

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-D059
TITLE: Support President's Commitment to Help Bring Peace
PROPOSER: The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein
COMMITTEE: National and International Concerns

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-D008 Urge Israel to End Policy of Demolition of Palestinian Homes
2003-D081 Oppose Construction of the Israeli Security Wall
2000-B016 Affirm Refugee Rights of Palestinians and Israelis
1997-A107 Recognize Jerusalem as the Capital of Both Israel and Palestine
1991-A147 Support a Two-state Solution for Israel and the Palestinian People

Indirectly Related:

1994-D065 Recognize Illegality of Israeli Settlements in Gaza and the West Bank
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-D008
Title: Urge Israel to End Policy of Demolition of Palestinian Homes
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention recognize that Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes in the Gaza Strip and the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem is illegal under international law and is a deterrent to the peace process, and therefore call upon the President and the U.S. government to urge the State of Israel to end its policy of the demolition of Palestinian homes.

[At the request of the House of Bishops, the following reference is added: Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians, 1948. *Ed.*]

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 320f.



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: 2000-B016
Title: Affirm Refugee Rights of Palestinians and Israelis
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm, in the light of the final status negotiations now underway, the right of Palestinians and Israelis to self-determination, independence, and sovereignty based in justice, peace, and security for the two peoples; and be it further
Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church affirm the principle of the right of return for every Palestinian, as well as restitution/compensation for their loss as called for by the United Nations; and be it further
Resolved, That this General Convention through the Office of Peace and Justice Ministries (especially through the Office of Government Relations) (a) urge the officials and members of the Episcopal Church to pray and work for this position, and (b) communicate this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the appropriate members of the Congress of the United States, the President of the Palestinian Authority, the Prime Minister of Israel, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 650.



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.



Resolution Number: 1991-A147
Title: Support a Two-state Solution for Israel and the Palestinian People
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted and Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, **That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church supports the existence of Israel as a sovereign state, the democratic and humanitarian inspired homeland for displaced Jewish people, and calls upon the Government of the United States:**

1. **To assist in the creation of a Palestinian State, and,**
2. **To assist Israel to secure the human rights of indigenous Arabs within Israel through:**

- a. **ending the violation of civil and human rights and by stopping the brutalities committed against individual, families, and groups which now occur;**
- b. **restricting the use of military force to measures and practices proportionate to the situation and suited to the control of civilian populations, and, to that end, to assure that military personnel and units, before assignment to duty, be given proper training in riot control and the techniques and practices of control of civilian populations;**
- c. **causing the State of Israel to discontinue the use of administrative detention and collective punishment;**
- d. **the permanent reopening of schools, universities, and other educational institutions for the Palestinians in the occupied territories;**
- e. **causing the State of Israel to be even handed and fair in the recognition and enforcement of the rights and interests of the Palestinians with respect to their personal safety, property rights, water rights, and rights of access to commercial markets; and**
- f. **encouraging the opening of candid and patient communication between the representatives of the Palestinians and the State of Israel and between the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples; and**
- g. **reestablishing and safe-guarding the City of Jerusalem as inter-religious municipality in which full respect is accorded the rights and interests of Christians, Jews, and Muslims.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 794.

TOPIC/TITLE: International Relations: Support President's Commitment to Help Bring Peace

PROPOSER: The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

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- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention,
2 considering the Church's mission to promote peace for all God's people, warmly applaud
3 the initiative of President Barak Obama and his Middle East envoy, George Mitchell, to
4 bring stronger and more resolute American diplomatic leadership to the cause of peace
5 between Israel and Palestine and to the Middle East; and be it further
6
7 *Resolved*, That the Convention acknowledge the tragic histories of the Jewish and
8 Palestinian people as victims of injustice, wars, dispersion and exile, the existential fear
9 and insecurity this has created for both peoples, and the distress their conflict has caused
10 throughout the Middle East; and be it further
11
12 *Resolved*, That the Convention respect the profound commitment of Israelis and
13 Palestinians to the land they regard as their homeland and their national aspirations, and
14 call upon the U.S. Government, in keeping with American ideals of equality, justice, and
15 human rights, to pursue a fair and balanced approach to making peace that fulfills the
16 fundamental needs of both peoples; and be it further
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18 *Resolved*, That the Convention acknowledge that peace between Israel and Palestine can
19 be achieved only by a division of historic Palestine into two sovereign states, and that this
20 division should be defined, more or less, by the 1949 Armistice line, with mutually
21 agreed border adjustments; and be it further
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23 *Resolved*, That the humanitarian situation in Gaza calls for the unrestricted opening of
24 borders for both humanitarian and reconstruction resources; and be it further
25
26 *Resolved*, That the Convention understand and respect the religious and historic claims of
27 both Israelis and Palestinians, as well as of Jews, Christians and Muslims, worldwide,
28 toward the Holy City of Jerusalem and its sacred holy sites, and that a just and lasting
29 territorial division must include a shared Jerusalem in which the State of Israel and a
30 future State of Palestine will maintain their respective capitals; and be it further
31
32 *Resolved*, That the Convention recognize that the use of force, violence or arbitrary
33 power by Israelis or Palestinians to determine the outcome of this conflict must be
34 condemned absolutely, and that peace can be achieved only through peaceful negotiations

Endorser(s): The Rev. Ann K. Fontaine, Ms. Nancy M. Dick

1 that would lead to the emergence of a Palestinian state living side by side and at peace
2 with Israel; and be it further

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4 *Resolved*, That the Convention urge all Episcopalians to work and pray for the liberating
5 of Israelis and Palestinians from generations of conflict, freeing the Middle East and the
6 world from tensions wrought by this struggle, restoring harmony among Jews, Muslims
7 and Christians worldwide for whom the Holy Land is sacred, and for creating peace
8 based on the universal value of justice as a compelling priority for the Church and for the
9 United States of America.

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