

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018  
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-B003  
**TITLE:** On the Status of Jerusalem  
**PROPOSER:** The Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner  
**TOPIC:** Middle East

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2012-B019 Support Israeli-Palestinian Peace  
2009-B027 On the Topic of Peace and Statehood in Historic Palestine (Rejected)  
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  
1985-B017 Oppose Moving the United States Embassy From Tel Aviv to Jerusalem  
1979-D089 Express Thankfulness for Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty

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

2015-B013 Reaffirm a Policy of Reconciliation and Restorative Justice in the Middle East

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, 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 at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.*

# B003 On the Status of Jerusalem

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<b>Proposer</b>	The Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Rickel, The Rt. Rev. Gregory; Magness, The Rt. Rev. James
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	/
<b>Current Status</b>	Resolution Filed
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

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## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention strongly reaffirm its long-established position calling for the city of Jerusalem to be the shared capital of both the State of Israel and of a future Palestinian state; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention likewise affirm its call for the safeguarding of Jerusalem as a place where full respect is accorded to the civil rights and religious interests of Christians, Muslims, and Jews, to include free and secure access to their respective holy sites; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That all dioceses be encouraged to engage earnestly in education, advocacy, and prayer for the renewal of a diplomatic and political process for peace in the region, and for the peace of Jerusalem.

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## EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church has been clear and consistent in strongly advocating these positions, as expressed in such past General Convention actions as D089 (1979), A147 (1991), A107 (1997), and B010 (2012). The recent decision to locate the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem has contributed to a growing despair over the possibility of a two-state solution, and confusion regarding the role of the U.S. in the peace process. A public reaffirmation of the Episcopal Church's commitment will be a timely encouragement for many.



**Resolution Number:** 2012-B019  
**Title:** Support Israeli-Palestinian Peace  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention express its regret at the lack of progress in negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians toward a just and peaceful resolution of the longstanding conflict between the two peoples, and call for the cessation of violence by all parties, and reaffirm this Church's commitment to a negotiated two-state solution in which a secure and universally recognized State of Israel lives alongside a free, viable, and secure state for the Palestinian people, with a shared Jerusalem as the capital of both; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention commend the leadership of the Presiding Bishop in calling all Episcopalians to advocacy for an end to the conflict and support for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the other Christian communities of the Holy Land, particularly through her 2011 Pastoral Letter on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (accessible on the website of The Episcopal Church); and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention encourage all dioceses, as well as the Executive Council and the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns, to engage actively in the discipline of advocacy, education, and prayer for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, as well as the provision of humanitarian aid that promotes peace and reconciliation; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention affirm the importance of interfaith dialogue in the resolution of the Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict, both in the Holy Land itself and in other contexts around the world; and decry religious extremism and fundamentalism in all their forms and the violence that arises from their expression; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm the truth that some mission is best enacted at the local level, and therefore urges all congregations to seek, over the next Triennium, to engage with local Jewish and Muslim congregations to study peace with justice in the Middle East, and urges that the narratives and theologies that inform the conversation on peace with justice in the Middle East be particular focuses of attention; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Theology Committee of the House of Bishops, the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns, the resources of the Episcopal seminaries, and the Advocacy and Networking Committee of the Executive Council be called upon the support, through the triennium, the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian study on peace with justice in the Middle East, and produce and annotated bibliography of resources to be posted on the website of The Episcopal Church; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the triennial study groups on Middle East peace with justice prepare report sharing what they learned about a constructive path to peace with justice, and that these reports be collected and shared with the Church by the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop develop an interfaith model pilgrimage composed equally of Episcopalians, Jews, and Muslims in order to further encourage the travel of pilgrims*

**and witnesses to the Holy Land in order to experience the multiple narratives of the diverse peoples who call the land their home; and be it further**

***Resolved, That the General Convention affirm positive investment as a necessary means to create a sound economy and a sustainable infrastructure in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip because without these measures there can and will be no viable Palestinian state and no enduring peace; and be it further***

***Resolved, That in seeking to encourage such positive investment in the Palestinian territories, Episcopalians give priority to investment in the institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which provide healthcare, education, and social services without discrimination on the basis of religion, political ideology, gender, socioeconomic standing, or national identity; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the work of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Good Friday Offering be commended to all Episcopalians as faithful vehicles for providing economic and other support to the Diocese of Jerusalem and its institutions; and be it further***

***Resolved, That, as a component of this Church's support for positive financial investment in the Palestinian territories, the General Convention urge the Economic Justice Loan Committee to consider a loan of at least \$200,000 to strengthen the economic infrastructure of the Palestinian territories.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 221-222.



**Resolution Number:** 2009-B027  
**Title:** On the Topic of Peace and Statehood in Historic Palestine  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Final Text:**

Resolution Rejected by Non-concurrence. See Legislative History for original text of resolution.

**Citation:**



**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:***

**that Jerusalem should serve as the capital for two sovereign and independent states, Israel and Palestine;**

**the government of Israel should remove forthwith all roadblocks and obstacles preventing free access to Jerusalem for Palestinians;**

**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;**

**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, 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:*

*To assist in the creation of a Palestinian State, and,*

*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.



**Resolution Number:** 1985-B017  
**Title:** Oppose Moving the United States Embassy From Tel Aviv to Jerusalem  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 68th General Convention of the Episcopal Church express its opposition to the movement of the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, except within the context of a broad resolution of Middle East problems, with the status of Jerusalem having been determined by negotiation and not by unilateral action by any one community, religion, race or nation.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 130.





**Resolution Number:** 1979-D089  
**Title:** Express Thankfulness for Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That this 66th General Convention of the Episcopal Church notes with thankfulness the signing of the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty, that it affirms the right of Israel to exist as a free State within secure borders, and that it urges continued negotiations leading to an overall settlement and peaceful resolution of the issues and problems in the Middle East; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention expresses support for the opportunity to establish a free and independent Palestinian state which recognizes the State of Israel; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention recognizes the uniqueness of the city of Jerusalem and urges a solution which would guarantee free and secure access to the Holy City by people of all faiths; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention confirms our oneness in Christ with our fellow Christians in the Middle East, as we also affirm that we are engrafted in the vine of Israel; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this Convention expresses our love, concern and prayers for all persons in the Middle East.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-105.