

1 **RESOLUTION RE: THE WAR BETWEEN HAMAS AND ISRAEL**

2 **WHEREAS**, Hamas militants horrifically stormed into Southern Israel on October 7,  
3 2023 killing about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting about 250 others; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Israel has retaliated resulting in 100,000 people killed, injured or  
5 missing with the deaths continuing to increase. Two thirds of those killed are women  
6 and minors. Israeli Defense Forces have caused massive destruction to the infra-  
7 structure and the environment in Gaza, and has targeted places of worship, schools  
8 and hospitals, forcing nearly all of the 2.3 million residents to flee their homes.  
9 Civilians of Gaza are deprived of clean water, food, medicine and medical care, and  
10 other basic human needs; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the United States is Israel’s greatest ally, continuing to supply Israel  
12 with military aid and weapons, without regard to whether the military resources are  
13 used in accordance with U.S. law, international humanitarian law and the law of  
14 armed conflict; and

15 **WHEREAS**, without a ceasefire between Israel and Gaza, the deaths of civilians, the  
16 suffering and disease from hunger, lack of clean water and medical care will continue  
17 to grow, and the likelihood of hostages being released will continue to diminish; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the International Court of Justice (NPR, January 26, 2024) has found it  
19 is plausible that Israel has committed acts that violate the Genocide Convention; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the ELCA Statement on Peacemaking professes that the biblical  
21 narrative reveals God’s resolve for peace, and God’s reign of peace was established  
22 through Jesus’ death and resurrection and Jesus’ followers are called to participate in  
23 God’s reign as peacemakers; therefore be it

24 **RESOLVED**, that voting members of the 2024 Synod Assembly instruct Bishop Joy  
25 Mortensen-Wiebe to write a letter to Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and  
26 Congressional Representatives Bryan Steil, Derrick Van Orden, Mark Pocan, Glenn  
27 Grothman, and Scott Fitzgerald asking them to publicly support a ceasefire to prevent  
28 the further loss of life; prioritize the protection of all civilians, including securing the  
29 entrance of humanitarian aid into Gaza and working to secure the release of hostages;  
30 urge all parties in the conflict to fully respect international humanitarian law and  
31 require that all military aid to Israel be used in accordance with the U.S. law,  
32 international humanitarian law and the law of armed conflict; and be it further

33 **RESOLVED**, that congregations and members of the ELCA South Central Synod of  
34 Wisconsin be encouraged to contact their US Senators and Congress members to ask

35 them to publicly support a ceasefire to prevent further loss of life; prioritize the  
36 protection of all civilians by securing the entrance of humanitarian aid into Gaza and  
37 working to secure the release of hostages; urge all parties in the conflict to fully  
38 respect international humanitarian law and require that all military aid to Israel be  
39 used in accordance with U.S. law, international humanitarian law the law of armed  
40 conflict; and be it further

41 **RESOLVED**, congregations and members of the SCSW be encouraged to pray for a  
42 just and lasting peace for Israel and Palestine, to consider financially giving to the  
43 ELCA Disaster Response for the Middle East Crisis, and the Holy Land, and find and  
44 read resources that will inform them about the history and the current situation of  
45 Palestinians and Palestinian Christians.

46 **Submitted By:**

47 Rev. Anne Andert (Retired Rostered Minister)

48 Rev. David Andert (Retired Rostered Minister)

49 Judy Armelin (Messiah, Madison)

50 Bonnie Block (St. John's, Madison)

51 Rev. George Carlson (Retired Rostered Minister)

52 Rev. Jerry Folk (Retired Rostered Minister)

53 Rev. Blake Rohrer (Midvale Community, Madison)

54 Pam Shellberg (Messiah, Madison)

55 Rev. Jeff Wild (Retired Rostered Minister)