

1 **Support of Palestinian Christians and Their Ministry (Final)**

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3 **<Amended text as it would appear if adopted. Scroll below the line of asterisks (*****) to**
4 **see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

5
6 Resolved, That the 135th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon
7 recognizes and supports the Christian population in the Holy Land, especially the indigenous
8 Palestinian Christians, by actively assisting the ministry programs already established and run
9 by The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem including hospitals, schools,
10 clinics, centers for children with disabilities and homes for the elderly - located in
11 Israel/Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon; and be it further

12
13 Resolved, That the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon engages with the American Friends of
14 the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem’s 2023 study program, “[Bearing Witness](#)”, which is free and
15 video based.

16
17 *****)

18 **<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>**

19
20 Resolved, That the 135th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon
21 recognizes and supports the Christian population in the Holy Land, especially the indigenous
22 Palestinian Christians, by actively assisting the ministry programs
23 already established and run by The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem -
24 including hospitals, schools, clinics, centers for children with disabilities and homes for the
25 elderly - located in Israel/Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon. ~~who live in extremely difficult~~
26 ~~conditions which threaten their sustainability as a community;~~ and be it further

27
28 ~~Resolved, That the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon actively assist the ministry programs~~
29 ~~already established and run by The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem~~
30 ~~including hospitals, schools, clinics, centers for children with disabilities and homes for the~~
31 ~~elderly - located in Israel/Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon. These ministry programs of American~~
32 ~~Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem amount to “more than two dozen humanitarian~~
33 ~~institutions which embody the Christian values of equity, justice and respect for the dignity of~~
34 ~~all people they serve. All institutions welcome people irrespective of their religion, ethnicity or~~
35 ~~their ability to pay.” (www.j diocesan.org); and be it further~~

36
37 Resolved, That the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon engages with the American Friends of
38 the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem’s 2023 brand new study program, ~~as of 2023~~, “[Bearing](#)
39 [Witness](#)”, which is free and video based.

40
41 **Submitted by:**

42 **The Task force For Palestinian Human Rights**
43 Darlene Dunham, St. John the Baptist, Portland
44 Geoffrey Dunham, St. John the Baptist, Portland

45 Rev. Dr. Constance Hammond, All Saints, Portland
46 Mary Morris, Christ Church, Lake Oswego
47 Elizabeth Sheppard, All Saints, Portland
48 Rev. Canon Richard Toll, DMIN, DD, Grace Memorial, Portland

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50 **Sponsored by:**

51 Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Klein, Grace Memorial, Portland

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53 **Explanation:**

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