



Kairos

SOUTHERN AFRICA

“Towards humanity with a Kairos consciousness”

12 April 2012

Dear Friends in the United Methodist Church (USA),

Kairos Southern Africa greets you in the Name of our resurrected Lord, Jesus Christ!

We have heard about the work you are doing and the decisions that need to be made in relation to three companies in which the United Methodist Church have investments and who do business with and benefit from the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine.

As South Africans, we think of the state of Israel as an apartheid state effectively practising Apartheid 2.0 and, as people who have experience of apartheid, we believe that everything possible ought to be done to end apartheid there. For many years, the church in South Africa tried to play a reconciliatory role between the oppressors and oppressed in South Africa and it was only when we realised that good and evil could not be reconciled, and when the church stood fully with the oppressed, that change became a real possibility in South Africa.

The Kairos that has been declared by Christians in Palestine, brings the global Church to that same point. The Occupation of Palestinian land, and the spoken and unspoken theological justification of that occupation, leads us all away from the values of the Kingdom rather than towards it.

If you agree that doing nothing about that situation is not an option, then failure to implement acts of non-violence (such as sanctions) simply leaves violence as the only option left and would make us all co-accomplices of violence.

It took major Western governments many years to take a stand against apartheid South Africa, and it was only as a result of the work of ordinary citizens and their churches and other organisations, that eventually pressurised their governments to take action.

We therefore wish to encourage the United Methodist Church to take this moral stand and to be the beacon of hope to which we are called. We congratulate you that you have started this conversation and will keep you in our prayers as you deliberate on this important matter. Christians in Palestine have called on us all to support them, and we can do no other but to heed their call.

God bless.



Edwin Arrison (Rev) General-secretary

On behalf of Kairos Southern Africa (including Rev. Moss Nthla, Ms. Dudu Masango, Dr. Stiaan van der Merwe, Rev Dix Sibeko, Ms Marthie Momberg)

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