

RESPONDING TO THE REQUEST BY PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS

Whereas the United Methodist Council of Bishops has commended the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a “common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations” that aligns with the United Methodist Social Principles,¹ and

Whereas the Book of Discipline of the UMC explicitly affirms the rights of ethnic minorities, the rights of religious minorities, the rights of children and the right to nonviolent protest,² and

Whereas the National Coalition of Christian Organizations in Palestine has issued an urgent request asking church bodies around the world to prayerfully consider increasing their support for the human rights of all ethnic groups and religious bodies in the Holy Land, with particular regard to the rights of ethnic minorities, Christians and other religious minorities, imprisonment of children, and the right to nonviolent protest, and to do so with actions as well as words,³ and

Whereas this past year 14 annual conferences of the United Methodist Church (Baltimore-Washington, California-Nevada, California-Pacific, Desert Southwest, East Ohio, Florida, Great Plains, Minnesota, New England, Northern Illinois, Oregon-Idaho, Susquehanna, Upper New York, Virginia, Wisconsin, as well as the Western Jurisdictional Conference) chose to respond to the requests of Palestinian Christians by upholding a total of 23 different resolutions,⁴

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church formally endorses the application of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Methodist Social Principles with respect to the rights and responsibilities of Israelis, Palestinians, and all other ethnic groups and religious bodies in the Holy Land, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this annual conference charge the conference’s Board of Church and Society [or equivalent board or committee] to consider how best to respond to the aforementioned request of the Palestine Christian community, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the considerations and any recommendation of the conference’s Board of Church and Society [or equivalent board or committee] be brought to the 2019 annual conference for its review and/or action, including any recommendations that should be directed to the General Conference of the UMC in 2020.

¹ <http://hrusa.org/advocacy/community-faith/methodist1.shtm>

² UMC Book of Discipline, Paragraphs 162 preamble (Universal Declaration), 162 A Ethnic racial, B religious, C children, 163 K, 164 A, B, F, 165 A, D, 166, 604.12

³ <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/general-secretary/letters-received/open-letter-from-the-national-coalition-of-christian-organizations-in-palestine/>

⁴ https://www.kairosresponse.org/pr_acs2017_23resolutions.html