

What is UM Kairos Response?

United Methodist Kairos Response is a global grassroots group of United Methodists formed to answer an urgent call from Christians in the Holy Land. **More than 3,000 Palestinian Christians have signed an urgent appeal** called the *Kairos Palestine Document*, asking churches to learn about the Israeli occupation and take principled actions that can help bring it to an end. These members of our faith community live today under desperate conditions as a direct result of this occupation, which denies them and their Muslim neighbors their basic human rights.

Every United Methodist missionary who has served in the Holy Land has endorsed moral actions like boycott and divestment. They have witnessed the dispossession, home demolitions, discrimination, and denial of access to water, shelter, and freedom of movement that affect those they serve. They join in asking their fellow Christians to “come and see,” not through trips that show only the places of the Bible, but through time spent with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

For many years, our denomination has opposed Israel’s occupation. It is time we translated our words into bold moral actions that can bring real change.

Please see www.kairosresponse.org

What does UMKR ask of the church?

UMKR asks the whole church to:

- Support educational efforts to inform United Methodists about the realities of Israel’s occupation.
- Adhere to the principles for Holy Land travel included in General Conference Resolution #6031, which requires spending significant time with Palestinian Christians.
- Support a boycott of goods produced in the illegal Israeli settlements and a screen to avoid investment in firms located in or providing them services.

UMKR asks all the boards and agencies of the church to:

- Begin a process of engagement with companies in their portfolios that support the Israeli occupation, and divest from those companies if they do not end their involvement.
- Divest from companies that have already refused requests by United Methodist agencies to end their roles in the occupation.
- Screen out companies located in the illegal settlements or providing financing or other support to them.

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Words Are Not Enough!

Holy Land Christians Call for Action



Join United Methodist Kairos Response, the movement to live our faith through actions that can end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.

Education

UMKR asks all United Methodists to learn about the past and present realities in Israel/Palestine. We encourage the study of the *Kairos Palestine Document*, the urgent call to action from Palestinian Christians. **We develop and recommend resources**, including study guides, films, articles, and books that can help congregations become informed and effective advocates for a just peace. Our missionaries who have served in the Holy Land and many other United Methodist witnesses who have spent time there are also important resources, and a Speakers Bureau is ready to share with churches.

Boycott

In Resolution #6111, the 2012 United Methodist General Conference called on all nations to ban the import of products made in Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land. Such settlements are illegal under international law. UMKR provides resources to help churches learn about these products and the stores that carry them. **We offer a four-step plan** to implement a simple boycott in local churches. We also offer sample letters to companies. Palestinian Christians have told us that boycott is an important way we can help them achieve their freedom.

Holy Land Tours

Many pilgrims visit the Holy Land and see only the “dead stones” and empty buildings of Bible history. The living church in the region is ignored. United Methodists have passed a resolution (#6031) asking members to spend time with Palestinian Christians, who keep our faith traditions alive in the land where Christ was born. UMKR asks United Methodists to follow these guidelines, and to spend at least one night in Bethlehem. **We recommend tours** that meet these criteria and encourage travelers to contact the UM Liaison Office in Jerusalem in advance.

Contact Us

For further information, please visit our website at www.kairosresponse.org, or contact us at info@kairosresponse.org.



You can make a difference for a just and lasting peace. Join our movement today!

Policy

UMKR asks United Methodists to advocate just policies with their elected officials, and works with ecumenical partners to bring to government leaders a united message for justice in the Holy Land. **We ask the US government to support universal human rights** in Israel/Palestine and to hold all parties accountable for violations of those rights and international law. We support a letter to Congress from fifteen Christian leaders, asking that US laws be applied to aid for Israel just as they are to other countries. The President of the UMC Council of Bishops also signed this letter.

Divestment

For many years, the UMC has strongly opposed the continuation and expansion of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, yet our church is still invested in companies that profit from that occupation. UMKR believes that UMC investments should reflect our church's values and long-held positions, and that companies sustaining the occupation should be removed from the church's investment portfolios if they fail to change. **We urge a screen** to be sure companies located in the illegal settlements are excluded from holdings.