

STANDING RESOLUTION SR-8
2018 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: Aligning Investments with Values Regarding Palestine and Israel**
2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OR-ID HOLY LAND TASK FORCE, OR-ID METHODIST**
3 **FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL ACTION**
4 **SPOKESPERSON: DEE POUJADE**
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8 **This resolution is:**

9 **A renewal of an existing Standing Resolution (no or minor revisions);**

10 **AMENDED IN YELLOW**, ADD IN **BOLD**, ~~DELETE IN STRIKEOUT~~

11 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: 21 YES, 5 NO, 2 ABSTAIN**

13
14 *“...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk*
15 *humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)*

16
17 **We call** for all Oregon-Idaho United Methodist boards and agencies, districts, local churches
18 and individuals to prayerfully consider avoiding companies involved in Israel’s occupation of
19 Palestine when making investment decisions, and/or **utilizing their purchasing power**; and

20
21 Encourage United Methodists to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims and other people of
22 conscience working for corporate accountability, human rights, true peace and security for all
23 people in Israel and Palestine, and an end to the **illegal** Israeli occupation of Palestine.

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25
26 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

27
28 **What will this action accomplish?**

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

33
34 In 2015 this Annual Conference voted to divest all Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference funds
35 from stock held in Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett-Packard, and continue to
36 exclude these companies from the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference investments until these
37 companies end their involvement with the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine.

38
39 While divestment has been accomplished on a conference-wide level, the illegal Israeli
40 occupation of Palestine has not only continued, but has become even more draconian. This
41 resolution will remind individuals, local churches, districts, boards and agencies that they can
42 express their opposition to the Occupation by avoiding investment in companies that
43 continue to perpetrate the Occupation through the provision of tools, equipment and

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1 weapons to the occupying force. They can further communicate their disapproval of the
2 Occupation by boycotting companies that profit from the Occupation by providing goods and
3 services to the residents of the illegal settlements.
4

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6 **Why is it important?**
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8 As Christians, we are called by Jesus to be peacemakers. The Jewish, Christian and Muslim
9 communities affirm the teaching as summarized by Moses and quoted by Jesus, “Love the
10 Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the
11 first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.”
12 (Matthew 22:37-40). We honor Micah’s call in the Old Testament to do justice, to love mercy
13 and to walk humbly with our God, and we follow Christ’s call to love our neighbors as
14 ourselves, by rejecting all violence and acts of provocation that lead to violence. All peoples
15 have the right to security, and yet security for one people can never be achieved by denying
16 security to others.
17

18 As Christians, we are called to be in fellowship with the body of Christ both near and far. The
19 Christian leadership in Palestine and Israel have been working for years to (1) dissuade their
20 people from using violence in response to oppression, and (2) finding effective non-violent
21 means by which to achieve justice. They have asked us, as Christians, to take this step of
22 participating in Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) wherever possible. While sanctions
23 can only be imposed by a governmental entity, anyone can participate in boycotts and
24 divestment.
25

26 Boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) are constitutionally protected forms of free speech
27 and protest that have often been used by people of conscience to effect positive social and
28 political change. BDS has long been recognized as an effective tool of peaceful protest, from
29 the bus boycotts of the Civil Rights Movement, to the agricultural boycotts in support of farm
30 laborers. BDS is credited with bringing about the end of the Apartheid Era in South Africa.
31

32 Jesus calls us to be peacemakers and to use the instruments of peaceful persuasion. As
33 United Methodists, we are called to support members of Christ’s church around the world,
34 including Palestinian Christians who are being forced to leave the Holy Land, due to Israel’s
35 confiscation of their property and the severe hardships of living under occupation. The
36 United Methodist Church and its members should not profit from the illegal Israeli
37 Occupation of Palestinian land, or from the confiscations and/or destruction of Palestinian
38 homes, orchards and lives. We are committed to ensuring that our personal and church
39 finances are used in a manner consistent with Christ’s teaching, our beliefs, and international
40 law.
41

42 The UMC Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies “that directly or indirectly
43 support the violation of human rights.” ¶716) Palestinian human rights are violated by
44 companies that sustain illegal settlements, segregated roads, checkpoints, the separation

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1 barrier, home demolitions and other realities of the occupation. The Oregon Idaho Annual
2 Conference has divested from several of the worst offenders – Caterpillar (which provides
3 Israel with militarized bulldozers and earth-moving equipment used to uproot olive groves,
4 demolish Palestinian homes, construct settlements and build segregated roads and the
5 separation barrier), Motorola Solutions (which provides surveillance systems for Israeli
6 settlements, military bases and the separation wall, as well as communication devices for the
7 Israeli military, and Hewlett Packard (which provides biometric monitoring of checkpoints
8 inside the West Bank).

9
10 Individuals and church bodies should give prayerful consideration to aligning their
11 investments with their conscience, and to consider utilizing their purchasing power to
12 boycott these companies, as well as other companies that profit from the Occupation by
13 selling goods and services to the Israeli government and/or the illegal settlements.

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16 **How will it be carried out? By whom?** The Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force and other
17 sponsors of this Resolution will identify companies who profit from the Occupation, and will
18 provide information on further opportunities for individuals, congregations and districts to
19 partner with those working for corporate accountability, human rights, true peace and
20 security for all people in Israel and Palestine, and an end to the Israeli occupation of
21 Palestine.

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23
24 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?** There will be no additional cost
25 except for the cost of compiling and publishing the *Journal*.