

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A110
Title: Clarify Distinction Between Biblical and Modern Israel
Proposer: Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music
Topic: Middle East

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-C012 Refer a Resolution on Confronting Christian Zionism (Referred)

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).

A110 - Clarify Distinction Between Biblical and Modern Israel

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention commits to making clear in liturgy and in teaching the distinction between Biblical and Modern Israel in Prayer Book liturgies and hymnody in order to reduce the confusion with the current State of Israel -- a conflation that reinforces the deceptive theology of Christian Zionism.

Explanation

Modern Israel and Biblical Israel are two distinct entities, separated by thousands of years of history and significant geopolitical changes. Biblical Israel refers to the ancient kingdom of Israel – a theocratic nation of twelve tribes with its political and religious leaders closely intertwined. Modern Israel is a secular democratic state with a diverse society made up of various ethnic and religious groups operating under a parliamentary system of government. Biblical and Modern Israel exist in completely different historical, cultural, and geopolitical contexts, with vastly different political and social systems.



Resolution Number: 2022-C012
Title: Refer a Resolution on Confronting Christian Zionism
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church reject the nationalistic theology of Christian Zionism which provides the ideological basis for Christian Zionist leaders and politicians seeking to influence United States policy in Palestine-Israel; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention not only reject the theology of Christian Zionism which is inherently antisemitic but also, critically, condemn the political policy positions that it sponsors and financially supports, which include Israel's expansion across the entire land of Palestine Israel and the displacement of the Palestinian people, including our indigenous Palestinian Christian and Muslim brothers and sisters; and be it further

Resolved, That, recognizing the extent to which the Prayer Book liturgy including prayers and the lectionary as well as the hymns contain frequent references to the Biblical land of Israel and the Israelites and that many Episcopalians confuse these with the current State of Israel, a conflation that reinforces the deceptive theology of Christian Zionism , the Episcopal Church commit to making clear in liturgy and in teaching the clear distinction between the current political situation and the Biblical past.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 763-764.