

STANDING RESOLUTION 11

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 TITLE: SUPPORTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS

2 SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: METHODIST FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION

3 SPOKESPERSON: LoErna Simpson

4 SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1863 NW Estaview Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330

5 SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: l.simpson@comcast.net

6 SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 541-619-1379

7 This petition is a new Standing Resolution.

8
9 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: AS AMENDED, YES 20, NO 0, ABSTAIN 3

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

13 We call upon the churches of the United Methodist Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to seek ways to
14 advocate for supporting peace efforts in the Middle East, involving our national elected leaders and
15 our Pentagon staff and State Department leaders and military contractors. United Methodists may
16 work in a supportive way by various actions--signing petitions, phoning our legislators, talking with
17 our national officials and with staff in their local offices, and participating in marches and vigils to
18 work for peace in the Middle East. We can join with other United Methodists and people of faith to
19 help support renewal, human rights and justice.

20 In 2010 a massive, popular movement of uprisings, revolution and change spread around many
21 countries in the Middle East. People in the Middle East were upset with harsh dictators, ineffective
22 governments and failing economies, with many people experiencing crushing poverty. With many
23 protestors world-wide using non-violent actions, people hoped to change the status quo, but with
24 limited or little success over these 4 years.

25 Another critical human rights issue arose in the summer of 2014, the war between Gaza Strip and
26 Israel, called Operation Protective Edge, for 7 weeks in July-August. The number of Israeli killed were
27 66 soldiers and 6 civilians, with 469 soldiers and 87 civilians wounded. The number of Gazans killed
28 were 2,310 (including 513 children) and around 10,800 civilians were injured. The UN calculated that
29 520,000 Palestinians were displaced (30% of Gazan population). The UN calculated that more than
30 7,000 homes for 10,000 families were razed, and another 89,000 homes damaged. Rebuilding costs
31 were calculated to be 4-6 billion dollars, over 20 years.

32 The current situation in the Middle East seems to have stalemated or reversed to even worse. In
33 2014 we have witnessed failure in the several Middle East countries, which has led to the rise of an
34 extreme terrorist group, ISIS/Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham. This is a complex situation (footnotes
35 1 & 2). We urge our U.S. and world leaders to carefully explore appropriate actions that will
36 eventually help to end the ISIS conflict. We support funds for rebuilding in Gaza. We call on our
37 nation and other nations to work carefully together. We call upon United Methodists and other
38 people of faith to work for peace, to help change policies for the better and to improve human rights
39 for all people. United Methodists still believe war is not the answer.

40
41 [1. What ISIS Really Wants, The Atlantic, March 2015,

42 <http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>]

43 [2. 12 Things to Know About "What ISIS Wants," Aleteia, [http://www.aleteia.org/en/world/article/12-things-](http://www.aleteia.org/en/world/article/12-things-to-know-about-what-isis-really-wants-5904800487047168/)

44 [to-know-about-what-isis-really-wants-5904800487047168/](http://www.aleteia.org/en/world/article/12-things-to-know-about-what-isis-really-wants-5904800487047168/)]

STANDING RESOLUTION 11

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

What will this action accomplish?

People will be reminded to work for human rights, justice and peace in the Middle East region.

Why is it important?

The current ISIS/Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham terrorism is a new threat in the Middle East. And the situation in Gaza/Palestine/Israel is a critical situation.

How will it be carried out? By whom?

United Methodists in America and around the world must support peace efforts in these critical situations. Activism by individuals in the U.S. must be carried out, to influence our leaders to make changes for justice, human rights, and peace.

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

Cost for staff time and pages in journal. Being involved in activism cost very little, except in time and effort.