

# GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GC06

## 2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 TITLE: DIVEST FROM CATERPILLAR, MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS AND HEWLETT PACKARD AFTER  
2 YEARS OF CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

3 SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OREGON/IDAHO HOLY LAND TASK FORCE

4 CO-SPONSORS: OREGON/IDAHO METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION  
5 OREGON/IDAHO PEACE WITH JUSTICE

6 SPOKESPERSON: DEE POUJADE

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11 This petition is a new United Methodist Resolution

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13 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: YES 11, NO 11, ABSTAIN 1**

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16 WHEREAS United Methodists have engaged Caterpillar for ten years, Motorola Solutions for nine  
17 years, and Hewlett Packard for seven years, and have asked them to end their involvement with  
18 Israel's occupation ([https://www.kairosresponse.org/uploads/UM\\_CorpEngagement\\_2004-11.pdf](https://www.kairosresponse.org/uploads/UM_CorpEngagement_2004-11.pdf));  
19 and,

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS more than 3,000 Palestinian Christians have implored Christians everywhere to put actions  
29 behind their words to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian land; and the United Methodist Church  
30 has been specifically asked by Palestinian Christian leaders to oppose human rights violations  
31 ([www.kairospalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf](http://www.kairospalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf)  
32 [https://www.kairosresponse.org/Rifat\\_Kassis.html](https://www.kairosresponse.org/Rifat_Kassis.html)); and,

33 WHEREAS Caterpillar provides Israel with military bulldozers and earth-moving equipment, which are  
34 used to uproot olive groves, demolish Palestinian homes, construct settlements and build segregated  
35 roads and the separation barrier on occupied land; Motorola Solutions provides surveillance systems  
36 for Israeli settlements, military bases and the separation wall, as well as communication devices for  
37 the Israeli military; and Hewlett Packard provides data storage for settlements, manages information

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1 technology for the Israeli Navy, and provides biometric monitoring of checkpoints inside the West  
2 Bank; and

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

5 WHEREAS thirteen annual conferences (Baltimore-Washington, California-Nevada, California-Pacific,  
6 Detroit, Minnesota, New England, New York, Northern Illinois, Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountain,  
7 Upper New York, Virginia and West Ohio) have already passed divestment resolutions; and,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on  
29 its investment managers to promptly, but prudently, divest their stock holdings in Caterpillar,  
30 Motorola Solutions and Hewlett Packard and continue to exclude these companies until they end  
31 their involvement with the Israeli occupation.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on  
33 Church and Annual Conference investment managers to take action to divest promptly from  
34 Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Conference of The United Methodist Church also calls on  
2 Church and Annual Conference investment managers to continue to exclude these companies until  
3 they end their involvement with the Israeli occupation.

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