

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-B018  
**TITLE:** A Resolution For Reconciliation and Engagement in the Holy Land  
**PROPOSER:** The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker  
**TOPIC:** Peace

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-B013 Reaffirm a Policy of Reconciliation and Restorative Justice in the Middle East  
2015-C018 Affirm the Work of Christians in Israel and the Occupied Territories  
2012-B019 Support Israeli-Palestinian Peace  
2012-C060 On the Topic of a Resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict (Rejected)  
2006-A015 Encourage Commitment to the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East  
1988-D053 Affirm Goals of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation for Israelis and Palestinians

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

2000-B016 Affirm Refugee Rights of Palestinians and Israelis  
1991-A147 Support a Two-state Solution for Israel and the Palestinian People  
1991-A150 Support an Anglican Presence in the Middle East  
1991-D008 Urge a Peaceful Resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

*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.*

# B018 A Resolution For Reconciliation and Engagement in the Holy Land

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<b>Proposer</b>	The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Goff, The Rt. Rev. Susan; Hirschfeld, The Rt. Rev. A. Robert
<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>	Pre-Filed Resolution
<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 expresses its deep regret at the lack of progress toward a just and peaceful resolution of the longstanding conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians, and reaffirms this Church's commitment to an end to the occupation and to a negotiated two-state solution in which a secure State of Israel lives alongside a free, viable, sovereign and secure state of Palestine; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church, embracing its Christian faith which demands that we always live in hope, believes that peace, justice and co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians is possible ; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the General Convention encourages all Dioceses, as well as the Office of Government Relations, the Executive Council and the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns, to remain actively engaged in this issue and to search for concrete ways in which the Episcopal Church can act as an agent for Reconciliation and peaceful and meaningful Engagement of all parties to this conflict; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the General Convention encourages all bishops, clergy and lay people of the Episcopal Church to increase and deepen their own understanding of this conflict by traveling to the region as pilgrims and witnesses to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to actively seek out meaningful opportunities to meet with, learn from and remain engaged with both Israelis and Palestinians and all parties to this conflict; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the General Convention expresses its special bond, commitment to and solidarity with and love and support for all Christians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and calls on all Episcopalians to gratefully affirm, and provide various forms of material, temporal, financial and spiritual support for the Church in the Holy Land, including the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, its Bishop The Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, and all the clergy, its parishes, its institutions and ministries; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the General Convention encourages all Episcopalians to make especial efforts to

get to know and learn from fellow Christians in the region and to work with them to stem the rise of all forms of extremism which has forced more Christians to leave the Holy Land; and be it further

- 7 *Resolved*, That the General Convention, mindful of the Apostle Paul's exhortation to "pray without ceasing," (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) and the Psalmist's plea to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem," (Psalm 122:6) requests that all Episcopalians commit themselves to on-going prayer that both Israelis and Palestinians will be liberated from the cycles of violence that have scarred and oppressed both peoples and that they will find their way to a just and peaceful resolution of their conflict; and be it further
  
- 8 *Resolved*, That the General Convention recognizes that an end to the occupation requires a political solution and therefore calls upon Episcopalians in the United States to take an active role in the political life of their local, state and national community and work to elect responsible and thoughtful leaders who will support just and even handed policies and work effectively on an international level to bring about a negotiated two-state solution.

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**EXPLANATION**

When dealing with complicated issues of international conflict the Episcopal Church should start with the principle, "first do no harm."

While our deep concern for the Palestinian people, especially our Palestinian brothers and sisters, can lead us to want to take forceful and dramatic steps to work on behalf of justice, any action we take must be informed by a true and deep understanding of the region and tempered by love of all people, not only our fellow Christians.

The Episcopal Church much remain faithful and committed to a deeply Christian approach, one firmly grounded in hope, reconciliation and engagement with everyone.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-B013  
**Title:** Reaffirm a Policy of Reconciliation and Restorative Justice in the Middle East  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That The 78th General Convention reaffirm the vocation of the Church as an agent of reconciliation and restorative justice, and recognize that meaningful reconciliation can help to engender sustainable, long-lasting peace and that such reconciliation must incorporate both political action and locally driven grassroots efforts; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention, lamenting the diplomatic and political stalemate following recent elections in Israel, reaffirm this Church's commitment to a just and peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated settlement between the parties resulting in two states for two peoples: a secure and universally recognized Israel living alongside a secure and viable state for the Palestinian people; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church commend the United States government for its efforts during the past triennium to broker negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, but express grave sorrow at the collapse of those negotiations in 2014 and the subsequent deterioration of political relations between the parties; and be it further*

*Resolved, That The Episcopal Church, recognizing that simple calls for the parties to return to the negotiating table are no longer sufficient to address the urgency of the situation, challenge the United States government, in coordination with global partners, to develop and offer a new, comprehensive, and time-bound framework to the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority for the conclusive negotiation of a two-state peace agreement and the resolution of all final-status issues; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention urge all national governments represented in The Episcopal Church to invest substantial diplomatic capital in support of such a framework; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention urge the Presiding Bishop and the staff of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to continue its exemplary work to enhance understanding, build political consensus, and organize grassroots support within The Episcopal Church for this political action; and be it further*

*Resolved, That Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society: (1) convene a collaborative group of experts and interfaith partners to collect a wide range of resources designed to inform and enliven a conversation among those holding differing convictions; (2) encourage early travel of the 27th Presiding Bishop to the Holy Land, in the spirit of interfaith fellowship, to establish and build relationships with leaders of the communities of the Children of Abraham working for peace, justice, and reconciliation; and (3) continue its commendable efforts to assist Episcopalians to learn about and understand the traumas, hurt, suffering, fears, pain, aspirations, and hopes that shape the daily lives of all living in Israel and the Palestinian Territories; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention commend the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society's investment of \$500,000 during the last triennium in the infrastructure of the Palestinian economy as a tangible step toward building a viable Palestinian state and strengthening the economic well-being of Palestinian communities; and to urge Domestic*

**and Foreign Missionary Society to expand this loan investment at least twofold in the next triennium; and be it further**

***Resolved, That the General Convention encourage The Episcopal Church to (1) embrace the principles of restorative justice in its advocacy and engagement for the just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and (2) engage and support the voices of both Israelis and Palestinians — especially those who are themselves victims of violence and injustice—who seek peace with justice through nonviolent and restorative responses to the conflict; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the General Convention support existing efforts toward restorative justice by urging the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to identify and find creative ways to commend, support, and elevate the work of local peace-building and economic development initiatives, including those of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East and grassroots organizations jointly led by Israelis and Palestinians; and be it further***

***Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$675,000 for the implementation of this resolution to be used as follows: (1) a total of \$60,000 over the course of the triennium to each of five existing local, grassroots peace-building initiatives jointly led by Israelis and Palestinians to support and expand their work; (2) \$300,000 to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East to support and expand its sustainable peace-building efforts in Israel and the Palestinian Territories through its ministries of health care and education; and (3) \$75,000 to cover other costs associated with the implementation of this resolution.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 913-915.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-C018  
**Title:** Affirm the Work of Christians in Israel and the Occupied Territories  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church express its solidarity with and support for Christians in Israel and the Occupied Territories; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention affirm the work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in healing, education, and pastoral care; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention affirm the work of Christians engaged in relationship building, interfaith dialogue, non-violence training, and advocacy for the rights of Palestinians; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention urge Episcopalians to demonstrate our solidarity by making pilgrimage to Israel and the Occupied Territories and learning from our fellow Christians in the region; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Convention request the Program, Budget and Finance Committee consider allocating \$15,000 during the next triennium for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to produce a video and study guide based on the experiences and learnings of pilgrims to the region and Christians living in the region, to be distributed to the Episcopal Church.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 836-837.



**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:** 2012-C060  
**Title:** On the Topic of a Resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected [Died with Adjournment]  
**Text of the Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 77th General Convention, mindful of the impasse in reaching a just resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, calls on the Executive Council (using appropriate staff) to develop and implement a strategy of advocacy and education in the Church during the next triennium to further a just resolution of the conflict utilizing existing policies and resources, including but not limited to the following:

- A robust use of the Episcopal Public Policy Network in promoting Church policies in our nation's capital
- Participating in corporate social responsibility by more vigorous and public corporate engagement with companies in the Church's investment portfolio that do business in illegal Israeli settlements or contribute to the infrastructure of the Occupation
- Identifying a project of economic engagement through a loan of at least \$200,000 from the Church's economic justice loan fund that strengthens the economic infrastructure of the Territories
- Assist individual Episcopalians by providing information on products made and distributed from illegal Israeli settlements so that they can make informed consumer choices
- An examination of actions the U.S. might take to support international law and human rights; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Council include in its planning a study in the next triennium in every Diocese of "KAIROS PALESTINE 2009" released in December 2009 by Palestinian Christian leaders to address the plight of Palestinian Christians living under military occupation in the West Bank and Gaza as well as those Christians living within the state of Israel who do not enjoy the full rights and privileges of Jewish-Israeli citizens; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Council further consider using as a resource for this study plan an Episcopal version of Steadfast Hope (adapted from the Presbyterian original) as developed by the Palestine Israel Network of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns give high priority to peace with justice in the Holy Land and report to the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church with recommendations on how best to support our Anglican brothers and sisters in the Holy Land; and be it further

*Resolved*, That all bishops, clergy and lay people of the Episcopal Church in the United States be encouraged to travel to the region as pilgrims and witnesses, and to provide various forms of support for the Church in the Holy Land, including the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, its parishes, and its Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, including through the sterling work of the Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Good Friday Offering, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance provide a budget allocation of \$5,000 to Council and staff in assisting with this work.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A015  
**Title:** Encourage 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:** 1988-D053  
**Title:** Affirm Goals of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation for Israelis and Palestinians  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 69th General Convention:*

- a) **affirm the importance of the Church in the exercise of its prophetic role by standing on the side of the oppressed in their struggle for justice, and by promoting justice, peace and reconciliation for all peoples in the region;**
- b) **affirm the existence of the State of Israel and its right to recognized and secure borders, as well as the civic and human rights of all those who live within its borders;**
- c) **affirm the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, including choice of their own representatives and the establishment of their own state;**
- d) **support the convening of an international conference over Palestine/Israel under the auspices of the UN and based on all the UN resolutions in relation to this conflict, to which all parties of the conflict be invited; and**
- e) **commit itself to continued prayer for Israelis and Palestinians, for Muslim, Jew and Christian, for the achievement of justice, peace and reconciliation for all.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 293.