

Support of Palestinian Christians and Their Ministry

Resolved, That the 135th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon recognizes and supports the Christian population in the Holy Land, especially the indigenous Palestinian Christians, who live in extremely difficult conditions which threaten their sustainability as a community; *and be it further*

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon actively assist the ministry programs already established and run by The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem - including hospitals, schools, clinics, centers for children with disabilities and homes for the elderly - located in Israel/Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon. These ministry programs of American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem amount to “more than two dozen humanitarian institutions which embody the Christian values of equity, justice and respect for the dignity of all people they serve. All institutions welcome people irrespective of their religion, ethnicity or their ability to pay.” (www.j-diocesan.org); *and be it further*

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon engages with the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese’s brand new study program, as of 2023, “Bearing Witness”, which is free and video based.

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Explanation:

The number of Palestinian Christians living in Israel/Palestine has decreased dramatically due to the major displacements from the Nakba in 1948-49, the 1967 War and subsequent upheavals, causing many to become refugees externally as well as internally. At this time the Israeli government leadership has moved to the extreme right, and coincidentally with this there has been increased desecration of holy places, including churches and cemeteries, along with more frequent verbal and physical abuse of both clergy and worshippers. Therefore it is now even more important to reach out and develop supportive connections with the indigenous Palestinian Christians by building relationships with the St. George’s Cathedral in Jerusalem and individual parishes and their communities. American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem provides opportunities for both education and support.