

Witness and Solidarity Delegation to Palestine, March 6-16, 2026

Dear Friend,

As a person lamenting the pain, suffering and destruction in the Holy Lands of Israel & Palestine, and have prayed for peace and a way forward, put your prayers into action by travelling to be with Christians, Muslims and Jews living there in these times. and experience how you can make a significant difference from their perspectives.

We, the Rev. Dr. L. Edward Phillips, Associate Professor of Historical Theology and Christian Worship at Emory University, and the Rev. Sara Webb Phillips, retired United Methodist minister, are organizing a Witness and Solidarity trip to Palestine-Israel, March 6-16, 2026. The trip is with Sabeel, a Palestinian Christian organization headquartered in Jerusalem that has been organizing such trips for many years. Sabeel is ecumenical, working across and through various Christian bodies in the region and around the world. It also has strong interfaith ties in the region and around the world.

I, Ed, had opportunity to visit Palestine through academic trips in the 1980s (including Gaza) and 1990s, as well as leading Sabell trips In December 2024 and March 2025. I, Sara, travelled on one of Ed's early trips, and was a part of an interfaith-international Sabeel protest and solidary trip in August 2024.

This upcoming trip, March 6-16, falls during the seasons of Muslim Ramadan (Feb. 17-Mar. 19, 2026), Christian Orthodox Lent (Feb. 23rd-Apr. 11th), Roman Catholic Lent (Feb 18th-Apr. 2nd),and Jewish Purim and Passover (March 13th-Apr. 20th). The themes of this delegation are Lent (a season of repentance and preparation for Christians) and Christian-Muslim-Jewish relations in Palestine-Israel working for peace. During the trip, we will witness the occupation of the West Bank firsthand (and perhaps Gaza, depending on the situation). While the specific itinerary for each delegation is different, most delegations will meet with Palestinians and Israelis engaged in nonviolent resistance, visit local communities, and witness realities on the ground. We will also enjoy the incredible culture of art, environment, and food, and the indomitable spirit of the peoples who call it home.

Sabeel has been hosting visitors to Palestine/Israel for years and knows how to navigate the roadblocks, both physical and bureaucratic. The safety of each delegation is paramount. As part of a Sabeel delegation, expect to:

- Meet with local Palestinians and Israelis to discuss our spiritual and political commitments in the face of the on-going Genocide in Gaza and Occupation of East Jerusalem and the West Bank.
 - Experience the reality of joy and resistance of the Palestinian community living in the Land of our Holy One – religious extremism, shrinking space, the wall, settlements, checkpoints, confiscated land and demolished homes, refugee camps, and environmental degradation.
 - Learn about the loss of civil and property rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel.
 - Meet and reflect with all who partner with Sabeel to uplift international/ humanitarian law.
 - Act in solidarity with people on the margins.
- And upon your return, you will give witness of your experience in your home community by organizing presentations, sharing information, and working for justice & reconciliation for all who live in Israel/ Palestine.

We ask all participants to contribute \$3000 toward the cost of this trip. This includes airfare, ground transportation, lodging, and meals. There is an extra charge of \$400 for a private room. Sabeel is also committed to helping participants raise money for the trip—notably they do not want the cost to hinder students, pastors, and others who work on issues of justice who may need financial help to come on the trip.

If you are interested in learning more, contact us at lphill6@emory.edu or sarawebbphillips@gmail.com. The registration link is included at the end of the resources.

Sincerely, Ed Phillips and Sara Webb Phillips

RESOURCES:

Below is a list of persons and groups that delegations have met with in the past year, with links to relevant websites and the registration form.

Sabeel: Palestinian Liberation Theology Center. Organized travel and facilitated meetings. See also [Friends of Sabeel North America \(FOSNA\)](#)

Budour Hassan, co-author of the Amnesty International report: [You Feel Like You Are Subhuman': Israel's Genocide Against Palestinians in Gaza](#). Watch Budour on [Democracy Now](#) speak about the report.

Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan: Palestinian Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Read his 2024 article about [The Future of Christianity in the Middle East](#) in The Middle East Council of Churches.

Save the ArQ: Movement to save the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem. Read this [article](#) for background and this [article about their upcoming speaking tour](#) in the US. [Share/donate to the Legal Defense Fund here.](#)

Basalan Initiative for Human Rights, Dalia Qumsieh: Advocacy to prevent land annexation by Israel, including areas of Cremizan and Al Makhrou, near Bethlehem.

Tent of Nations, Daoud Nasser. A farm and movement near the village of Nahalin that is surrounded by 5 illegal Israeli Jewish settlements (Gush Etzion settlement bloc) that are growing to become cities. The land is constantly under threat of annexation by Israel.

Palestine Museum of Natural History Professor Mazin Qumsiyeh, Founder and Scientist

Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center. Located in Bethlehem.

Reverend Munther Isaac, **Evangelical Christmas Lutheran Church** in Bethlehem. Watch Isaac's 2023 liturgy of lament [Christ in the Rubble](#) and the follow-up liturgy in 2024, [Christ is Still Under the Rubble.](#)

Save Al-Makhrou, Alice Kisiya. Al-Makhrou is one of the few remaining green spaces for Palestinians near Bethlehem. Israel has stated it will annex the land to form a new illegal settlement.

Rabbis for Ceasefire <https://rabbis4ceasefire.com/hineini/>

Below is the registration form:

Sabeel's Registration Form *Lenten Solidarity Delegation* 6-16 March 2026
<https://forms.office.com/r/agVuWUysKe>