

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009  
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-A037  
**TITLE:** Prayer for Wall Around Bethlehem to Come Down  
**PROPOSER:** Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns  
**COMMITTEE:** National and International Concerns

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-A011 On the Topic of Peace Between Israel and Palestine (Rejected)  
2006-A012 On the Topic of Israel's Occupation of Palestine (Rejected)  
2006-A015 Encourage a Renewed Commitment to the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East  
2003-D081 Oppose Construction of the Israeli Security Wall  
1997-A107 Recognize Jerusalem as the Capital of Both Israel and Palestine

**Indirectly Related:**

2000-B016 Affirm Refugee Rights of Palestinians and Israelis  
1994-A103 Affirm 1993 Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles  
1991-B011 Urge Awareness of Anglican Primates' Statement on the Middle East  
1991-D008 Urge a Peaceful Resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict  
1988-D053 Affirm Goals of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation for Israelis and Palestinians

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.*



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A011  
**Title:** On the Topic of Peace Between Israel and Palestine  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention reaffirm The Episcopal Church's commitment to:

1. the rightful existence of the State of Israel as a nation among nations;
2. the rightful existence of a State of Palestine as a nation among nations;
3. the recognition of Jerusalem as the shared capital of the two states;
4. the end of all violence and its crippling impact on Israeli and Palestinian societies;
5. the withdrawal by Israel from *all occupied Palestinian territories as established in 1967* ~~its settlements in the West Bank~~;
6. the return of all parties to the negotiating table rather than unilateral action by any party;
7. the eradication of the sin of anti-Semitism *and all other forms of racism*.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A012  
**Title:** On the Topic of Israel's Occupation of Palestine  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of the Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention declare that the following positions constitute policies of The Episcopal Church ~~and direct The Episcopal Church's Office of Peace and Justice Ministries to advocate:~~

1. an end to the isolation of East Jerusalem and Bethlehem from the West Bank created by the continued construction of Israeli settlements, settler roads and the *barrier Wall*;
2. removal of the *barrier Wall* by Israel where it violates Palestinian territory and termination of the policy and practice of terrorism by any constituency of the Palestinian Authority;
3. assurance of human rights for Palestinians *and Israelis*;
4. support for the return of sovereign control of Gaza's airspace *and coastline and borders* to the Palestinian people *and mutual respect for borders*; and
5. *elimination of corruption within the Palestinian Authority and appropriate financial transparency to better serve human and economic rights of Palestinians; and*
6. assurance that no U.S. tax dollars are used, *directly or indirectly*, to finance the *building of the barrier and bypass roads that support the settlements Occupation, directly or indirectly.*



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A015  
**Title:** Encourage a Renewed Commitment to the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention encourage the dioceses of The Episcopal Church to urge their congregations and institutions to pray for our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East; to visit the Christian congregations in the Holy Land; to receive visitors from the Holy Land; to work for justice, peace, and reconciliation in the Holy Land with renewed commitment; and to urge elected officials and policy makers to seek solutions that will realize these goals for all.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 531-532.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-D081  
**Title:** Oppose Construction of the Israeli Security Wall  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention recognize that the 360 kilometer long Israeli security wall currently under construction and the proposed additional 240 kilometer extension are impediments to the implementation of the performance-based roadmap leading to a final and comprehensive negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by 2005, as presented in President Bush's speech of 24 June 2002 and welcomed by the EU, Russia and the UN in the 16 July 2002 and 17 September 2002 Quartet Ministerial statements; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 74th General Convention convey to the President, the Secretary of State and the National Security Advisor of the United States our support for their ongoing questioning of the construction of this wall.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 328f.



**Resolution Number:** 1997-A107  
**Title:** Recognize Jerusalem as the Capital of Both Israel and Palestine  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention recognize Jerusalem as the seat of the Abrahamic peoples, acknowledge the historic presence of Jews, Palestinian Christians and Muslims and affirm:***

1. **that Jerusalem should serve as the capital for two sovereign and independent states, Israel and Palestine;**
2. **the government of Israel should remove forthwith all roadblocks and obstacles preventing free access to Jerusalem for Palestinians;**
3. **the government of Israel should change its planning policies so that Palestinians have equal rights to build housing in Jerusalem and develop their institutions which have been restricted since 1967;**
4. **East Jerusalem, as an integral part of the occupied territories, should be included in all political arrangements relating to those territories, including self-determination, release of prisoners, right of return, and eventual sovereignty; and be it further**

***Resolved, That this convention urge the government of the United States to use its diplomatic and economic influence in support of the above and to demonstrate a firm commitment to justice for Palestinians as it does for the security of the State of Israel; and be it further***

***Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Israel, the President of the Palestinian Authority and appropriate members of the Congress of the United States.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 181.

**09 - National and International Concerns**

A037

TOPIC/TITLE: International Relations: Prayer for Wall Around Bethlehem to Come Down

PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns

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1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention, urge every  
2 Episcopalian and every Episcopal Church and every Episcopal diocese, to pray, especially in  
3 Advent and during the Christmas season, for the Wall around Bethlehem and all other barriers to  
4 come down:

5  
6 "Almighty God, Creator of the wonderful complex diversity of humanity; you have fashioned  
7 us in your image and commanded us to love one another;

8  
9 Reach down your divine hand so that the wall shall come down in Bethlehem, the birthplace  
10 of your Son, the Prince of Peace; And may the crumbling walls herald the fall of all barriers  
11 that divide us.

12  
13 Bind us together so that love gives rise to an abundance of tenderness among all people; and  
14 may our hearts like Mary's magnify the Lord, and may your love shower down throughout the  
15 world so all divisions are scattered and washed away.

16  
17 We ask this all with expectant hearts through Christ Jesus, our Lord, Amen."  
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