

## **Divest from Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions and Hewlett Packard After Years of Corporate Engagement**

WHEREAS United Methodists have engaged Caterpillar for ten years, Motorola Solutions for nine years, and Hewlett Packard for seven years, and have asked them to end their involvement with Israel's occupation ([http://www.kairosresponse.org/corporate\\_engagement\\_04-11.html](http://www.kairosresponse.org/corporate_engagement_04-11.html)) and,

WHEREAS every United Methodist General Conference for more than 40 years has endorsed calls for just and lasting peace in Israel/Palestine, and an end to all military sales to the region; and,

WHEREAS the United Methodist Book of Discipline states that advocacy of corporate disinvestment is one of the steps to be considered in the process of corporate engagement: "The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment." (§717, The Book of Discipline 2012); and,

WHEREAS ongoing military occupation and expanding Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands have deepened a system that dehumanizes Palestinians and Israelis; and,

WHEREAS more than 3,000 Palestinian Christians have implored Christians everywhere to put actions behind their words to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian land; and the United Methodist Church has been specifically asked by Palestinian Christian leaders to oppose human rights violations (<http://www.kairospalestine.ps/content/kairos-document>), [https://www.kairosresponse.org/Rifat\\_Kassis.html](https://www.kairosresponse.org/Rifat_Kassis.html)); and,

WHEREAS Caterpillar provides Israel with military bulldozers and earth-moving equipment, which are used to uproot olive groves, demolish Palestinian homes, construct settlements and build segregated roads and the separation barrier on occupied land; Motorola Solutions provides surveillance systems for Israeli settlements, military bases and the separation wall, as well as communication devices for the Israeli military; and Hewlett Packard provides data storage for settlements, manages information technology for the Israeli Navy, and provides biometric monitoring of checkpoints inside the West Bank; and

WHEREAS there has been no meaningful progress with the companies and no indication of any willingness to change their involvement in Israel's occupation; and,

WHEREAS three United Methodist conferences – New York, Northern Illinois and West Ohio – have divested their stock in companies invested in the occupation of the West Bank, and have suffered no losses to their portfolios or accusations of fiduciary impropriety; and numerous other conferences have passed divestment resolutions, including: Baltimore-Washington, California-Pacific, California-Nevada, Detroit, Minnesota, New England, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain, Upper New York, and Virginia; and,

WHEREAS other denominations such as the Presbyterian Church USA, Society of Friends (Quakers), Mennonite Central Committee and some United Church of Christ conferences have passed similar divestment resolutions and have divested without suffering financial harm; and,

WHEREAS in 2014 the Luxembourg national pension fund FDC announced it was barring Motorola Solutions from its investments because of its involvement with human rights violations in the occupied territories;” and,

WHEREAS Caterpillar has refused a request from the United Methodist General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to sign the UN Guiding Principles, and General Conference 2012 called on all United Methodist boards and agencies to “prayerfully consider” divestment from companies that refuse to sign these principles; and,

WHEREAS we categorically denounce all forms of anti-Semitism, whether directed toward Arabs or Jews, and any and all attempts to diminish the historical suffering of the Jewish people or the Palestinian people, and we seek justice for both Israelis and Palestinians; and,

WHEREAS divestment is aimed not at Israel itself, but at ending the occupation of land beyond its internationally recognized borders; and,

WHEREAS we denounce violence and terror tactics by all sides in the Middle East conflict, and commend non-violent means of achieving peace; and,

WHEREAS all UMC mission personnel who have served in the occupied territories since the 1990s support divestment from these three companies

([https://www.kairosresponse.org/UMC\\_Missionaries\\_Divestment.html](https://www.kairosresponse.org/UMC_Missionaries_Divestment.html)); and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that General Conference 2016 calls on all boards and agencies of the United Methodist Church to take action to divest promptly from Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard and continue to exclude these companies until they end their involvement with the Israeli occupation.

Date: October 6, 2015