

Pillsbury-Free-Church Presentation

1. **Catherine:** Please record this presentation.

Hi everyone. We are the Ainsworth UCC Palestine/Israel Peace Team. We are coming to you with a request that our church Pledge to be a Pillsbury-Free-Church. This is a natural extension of our previous vote to endorse the General Synod UCC Palestine Israel Network resolution on Palestine/Israel Peace. I now ask Beverly Perttu to introduce the Pledge.

2. **Beverly:** The Pledge will be voted on after our presentation.
Reads pledge.

(Show on Screen)

AUCC Pledge to be a “Pillsbury-Free-Church”

As members of the justice-seeking congregation of Ainsworth United Church of Christ, we believe that the General Mills/Pillsbury plant, owned and operated by the Israeli company Shalgal Ltd. on Palestinian land occupied by Israel, should stop producing Pillsbury products at this site. This factory is located in an illegal settlement under international law.

In support of this belief, we will boycott all Pillsbury products until General Mills stops producing Pillsbury brand products at this factory; we will participate in actions to promote this boycott; and we pledge to be a “Pillsbury-Free-Church”.

3. **Catherine:** We will now watch a very brief video by Charlie Pillsbury, the grandson of the founder of Pillsbury.

(Show on screen)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpSWZvIcN3E>;

4. Colleen: WHY BOYCOTT PILLSBURY?

As I learn more everyday about the atrocities happening to the Palestinians, I ask:

WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT CAN WE DO COLLECTIVELY?

I believe that a boycott of Pillsbury Products will bring more attention to these atrocities. I am encouraged that the United Nations named the Minnesota-based General Mills, who now owns Pillsbury, one of 7 companies in violation of international law for operating a factory in East Jerusalem on Israeli illegally occupied Palestinian land.

I am further encouraged that our Palestinian partners have called on the global community to a "commercial boycott of everything produced within the occupation." This includes boycotting anything produced on illegal settlements.

We ask you today to join in this peaceful resistance.

Together, we can assure that General Mills (a very major company) will tarnish its reputation by associating itself so closely with the Israeli military occupation. General Mills has a policy on human rights, global responsibility, and ethics. Producing Pillsbury products on illegally occupied land is not living up to any of their policies. Ben and Jerry's and SodaStream are examples of companies that moved out of Israeli illegally occupied land due to shaming boycotts.

Let's join Charlie Pillsbury and support the boycott of Pillsbury products along with other family members who say: "As long as General Mills continues to profit from the dispossession and suffering of the Palestinian people, we will not buy any Pillsbury products."

And from the UCC General Synod "As people of faith who seek to live out responsible stewardship of our resources in our purchases, we urge Pillsbury's current owners to hear the cries of Palestinians seeking their rights and cease to put profit above principle."

NO DOUGH FOR OCCUPATION!

NO MORE PILLSBURY PRODUCTS UNTIL THIS IS RESOLVED!

JOIN BY PLEDGING TODAY!

(Show on screen)
PILLSBURY PRODUCTS
“AVOID THE DOUGH BOY!”

Biscuits—Including Grands

Crescent Rolls

Cinnamon Rolls

Cookie Dough

Brownie Dough

Already Baked Snacks—Including snack cakes and soft baked cookies

Cornbread Swirls

Breads—including breadsticks and French bread

Pie Crust

Pizza Crust

Toaster Strudel

Pancakes

Heat and Eat

Pull-Apart Kit

5. Beverly: Location of factory

General Mills manufactures frozen baked goods for its Pillsbury brand in the Atarot Industrial Zone, an illegal Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian territory of East Jerusalem. The factory is owned by Israeli company Shalgal (Food) Ltd and is used exclusively to make Pillsbury products as the Israeli licensee of Pillsbury. The factory is located in a settlement area, Palestinian land occupied by Israel - illegal under international law.

6. Catherine: How the Palestinians get to the factory

To get to the Pillsbury factory Palestinians must go through the Kalandia Checkpoint. That checkpoint is used by the Israeli military to control Palestinian access to East Jerusalem and Israel. It is an opening in the huge winding separation Wall, or Apartheid Wall as the Palestinians call it. Israel requires Palestinians to have permits to pass through the checkpoint. To get the permits Palestinians must apply in Ramallah, the defacto capitol of Palestine, at an Israeli military office run by 18-23 year old kids holding automatic weapons, where they may get the permit, be denied, or not have their permit renewed at any time. Hundreds of Palestinians with permits line up at the checkpoint starting at 4a.m. to get through. Some are denied and some are permitted to pass. Sometimes the Israeli soldiers close the checkpoint, or don't show up to work there. We must understand that those working at the Pillsbury Factory are given specific permits to go only to that factory. They are not allowed anywhere else in Israel to work or visit. It is also important to remember that Israeli workers don't have to go through this checkpoint because they already live in Israeli, or in illegal settlements with settler-only roads leading to Israel.

International pressure works. Boycotting Pillsbury will increase pressure on Israel to lift the illegal military occupation which puts Palestinians through these hoops to just to work.

7. Dick: UCC history of resolutions and support of boycotts

The United Church of Christ has consistently supported working toward a just peace in the Middle East. The UCC has adopted General Synod resolutions regularly over a period of around sixty years, supporting justice for Palestinians in the face of Israel's expansive program of building and expanding settlements in Palestinian territory, as well as restricting Palestinian freedom to provide for themselves via a barrier between territories and personal restrictions. The 2021 General Synod overwhelmingly passed a Resolution calling for the implementation of the prior resolutions with particular attention to supporting human-rights groups, halting military aid to Israel pending resolution of Palestinian rights and joining group and individual Boycott Divest and Sanction movements involving goods fabricated in settlement factories.

8. Catherine: Ways to boycott

First, I hope we take the pledge to become a Pillsbury-Free-Church and then have some fun with it. There are many ways to boycott. If the vote is yes, we will publish ways to boycott through the newsletter and have a presentation of family boycott ideas at the Share the Story time in worship.

9. Beverly: Presentation of the Pledge for a Vote

(Show on screen)

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10. **Beverly Perttu:** I move that the congregation make the Pledge to be a Pillsbury-Free-Church.

Catherine seconds.

11. Congregational discussion and vote