

Two ELCA Actions

Churchwide Assembly 2016

Since 2005, the ELCA has been in relationship with Palestinian Lutherans. This relationship is outlined in the Strategy for Engagement and carried out through the Peace Not Walls Campaign. <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Peace-Not-Walls>

The relationship is carried out in three ways:

Accompaniment
Awareness-Raising
Advocacy

In New Orleans, at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members approved two actions to support peace with justice in Israel/Palestine.

Israeli Settlements

And US Aid to Israel

The first action calls on Congress to take action to make US foreign aid to Israel contingent on Israel complying with internationally recognized human rights standards as specified in existing US law, and stopping settlement building and the expansion of existing settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

ELCA Investments

And Human Rights Screens

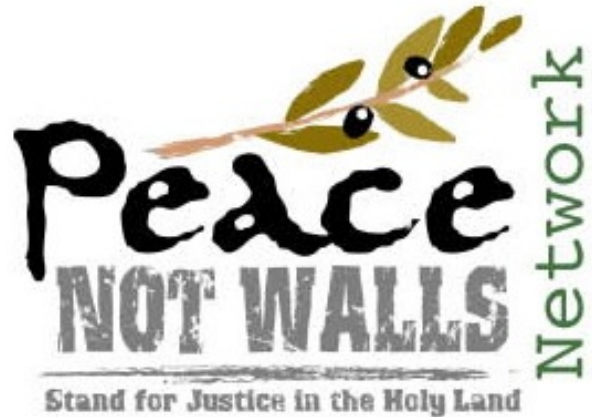
The second action directs “the ELCA’s Corporate Social Responsibility review team to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen based on the social teachings of this church and, in the case of Israel and Palestine, specifically based on the concerns raised in the ELCA Middle East Strategy.” And it “encourages ELCA members, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions to engage in shareholder advocacy in support of human rights.”

Read the full text and background information for both actions and find study resources:

<http://rmselca.org/peace-not-walls>

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RESOURCES FOR STUDY:

- Invite a speaker from the SCSW Speaker’s Bureau. Contact Vicki at vickih@scsw-elca.org
- Faith in the Face of Empire – book by Pastor Mitri Raheb; see study guide: https://www.rmselca.org/sites/rmselca.org/files/resources/faithfaceempire-study_guide_0.pdf
- Film - The Stones Cry Out – the story of Palestinian Christians: <http://www.thestonescryoutmovie.com>
- Kairos Palestine – a statement from Palestinian Christians asking for our support: <http://kairospalestine.ps>
- Read and study the Kairos statement: <http://kairospalestine.ps/index.php/about-us/kairos-palestine-document>
- Steadfast Hope - a congregational study: <http://new.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/component/content/article/5/3-steadfast-hope>
- Zionism Unsettled – a congregational study: <http://new.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/study-resources/publications>
- A Land in Fragments - two-minute video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ewF7AXn3dg>
- ELCA Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine: http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/PNW_Strategy.pdf

Learn about and Support Lutheran ministries:

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land - <http://www.elcjh.org>
- Bright Stars of Bethlehem - <http://BrightStarsBethlehem.org>
- Tent of Nations educational and environmental farm and peace center – <http://TentofNations.org>
- Lutheran World Federation and Augusta Victoria Hospital - <https://jerusalem.lutheranworld.org>