

His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister of the State of Israel

The Honorable Nir Barkat
Mayor of the Jerusalem Municipality

March 13, 2018

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, dear Mr. Mayor,

As heads of churches and communions in the United States, we write to express our strong concern about recent legal proposals and tax plans that would severely inhibit the work of the churches in and around Jerusalem. If enacted, these measures would have the effect of creating a situation that jeopardizes the very survival of the Christian community in the Holy Land.

We have expressed to the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, in the enclosed letter, our firm solidarity with them during this crisis, including by strong advocacy before our own government.

We know of the myriad of activities in which the churches there are engaged, such as education, health care and pilgrimages, and we recognize that they are integral to the churches' mission and of major benefit to the Jerusalem community beyond the churches.

We ask that you end measures that disrupt the Status Quo. We have pledged to the church leaders in Jerusalem our unwavering support for all peaceful and lawful measures they may pursue to ensure the preservation and flourishing of the Christian community now and in the future.

In God's grace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Ecumenical Director and Legate,
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
(Eastern)

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop
Episcopal Church (United States)