

CONSENT CALENDAR GC 02

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 TITLE: ESTABLISHING A SCREEN TO REMOVE AND AVOID INVESTMENTS IN ILLEGAL
2 SETTLEMENTS ON OCCUPIED LAND
3 SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OREGON/IDAHO HOLY LAND TASK FORCE
4 CO-SPONSORS: OREGON/IDAHO METHODIST FEDERATION FOR
5 SOCIAL ACTION
6 OREGON/IDAHO PEACE WITH JUSTICE
7 SPOKESPERSON: DEE POUJADE
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10 SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: traveling.mimi@gmail.com
11 SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-299-4510 (home) 503-310-5577 (cell)

12 This petition is a new United Methodist Resolution

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14 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: YES 23, NO 0, ABSTAIN 0**

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17 An occupying power in a foreign territory is prohibited from moving its own population onto land
18 that it has occupied (Article 49, Geneva Convention IV). Communities created by such action and
19 established by an occupying power on occupied land are commonly referred to as "illegal
20 settlements."

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22 A business operating in an illegal settlement pays taxes to the settlement and the occupying power
23 strengthening its economic base, taking advantage of land unlawfully seized from others, and is
24 complicit in the occupying power's violations of human rights and international law. For these
25 reasons, the UN Global Compact calls on companies to "make sure they are not complicit in human
26 rights abuses" ([unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)). Companies operating in illegal settlements often exploit
27 resources in the occupied territories by mining, diverting water and polluting agricultural land. The
28 Hague Conventions of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention clearly forbid exploitation of the
29 natural resources of an occupied people.

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31 The United Methodist General Conference 2012 encouraged companies "to honor and promote
32 human rights and the dignity of human life consistent with the 10 principles of the United Nations
33 Global Compact" (<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/investment-ethics>). Further, the United
34 Methodist Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies "that directly or indirectly
35 support the violation of human rights" (2012 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church,
36 Para. 717). Our United Methodist Social Principles declare, "We denounce as immoral an ordering of
37 life that perpetuates injustice and impedes the pursuit of peace." (*UMC Social Principles*, "The World
Community") The presence of illegal settlements on occupied land perpetuates injustice and

Return to Warren Light and to Jeanne Knepper by March 7, 2015

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1 impedes the pursuit of peace.

2 The United Methodist General Board of Pension and Health Benefits is a founding signatory of the
3 *Principles for Responsible Investment*, through which signatories agree to consider environmental
4 and social, as well as governance issues, in investment decisions. (www.unpri.org).

5 The General Conference directs General Boards and Agencies of The United Methodist Church to
6 develop and apply a screen that excludes investment in companies with involvement in illegal
7 settlements by:

- 8
- 9 1. Having a physical presence or a subsidiary in an illegal settlement, or
 - 10 2. Providing support services of any kind to an illegal settlement, or
 - 11 3. Contributing to the financing or building of illegal settlements; and
 - 12 4. Manufacturing products in or extracting resources from occupied land.
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