

2025 RESOLUTION

Supporting the Episcopal Church in Palestine

PROPOSED BY: The Rev. Taylor Vines, St. Luke's, Ypsilanti; Martha Kern-Boprie, St. Luke's, Ypsilanti; The Rev. Halim Shukair, Christ Church & Mother of the Savior, Dearborn; Cathy Lewis St. Luke's, Ypsilanti; The Rev. Tom Ferguson, St. Aidan's, Ann Arbor; Catharine June St. Luke's, Ypsilanti; The Rev. Toby Darrah, St. Clare's, Ann Arbor; David Laurance, St. Clare's, Ann Arbor; The Rev. Anne Clarke, St. Clare's, Ann Arbor; James Paul Church of the Incarnation, Ann Arbor; The Rev. Donna Lockhart, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation; The Rev. Teresa Wakeen, The Church at Crossroads - Episcopal, Detroit; The Rev. Ian Reed Twiss, Holy Cross, Novi; Teri Landreth, Holy Cross, Novi; The Rev. Eric Braun Grace, Southgate; the Parish Vestry at Grace, Southgate voted to support.

SUMMARY The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan affirms its solidarity with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and commits to joining the wider Episcopal Church's call for peace, justice, and reconciliation in the Holy Land. In alignment with our Baptismal Covenant, this resolution calls the Diocese of Michigan to:

- explore a companion relationship with the Diocese of Jerusalem; and
- encourage congregations and individuals to support the Good Friday Offering, Episcopal Relief & Development, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, lifelines for schools, hospitals, and ministries across the region.

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Whereas, the General Convention (2022, 2024) reaffirmed opposition to the occupation of Palestinian territories, condemned escalating violence and land seizure, urged historic levels of humanitarian aid, and called for U.S. accountability in military assistance;

Whereas, the Executive Council (April 2024) lamented massive civilian deaths, urged an immediate ceasefire and unimpeded humanitarian access, condemned U.S. complicity, and reaffirmed opposition to antisemitism and Islamophobia;

Whereas, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe (July 2025), echoing Archbishop Hosam Naoum, called for an end to bombing hospitals, lifting the siege of Gaza, release of detainees and hostages, and rejection of ethnic cleansing or forced removal;

Whereas, the Diocese of Jerusalem continues faithful witness through schools, hospitals, and ministries—including al Ahli Hospital in Gaza—sustained by the Good Friday Offering,

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Episcopal Relief & Development, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem;

Whereas, Christ Church and Mother of the Savior (both in Dearborn), already have sister-church ties with All Saints', Beirut, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem;

Whereas, our Baptismal Covenant calls us to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being”;

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan explore and cultivate a companion diocese relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, guided by the Episcopal Church’s Companion Relationship Guidelines, emphasizing mutuality, shared prayer, parish-to-parish exchange, and amplification of Palestinian Christian witness.

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan that the Diocese of Michigan encourage congregations and members to support humanitarian relief through the Good Friday Offering (founded in 1922), Episcopal Relief & Development, and American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, recognizing these as lifelines for hospitals, schools, and ministries across the region; and that such support be accompanied by prayer, education, interfaith collaboration, and prophetic advocacy for an immediate ceasefire, an end to indiscriminate bombing and siege, restoration of humanitarian aid under UN supervision, and opposition to ethnic cleansing or removal of Palestinians.