

ACTION REQUEST 6

2014 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: STUDY OF JUSTICE AND PEACE IN THE HOLY LANDS**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL:** Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force

3 **SPOKESPERSON:** Claudia Roberts, Oregon-Idaho Conference Peace with Justice Coordinator

4 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS:** 5328 NE 40th Ave. Portland, OR, 97211-8032

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL:** clarobb@juno.com

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE:** 503-284-9182

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8 **Legislative Assembly Recommendations: Yes 23; No 0; Abstain 0; Action Request Consent**
9 **Calendar**

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11 **I/We petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual conference to take the following action:**

12
13 Strongly encourage all churches, ministry settings and/or districts to commit to providing a study based on the
14 United Methodist-Kairos Response document "Kairos Palestine Response" in preparation for further action at
15 the 2015 Annual Conference session. ["Kairos Palestine Response" is available for download at
16 www.kairosresponse.org]

18 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

20 **What will this action accomplish?**

21 This study will broaden the knowledge and understanding of the justice issues impacting the peoples and lands
22 where our faith originated. It will provide a foundation for considering further action at the 2015 Annual
23 Conference session.

25 **Why is it important?**

26 At the request of the Annual Conference, The Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force has been studying the
27 quickly changing issues impacting peace and justice between Israel and Palestine. We have come to the
28 conclusion that broader awareness through education in local ministries and districts is a critically important
29 step toward taking meaningful action.

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31 As people of God, injustice in the Middle East compels us to oppose economic inequality, unjust military action,
32 and violations of human rights. As United Methodists, we recognize that call to respond to these realities. It is
33 a call articulated by General Conference Resolutions to stand up for Interfaith Advocacy in Support of
34 Israel/Palestine Peace. (2012 **Book of Resolutions**, # 6137)

35
36 United Methodist Resolution #6137 states in conclusion:

37 "Therefore, be it resolved, that, in order to promote justice and peace in the Holy Land, the 2012 United
38 Methodist General Conference supports the efforts of existing or newly formed conference-wide and/ or
39 locally based United Methodist and/ or interfaith or ecumenical committees, task forces, boards or agencies
40 that are committed to engaging in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue leading to achieving common goals
41 relating to Israel/Palestine. Such goals to include the recognition of a single universal standard of human rights
42 that applies to all stakeholders and support for an end of military aid by any country, to those parties in the
43 conflict that commit human rights abuses. The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2012.
44 (2013-01-01).

45
46 United Methodist Resolution #6013, Saying No to Violence in Middle East Conflict, says:

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1 Therefore, be it resolved, that The United Methodist Church continues to advocate for a peaceful settlement of
2 the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians through negotiation and diplomacy rather than through
3 methods of violence and coercion. ADOPTED 2008
4 (2013-01-01). The Book Of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2012
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6 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

7 The Oregon Idaho Conference Holy Land Task Force will be in contact with each of the District offices to offer
8 resources, support and leaders for any church or ministry setting that chooses to undertake this study. The
9 Task Force will offer to keep track of local ministries that engage in this study and how many studies have been
10 conducted in each district.

11 The Task Force will provide regular updates through The Connector regarding changes happening in the
12 Israel/Palestine area and information about United Methodist bodies who have committed to divestment as a
13 strategy to push for changes.
14

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

16 The Task Force will provide Districts and ministry settings with information about websites and downloadable
17 resources available for study. Costs for printing these resources would be the responsibility of the district, the
18 local church or ministry setting. There are PowerPoint presentations and slide shows that may make document
19 download unnecessary. Holy Land Task Force members will also be available as resource persons through
20 arrangements with local ministry units. Districts, local churches and other ministry settings are encouraged to
21 consider applying for Conference Peace with Justice Grant. There is information and forms available at
22 www.umi.org
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