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**STANDING RESOLUTION #1**  
**2022 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**TITLE: ALIGNING INVESTMENTS WITH VALUES REGARDING PALESTINE AND ISRAEL (2015, 2018, 2019)**

**SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OR-ID HOLY LAND TASK FORCE, OR-ID METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION**

**SPOKESPERSON: DEE POUJADE**

**SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1441 SW CLAY STREET, APT. 308, PORTLAND, OR**

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**SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-310-5577**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend approval, 18-1-2**

**This petition is a renewal of an existing Standing Resolution (no or minor revisions)**

**Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

***"...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk 14 humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)***

We call for all Oregon-Idaho United Methodist boards and agencies, districts, local churches and individuals to prayerfully consider avoiding companies involved in Israel's occupation of Palestine when making investment decisions, and/or utilizing their purchasing power; and

Encourage United Methodists to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims and other people of conscience working for corporate accountability, human rights, true peace and security for all people in Israel and Palestine, and an end to the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine.

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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**What will this action accomplish?**

The United Methodist Church unequivocally affirms Israel's right to exist within internationally recognized borders, and to defend its security through all legal and moral means. Boycott and Divestment are not aimed at Israel itself, but at the continued occupation of land beyond its internationally recognized borders.

In 2015 this Annual Conference voted to divest all Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference funds from stock held in Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett-Packard, and continue to exclude these companies from the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference investments until these companies end their involvement with the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine.

While divestment has been accomplished on a conference-wide level, the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine has not only continued, but has become even more draconian. This resolution will **continue to** remind individuals, local churches, districts, boards and agencies that they can express their opposition to the Occupation by avoiding investment in companies that continue to perpetrate the Occupation through the provision of tools, equipment and weapons to the occupying force. They can further communicate their disapproval of the

1 Occupation by boycotting companies that profit from the Occupation by providing goods and  
2 services to the residents of the illegal settlements.

#### 3 4 **Why is it important?**

5 As Christians, we are called by Jesus to be peacemakers. The Jewish, Christian and Muslim  
6 communities affirm the teaching as summarized by Moses and quoted by Jesus, “‘Love the Lord  
7 your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and  
8 greatest commandment. And the second is like it, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew  
9 22:37-40). We honor Micah’s call in the Old Testament to do justice, to love mercy and to walk  
10 humbly with our God, and we follow Christ’s call to love our neighbors as ourselves, by rejecting  
11 all violence and acts of provocation that lead to violence. All peoples have the right to security,  
12 and yet security for one people can never be achieved by denying security to others.

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14 As Christians, we are called to be in fellowship with the body of Christ both near and far. The  
15 Christian leadership in Palestine and Israel have been working for years to (1) dissuade their  
16 people from using violence in response to oppression, and (2) finding effective non-violent  
17 means by which to achieve justice. They have asked us, as Christians, to take this step of  
18 participating in Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) wherever possible. While sanctions  
19 can only be imposed by a governmental entity, anyone can participate in boycotts and  
20 divestment.

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22 Boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) are constitutionally protected forms of free speech  
23 and protest that have often been used by people of conscience to effect positive social and  
24 political change. BDS has long been recognized as an effective tool of peaceful protest, from  
25 the bus boycotts of the Civil Rights Movement, to the agricultural boycotts in support of farm  
26 laborers. BDS is credited with bringing about the end of the Apartheid Era in South Africa.

27  
28 Jesus calls us to be peacemakers and to use the instruments of peaceful persuasion. As United  
29 Methodists, we are called to support members of Christ’s church around the world, including  
30 Palestinian Christians who are being forced to leave the Holy Land, due to Israel’s confiscation  
31 of their property and the severe hardships of living under occupation. The United Methodist  
32 Church and its members should not profit from the illegal Israeli Occupation of Palestinian land,  
33 or from the confiscations and/or destruction of Palestinian homes, orchards and lives. We are  
34 committed to ensuring that our personal and church finances are used in a manner consistent  
35 with Christ’s teaching, our beliefs, and international law.

36  
37 The UMC Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies “that directly or indirectly  
38 support the violation of human rights.” ¶1716) Palestinian human rights are violated by  
39 companies that sustain illegal settlements, segregated roads, checkpoints, the separation  
40 barrier, home demolitions and other realities of the Occupation. The Oregon Idaho Annual  
41 Conference has divested from several of the worst offenders – Caterpillar (which provides  
42 Israel with militarized bulldozers and earth-moving equipment used to uproot olive groves,  
43 demolish Palestinian homes, construct settlements and build segregated roads and the  
44 separation barrier), Motorola Solutions (which provides surveillance systems for Israeli  
45 settlements, military bases and the separation wall, as well as communication devices for the  
46 Israeli military), and Hewlett Packard (which provides biometric monitoring of checkpoints inside  
47 the West Bank). Individuals and church bodies should give prayerful consideration to aligning  
48 their investments with their conscience, and to consider utilizing their purchasing power to  
49 boycott these companies, as well as other companies that profit from the Occupation by selling  
50 goods and services to the Israeli government and/or the illegal settlements.

1 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

2 The Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force and other sponsors of this Resolution will identify  
3 companies who profit from the Occupation, and will provide information on further opportunities  
4 for individuals, congregations and districts to partner with those working for corporate  
5 accountability, human rights, true peace and security for all people in Israel and Palestine, and  
6 an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

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8 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

9 There is no cost.