

RESOLUTION ON HOLY LAND TRAVEL

WHEREAS indigenous Palestinian Christians have asked their fellow Christians around the world to meet with them when visiting the Holy Land, stating: “We intend to fulfill our role to make known to you the truth of our reality, receiving you as pilgrims coming to us to pray, carrying a message of peace, love and reconciliation. You will know the facts and the people of this land, Palestinians and Israelis alike.”

(Kairos Palestine Document: <http://kairospalestine.ps/index.php/about-us/kairos-palestine-document>); and

WHEREAS United Methodist mission personnel past and present have for many years invited United Methodists to “come and see” what they have seen during their time in the Holy Land (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKb8SYVB8KQ>) and likewise have asked that those planning individual or group tours to Israel/Palestine both “consult with the United Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem to seek opportunities to worship with indigenous Christian congregations” and “visit United Methodist supported mission sites;” (2016, United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6031; and,

WHEREAS the conflict in the Holy Land has been raised repeatedly in General Conference resolutions, and understanding of the issue is critical to informed discussion among United Methodist laity and clergy (2016 United Methodist Book of Resolutions #6111),

IT IS THEREFORE strongly urged that clergy and laity of the _____ Conference of the United Methodist Church who are planning individual or group tours to Israel/Palestine consult with the Methodist Liaison Office (MLO) in Jerusalem (admin@methodist-jer.org and encounter@methodist-jer.org) to seek opportunities to meet with United Methodist missionaries living and working in the region, visit United Methodist supported mission sites, worship with indigenous Christian congregations and include in their tours at least one overnight stay in Bethlehem in accordance with the 2016 Resolution #6031; and

IT IS FURTHERMORE urged that anyone from this annual conference intending to visit the Holy Land, before they travel, read the Kairos Palestine Document: “A Moment of Truth: A word of faith, hope and love,” and study the United Methodist Book of Resolutions with particular attention to Resolution #6111 and other resolutions dealing with Palestine, settlements in the West Bank, boycotting settlement products, interfaith relations, indigenous peoples, anti-Semitism, racism and human rights.