

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-D006  
**Title:** Rejecting the Theology and Politics of Christian Zionism  
**Proposer:** Mok, Dr. Carolyn  
**Topic:** Middle East

---

---

**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2022-A216 Express Alarm to The Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches of the Holy Land  
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](#).*

# D006 - Rejecting the Theology and Politics of Christian Zionism

---

**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Mok, Dr. Carolyn

**Endorsed by:** Evans, The Rev. Boyd, Neznok, Mary, Powell, The Rev. RJ

**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:** Yes

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** HB

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 06 - Social Justice & International Policy

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:** No

---

## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention reject the theology of Christian Zionism, a politicized Christian theology distinct from the Jewish Zionism underpinning the Israeli state, that believes the establishment of Israel as an exclusively Jewish state in the whole land of Palestine-Israel, denying the legitimacy of any Palestinian Arab existence there, was mandated by God and must be completed before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ can occur; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Episcopal Church recognize and publicly acknowledge the grave fear long expressed by our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters that the indigenous Christian presence in the land of Christianity's birth is diminishing dramatically because Israel's anti-Palestinian policies are actively supported politically and financially and propagated by Christian Zionists; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention affirm Resolution 2022-A216, which expressed alarm at the threat to the Christian presence in Jerusalem presented by Israeli radical groups; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Episcopal Church through its Office of Government Relations speak out publicly to challenge the U.S. tax exemptions granted to Christian Zionist institutions and organizations, and condemn Christian Zionism's support for oppressive Israeli policies and practices.

## **Explanation**

Christian Zionism's teachings, espoused by many Christian evangelicals and biblical literalists, arise from a rigid interpretation of certain Hebrew Bible passages, which these Christians employ to justify unconditional support for the establishment of an exclusive Jewish state in the Holy Land. Christian Zionist doctrine teaches that, as written in Genesis 12:2-3, God blesses those who bless Israel and curses whoever curses Israel—meaning, in today's context, that God blesses whoever, like Christian Zionists themselves, unquestioningly supports the state of Israel and condemns all who criticize Israel for any reason. These teachings are a corruption both of God's promises in the Hebrew Bible and of the Gospel message of justice and love that is at the heart of our Baptismal Covenant.

Although the theology of Christian Zionism emerged in the 19th century, the influence of this theology has grown exponentially in the United States since the 1980s and particularly during the early 21st century. This was especially true during the Trump Administration, when Christian Zionist leaders enjoyed easy access to the President to discuss their pro-Israeli stance, and when Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, both Christian Zionists themselves, used their beliefs to solidify U.S. support for Israel. Christian Zionist leaders, including John Hagee of Christians United for Israel (CUFI) and many others, together claim a following of tens of millions of Americans. Many evangelical churches display the Israeli flag at their churches, both outside and in their sanctuaries during services.

Christian Zionists interpret Israel's creation in 1948 and its capture of the remainder of Palestine and all of Jerusalem in 1967 as divinely inspired events that marked the beginning of the last "dispensation," or historical period, before Jesus' return. Among the biblical texts said to justify Israel's triumph and sole domination in the land is Zechariah 8:3 ("Thus says the Lord: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts shall be called the holy mountain"). Christian Zionists view this text as an End Times prophecy that foresees the building of the Third Temple and the consequent destruction of non-Jewish holy sites, leading to an apocalyptic war that will pave the way for Christ's Second Coming. This Christian Zionist vision is at its base grossly antisemitic, in that it foresees the conversion of Jews to Christianity, or destruction of any Jews who do not convert.

The Christian Zionist worldview mandates total support for Israel's colonization and military occupation of all parts of Palestine, including its ethnic cleansing and displacement of Palestinians and its rejection of Palestinian legitimacy. Christian Zionists reject as sinful any move toward a Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement that would require Israel to cede control of land to the Palestinians. Christian Zionists encouraged the Trump Administration's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, its move of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and its stated belief that Israeli settlements in occupied

Palestinian territory do not violate international law. (The Biden Administration has not reversed these Trump decisions.)

Indigenous Palestinian Christians have been leaving the Holy Land in increasing numbers, in no small measure because of policies advocated by Christian Zionists. For years, Palestinian Christian leaders have been pleading with mainstream Christian churches for help in confronting the threat posed to indigenous Christians from this politicized theology. This plea has come in many conferences on the topic and most notably through the document *Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering*—a major political-theological statement composed by the leaders of all the multiple Eastern and Western Christian denominations in Jerusalem, issued in 2009 and formally reaffirmed in 2019. In a plea directed pointedly at the threat from Christian Zionism, *Kairos Palestine* called for support and solidarity from world Christianity; the call was issued to Christian churches everywhere to “revisit fundamentalist theological positions that support certain unjust political options with regard to the Palestinian people”; to stand in solidarity with oppressed Palestinians rather than turn the word of God “into a weapon with which to slay the oppressed”; and to avoid offering “a theological cover-up for the injustice we suffer, for the sin of the occupation imposed upon us.”

Although Christian Zionism is not directly allied with the phenomenon of Christian Nationalism, which arose during the Trump Administration and was a motivating force behind the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, the two movements arise from a similar rightwing fundamentalist impulse and, to one degree or another, share a distorted belief in the superiority of Christianity and of Western, White culture and civilization over peoples of color everywhere.



**Resolution Number:** 2022-A216  
**Title:** Express Alarm to The Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches of the Holy Land  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Adopted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, That the House of Bishops, gathered at this 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland, expresses to our brothers in Christ, the Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches in Jerusalem, our alarm at the escalating threat to the Christian presence in the Holy City of Jerusalem and the Holy Land from Israeli radical groups who are actively seeking to undermine the Christian communities of the Holy Land, and our support of the Patriarchs and the Heads of the Churches in their efforts at both the local and international level to raise awareness of the plight of the Churches in the Holy Land; and further joins with the international community in our deep concern for the consequences for the ongoing life of the residents of the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem and of pilgrims of the decision of the Supreme Court of Israel on 8 June 2020 to uphold the claims of a radical settler organization on property of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem at the Jaffa Gate; and further continues, in solidarity with our brothers in Christ, the Patriarchs and the Heads of Local Churches of the Holy Land, to pray and work for the stability, well-being, and prosperity of the Christian communities of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, especially in this season of increasing pressure from those who seek to change fundamentally the historic multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious character of the region.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 803.



**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.