

RESOLUTION ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Social Policy Resolution

CC00.11.70



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Adopted by the 2000 Church Council.

Whereas, statements and letters from church leaders in Jerusalem, the Middle East Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches, and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. have been received by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and Whereas, our missionaries in the area have been given the option to leave but have elected to stay to accompany the local church even at risk to themselves and their families; therefore, be it

Resolved

Resolved, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA):

1. Encourage members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to support through prayer and material assistance the people in the region affected by civil strife;
2. Request staff to explore-with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, relevant churchwide units, and the inter-unit working group on the Middle East-the possibilities for particular expressions of concern, such as:
 - a. a letter from the presiding bishop to all congregations;
 - b. coordinated days of prayer and fasting for an end to the violence in Israel and Palestine;
 - c. an ELCA delegation visit to the region as soon as feasible; and
 - d. financial support in coordination with the International Disaster Fund and the Division for Global Mission;
3. Affirm the expressions of concern for peace, justice, and reconciliation conveyed to U.S. policy-makers and strongly encourage members of the ELCA to engage in similar advocacy, utilizing resources available through the Division for Church in Society's Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, and Churches for Middle East Peace, as well as educational resources available through the Division for Global Mission;
4. Request staff to work with other churchwide units to encourage all congregations to utilize the Palestine packet and "Mosaic" video (Fall 1999) to help them better understand the issues facing this region;
5. Commend our mission staff in the region, continue to raise them up in prayer, and recommit ourselves to their support;
6. Commend the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan (and Palestine), Bishop Munib Younan, its congregations, and schools for steadfastness in

faith and courage in witness throughout this time of crisis; for their ministries of reconciliation and peacemaking; for their tireless assistance and service, including ministries with traumatized children, stranded students, and congregation members;

7. Express to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan (and Palestine) the solidarity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in prayer, fellowship, and material and financial support in this critical time; and
8. Request that the Division for Global Mission bring a report to the April 2001 meeting of the Church Council regarding the material and financial support made available to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan (and Palestine).