

QUICK FACTS:

UNITED METHODISTS & ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Since the 1980's, The United Methodist Church has opposed Israel's brutal military occupation of Palestinian land.

"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." #6111, UMC Book of Resolutions 2016

BETHLEHEM, DEC. 2009

PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS SEND AN URGENT CALL TO THE GLOBAL CHURCH FOR CONCRETE ACTIONS FOR THEIR LIBERATION, NAMING BOYCOTT AND DIVESTMENT AS NONVIOLENT ACTIONS THAT WOULD HELP THEM.



"Are you able to help us get our freedom back? For this is the only way you can help the two peoples attain justice, peace, security and love."

Kairos Palestine Document

OCTOBER 2010,

United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) is founded.



JUNE 2014 *The New York Times*

Methodist Church Pension Board Links Divestment to Firm's Role in Israeli Prisons

THE NY TIMES TELLS THE WORLD UMC DIVESTED FROM G4S, THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FIRM. UMC BECOMES FIRST OF THE "MAINLINE" CHURCHES IN THE US TO DIVEST FROM A COMPANY FOR VIOLATIONS OF PALESTINIANS' HUMAN RIGHTS.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012

UMKR CALLS FOR CHURCH TO PUT ITS WORDS INTO ACTION: *DIVEST FROM THE OCCUPATION.*

16

Annual Conferences have voted in support of United Methodist divestment from the Israeli occupation.

MORE UMC DIVESTMENT

The New York Times THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
THE HUFFINGTON POST
USNews & WORLD REPORT
The Washington Post

JANUARY 2016: GLOBAL HEADLINES ANNOUNCE LANDMARK CHURCH ACTION: UMC PENSION BOARD BARS INVESTMENT IN FIVE ISRAELI BANKS & ISRAELI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BECAUSE THEY VIOLATE PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS BY SUPPORTING THE SETTLEMENTS.

Protecting Free Speech

2016-2017: Eight regional UMC bodies - representing over 1 million church members - adopt resolutions *opposing any state or federal laws that would penalize those who boycott and divest in support of Palestinian rights.*

23 RESOLUTIONS IN 2017

UMC conferences pass 23 Israel/Palestine resolutions in one year: besides opposing anti-BDS legislation (above), they SUPPORT the international HP boycott, DENOUNCE military detention of Palestinian children, PROMOTE responsible Holy Land tourism, and more.



In UMKR, United Methodists are responding to **Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth**, a profound statement of faith and urgent call to action from Christians in the Holy Land. *UMKR seeks – through nonviolent action and in partnership with Christian Palestinians – freedom, justice, and equality for all Palestinians and Israelis.*

Visit us: KairosResponse.org

2015: RESPONDING TO ANNUAL CONFERENCES' CALLS FOR DIVESTMENT, THE UMC PENSION BOARD EXCLUDES COMPANIES NAMED IN MANY RESOLUTIONS - CATERPILLAR, HEWLETT PACKARD, AND MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS – FROM THE FUND: **EQUITY SOCIAL VALUES PLUS**

CALL FOR GLOBAL BOYCOTT!

MAY 2012: “WE [the United Methodist Church] FURTHER CALL ON ALL NATIONS TO PROHIBIT...THE IMPORT OF PRODUCTS MADE BY COMPANIES IN ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON PALESTINIAN LAND.” #6111, UMC Book of Resolutions 2016

The HP Boycott

Of 23 U.S. congregations that became an “HP-Free Church” in 2017, 9 are *United Methodist Churches.*

UMKR'S ACTION AREAS:

• DIVESTMENT • BOYCOTT • POLITICAL ADVOCACY • EDUCATION ON ISRAEL/PALESTINE • RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

UMKR is an independent grassroots justice movement and a member of the Love Your Neighbor Coalition. We also work with United Methodist agencies such as GBGM and GBCS and with numerous movements beyond the UMC, including Kairos Palestine, Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA), Kairos USA, AFSC, and many others in the US and around the world.