

Take action for peace in 2012

Support human rights and equality, the only path to true security and a lasting peace for all the people of the Holy Land. Support the resolution:

ALIGNING UNITED METHODIST INVESTMENTS WITH RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAEL/PALESTINE



Photo: United Methodist News Service

In 1996, The United Methodist General Conference declared “continuing efforts by the State of Israel to build settlements in the occupied territories violate both international law and the spirit of the Declaration of Principles [the Oslo peace process].”

The 2004 General Conference overwhelmingly approved a resolution opposing “confiscation of Palestinian land ... 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.” The vote was 877-19.

The Church should back these emphatic words with action by ending its investments in companies that profit from Israel’s occupation.

The Council of Bishops reminds us in God’s Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action (2009): “We love God and neighbor by challenging those who do harm. We must not only respond to the suffering already created, but also **challenge people, companies, and governments** that continue to exploit the weak, destroy the earth, perpetuate violence, and generate more weapons. **We follow Jesus’ example of confronting authorities nonviolently using the force of love.**”



United Methodist Kairos Response (UMKR) is an international movement in the United Methodist Church responding to “Kairos Palestine,” an urgent plea from Christians in the Holy Land for decisive action supporting a just peace in Israel/Palestine. Learn more about us at: www.kairosresponse.org.

From the **Kairos Palestine Document**, written by Christian Palestinian laity and clergy and signed by the leadership of every indigenous Christian church in Israel/Palestine:

“We, a group of Christian Palestinians...cry out from within the suffering in our country under the Israeli occupation...a cry full of prayer and faith in a God ever vigilant – a word of faith, hope and love.

“The hearts of the faithful are filled with pain and with questions: What is the international community doing? What are the political leaders in Palestine, in Israel and in the Arab world doing? **What is the Church doing?**”

The Palestinian Christians, suffering under decades of military occupation, implore their “Christian brothers and sisters around the world” to put actions behind our words of support. They have named divestment as a courageous, non-violent action that can help them in their struggle for freedom.

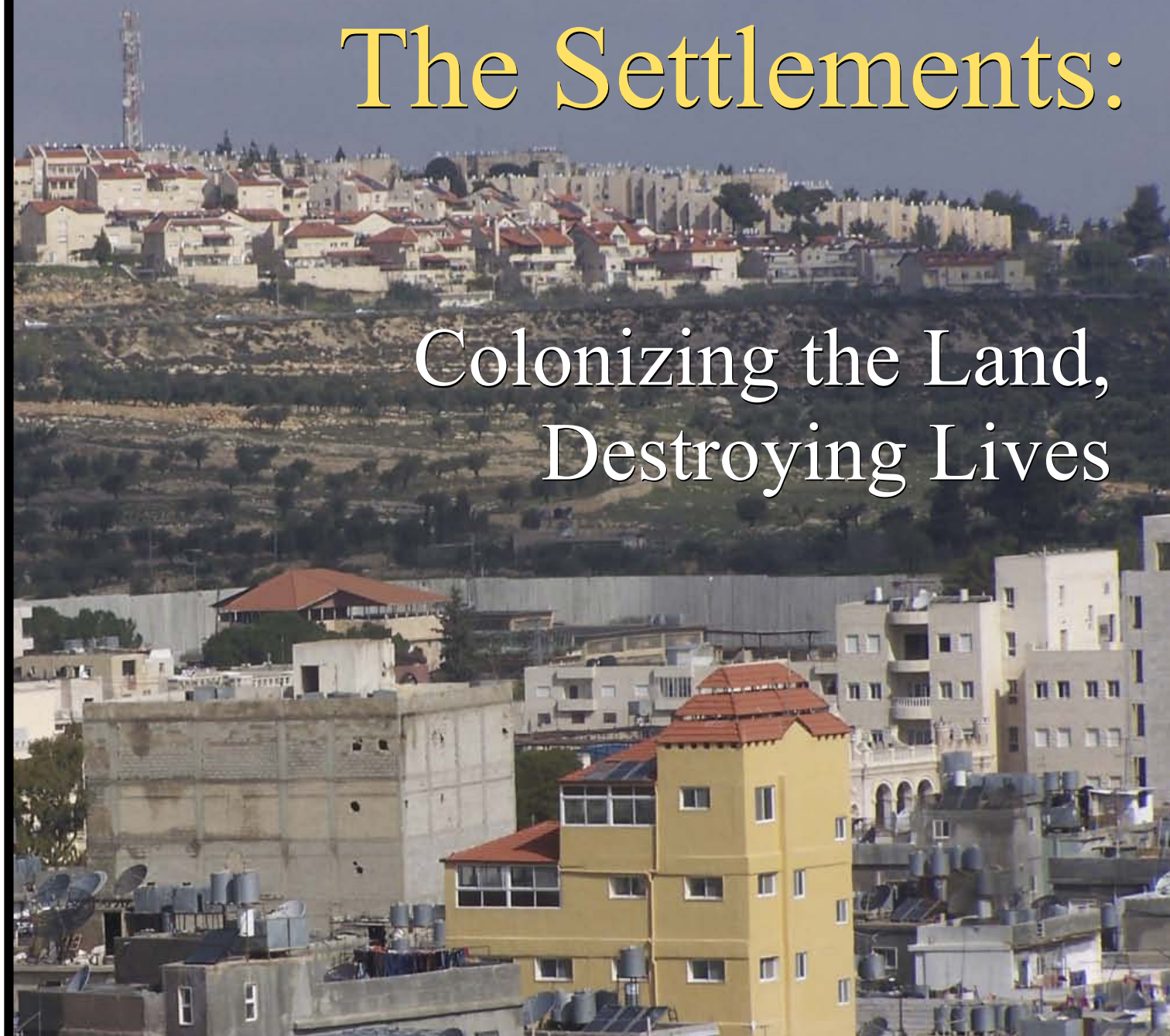


It’s time to cut United Methodist ties to the occupation of Palestinian land



The Settlements:

Colonizing the Land,
Destroying Lives



Please support the resolution “Aligning UM Investments with Resolutions on Israel/Palestine” at General Conference 2012. See the back cover and visit www.kairosresponse.org for more information about the resolution and the issues discussed in this publication.



Illegal settlements cover the hilltops.



Caterpillar bulldozers destroy homes.



Women grieve near a demolished home.



A child gathers clothing from the ruins.

International law forbids an occupying power from moving its own people into areas it occupies. Yet Israel has moved more than half a million of its own citizens out of Israel into the occupied West Bank, taking land, resources and water from Palestinians.

These Israelis live in segregated settlements linked by segregated roads that have been built on Palestinian land. The settlements are surrounded by walls and fences, which separate Palestinian towns from each other and impede access to schools, hospitals and jobs.

Palestinian areas have been divided into isolated enclaves, much like the bantustans where South Africa confined its native population. The Jordan Valley (a third of the West Bank) has been placed off limits to Palestinians. The giant settlement of Ma'ale Adumim stretches all the way to the Jordan Valley and cuts the West Bank in half.

Israel's settlement expansion is continuing at an alarming rate. Thousands of new settlement homes were announced in 2011. With generous subsidies, Israel has encouraged businesses to move to the occupied territories to support the settlements. These companies are not subject to environmental and labor laws that apply within Israel itself. They profit, while the environment and workers suffer.

The creation and expansion of illegal Israeli settlements and the Separation Wall inside Palestinian territory involve massive destruction of Palestinian homes and agricultural lands, as well as the diversion of water and other resources from Palestinians to settlers. **Over 24,000 Palestinian homes have been demolished since 1967.** Thousands of Palestinian families in the occupied territories have been issued demolition orders and live under the constant threat of losing their homes.

The expansion of illegal settlements, confiscation of Palestinian land and demolition of Palestinian homes violate human rights and stand in the way of peace.



West Bank map: Segregated settlements and roads confiscate land and isolate Palestinians. Pale

Three United Methodist Ties to the Occupation

Some United Methodist boards and agencies invest in companies that help build and sustain illegal settlements and demolish homes.

CATERPILLAR (NYSE:CAT) An Israeli military commander referred to Caterpillar bulldozers as “the key weapon” in its military occupation of Palestinian land. The company is aware that the Israeli army uses Caterpillar equipment to destroy Palestinian homes, orchards and olive groves. This is done to clear land for illegal settlements, segregated roads and the separation wall. Caterpillar bulldozers have killed Palestinians who were not able to evacuate their homes before demolitions, which often take place with little warning. They have uprooted hundreds of thousands of olive trees and demolished water cisterns.

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS (NYSE:MSI) Motorola developed a perimeter radar system called MotoEagle, which is used to protect at least 25 illegal settlements in the West Bank. It is installed on sniper towers as well as the separation wall, which has been ruled illegal by the International Court of Justice. Motorola also provides a mobile communications system and vehicle mounted antennae for the Israeli army in the occupied territories.

HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY (NYSE:HPQ) HP owns Electronic Data Systems, which heads a consortium providing biometric monitoring of checkpoints, including several built inside the West Bank in violation of international law. HP provides a municipal data storage system for the illegal settlement of Ariel and has business relationships with companies in the illegal settlement of Modi'in Illit. HP also provides computers for the Israeli Army that guards the settlements, and manages information technology for the Israeli Navy, which enforces Israel's siege of the Gaza Strip.

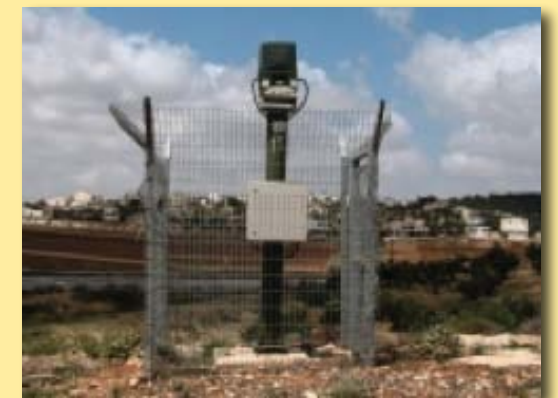
United Methodist boards and agencies have been engaged in shareholder advocacy with Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions and Hewlett Packard Company for years without any meaningful progress. These companies continue to profit by equipping the illegal occupation. It is time for the United Methodist Church to cut its ties with these companies until they end their support of the occupation which our church clearly opposes.



Caterpillar equipment builds settlements.



Caterpillar clears land for new settlements.



Motorola radar guards an illegal settlement.



Palestinians wait at HP-equipped checkpoint.

