's birth.

We urge you to use United Methodist Church resolutions\* regarding Israel/Palestine, to live our values when you visit this remarkable land and become a blessing to the people who call it home.

Tell your tour organizer it is important to you that your tour comply as much as possible with church guidelines. See questions on this page to help you.



# Experience the Holy Land

## *The United Methodist Way*



The Church of the Nativity  
Bethlehem, West Bank

### Questions for United Methodists to Ask

Whether you are planning a tour or joining someone else's group, these questions can help you discern how well the tour will follow United Methodist guidelines for visiting the Holy Land. You may be able to find the answers in the tour description and itinerary, or you can ask the tour provider.

- Will we have opportunities to visit and worship with Palestinian Christians?
- Will we spend at least one night in Bethlehem and have opportunities to hear from local people beyond the tourist sites and shopping?
- Can you assure us that we will not be using hotels or restaurants located in the settlements?
- Will we be patronizing Palestinian businesses throughout the tour? Will we be using a Palestinian hotel if we stay in East Jerusalem?
- Will we visit any UMC Advance Projects\*\*?

\*Resolutions #6031 and #6111, UMC 2016 Book of Resolutions \*\*Find UMC Advance Projects: [umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects](http://umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects)

*Walk with the people of our faith in the place where it all began.*



## Come and See

*"In order to understand our reality, we say to the Churches: Come and see. We will fulfill our role to make known to you the truth of our reality, receiving you as pilgrims coming to us to pray, carrying a message of peace, love and reconciliation. You will know the facts and the people of this land, Palestinians and Israelis alike."*

The Christians of Palestine in the  
**KAIROS PALESTINE DOCUMENT**

See it on the UMKR website: [www.kairosresponse.org](http://www.kairosresponse.org)

## Responsible tourism with diverse tours

On our website, UMKR has a diverse selection of recommended tour providers, and we often post their upcoming trips. These visits range from introductory tours including biblical sites for first-time visitors to intensive studies of the current realities in Israel/Palestine, and many of them will combine those focuses. Some are organized by UM agencies or Christian groups, others are interfaith or otherwise comprised. They all provide significant opportunities to know the people of the Holy Land and learn firsthand about their lives.

These tours will follow most or all of the UMC guidelines and every tour UMKR recommends will offer you the chance to deeply experience the Holy Land as a responsible visitor.



**Website:** [www.KairosResponse.org](http://www.KairosResponse.org)

**Contact us:** [info@kairosresponse.org](mailto:info@kairosresponse.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/UMsforKairosResponse](https://www.facebook.com/UMsforKairosResponse)

**Twitter:** [@UMKairosResp](https://twitter.com/UMKairosResp)

## Methodist Liaison Office

The Methodist Liaison Office (MLO) in Jerusalem may be able to assist you in planning a trip that meets UMC guidelines.

Contact Rev. Jane Eesley, our United Methodist Liaison:

Contact Samar Hashweh, the MLO manager: [Office@Mlojerusalem.org](mailto:Office@Mlojerusalem.org)

## Clergy Continuing Education Credits

We recommend that UMC clergy submit your itinerary to your conference Office of Continuing Education which will evaluate it for CEUs. All the recommended tours on our website are provided by highly regarded tour organizers with many years of experience.

