

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* TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION, 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 WORLD HEARS THE UMC DIVESTED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY FIRM, G4S – THE FIRST OF THE "MAINLINE" CHURCHES TO DIVEST FROM A COMPANY FOR VIOLATIONS OF PALESTINIANS' HUMAN RIGHTS.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012

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

16

Annual Conferences, as of 2015, have voted in support of United Methodist divestment from the Israeli occupation.

Baltimore-Washington, California-Nevada, California-Pacific, Desert Southwest, Detroit, Pacific Northwest, Oregon-Idaho, Minnesota, New England, New York, Northern Illinois, Susquehanna, Upper New York, Virginia, West Ohio, & Western Michigan

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 SETTLEMENTS.

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 THEIR FUND:

EQUITY SOCIAL VALUES PLUS

Protecting Free Speech

2016-2017: Eight regional UMC regional 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.*

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 Book of Resolutions 2016

23 RESOLUTIONS IN 2017

UMC conferences pass a record-breaking 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.

The HP Boycott

Of the 23 U.S. congregations that decided to become an "HP-Free Church" in 2017, 9 are *United Methodist Churches.*



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UMKR'S ACTION AREAS:

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

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UMKR works with United Methodist agencies and church caucuses – GBCS, GBGM, Wespeth, UMC ethnic caucuses, MFSA – and beyond: 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 other partners in the US and around the world.

Visit us: KairosResponse.org

UMKR is an international grassroots peace movement with justice advocates in over 35 annual conferences, UMKR seeks – through nonviolent action and in partnership with our Palestinian sisters and brothers in Christ – freedom, justice and equality for all Palestinians and Israelis.