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STANDING RESOLUTION #1
2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TITLE: Aligning Investments With Values Regarding Palestine And Israel (2016)
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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AMENDED IN YELLOW, ADD IN **BOLD**, DELETE IN ~~STRIKEOUT~~

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: Passed, 20-3-2

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 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.

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 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

49 occupying force. They can further communicate their disapproval of the Occupation by
50 boycotting companies that profit from the Occupation by providing goods and services to the
51 residents of the illegal settlements.

52

53 **Why is it important?**

54

55 As Christians, we are called by Jesus to be peacemakers. The Jewish, Christian and Muslim
56 communities affirm the teaching as summarized by Moses and quoted by Jesus, “‘Love the Lord
57 your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and
58 greatest commandment. And the second is like it, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew
59 22:37-40). We honor Micah’s call in the Old Testament to do justice, to love mercy and to walk
60 humbly with our God, and we follow Christ’s call to love our neighbors as ourselves, by rejecting
61 all violence and acts of provocation that lead to violence. All peoples have the right to security,
62 and yet security for one people can never be achieved by denying security to others.

63

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

71

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

77

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

86

87 The UMC Book of Discipline discourages investment in companies “that directly or indirectly
88 support the violation of human rights.” ¶716) Palestinian human rights are violated by
89 companies that sustain illegal settlements, segregated roads, checkpoints, the separation
90 barrier, home demolitions and other realities of the occupation. The Oregon Idaho Annual
91 Conference has divested from several of the worst offenders – Caterpillar (which provides
92 Israel with militarized bulldozers and earth-moving equipment used to uproot olive groves,
93 demolish Palestinian homes, construct settlements and build segregated roads and the
94 separation barrier), Motorola Solutions (which provides surveillance systems for Israeli
95 settlements, military bases and the separation wall, as well as communication devices for the
96 Israeli military), and Hewlett Packard (which provides biometric monitoring of checkpoints inside
97 the West Bank). Individuals and church bodies should give prayerful consideration to aligning
98 their investments with their conscience, and to consider utilizing their purchasing power to

99 boycott these companies, as well as other companies that profit from the Occupation by selling
100 goods and services to the Israeli government and/or the illegal settlements.

101

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

103

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

109

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

111

112 There will be no additional cost except for the cost of compiling and publishing the *Journal*.