

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-D019  
**TITLE:** Ending Church Complicity in the Occupation  
**PROPOSER:** The Rev. Canon Brian Grieves  
**TOPIC:** Socially Responsible Investment

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-D016 On the Topic of Investment in Israeli-Occupied Palestine (Rejected)  
2012-C060 On the Topic of a Resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict (Rejected)  
1994-D065 Recognize Illegality of Israeli Settlements in Gaza and the West Bank  
1991-D008 Urge a Peaceful Resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

**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  
2012-B019 Support Israeli-Palestinian Peace  
1988-D053 Affirm Goals of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation for Israelis and Palestinians  
1982-B047 Call for Peace in the Middle East

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

Research Report: Policies and Statements on Israel and Palestine, [The Archives of the Episcopal Church](#), 2017.

*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.*

# D019 Ending Church Complicity in the Occupation

<b>Proposer</b>	The Rev. Canon Brian Grieves
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Lillie, The Rev. Paul A.; Smith, Mr. Newland
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	HD / 07 - Social Justice and International Policy
<b>Current Status</b>	Resolution Filed
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

## RESOLUTION TEXT

- Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention continues its firm support for the right of Israel to exist in secure borders as established and recognized by the United Nations, but also continues its strong opposition to Israel's occupation in perpetuity of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip which is now recognized by the United Nations as the sovereign state of Palestine; and be it further
- Resolved*, That in order to end the Episcopal Church's complicity in the 51 year old occupation, the General Convention directs the Executive Council's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen based on the social teachings of this Church and 70 years of Church policy on Israel/Palestine by General Convention and Executive Council as the basis for such a screen in the Israeli occupation of Palestine i.e., the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, and to present a recommendation to the Executive Council for action before the end of 2020

## EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church has a long history of policy development in the tragic and seemingly intractable conflict between the Israeli and Palestinian people. This history is well researched in a document produced by the Archives of the Episcopal Church and can be accessed at

[https://www.episcopalarchives.org/sites/default/files/gc\\_resolutions\\_2018/Israel-Palestine\\_AECResearchReport\\_09-05-2017.pdf](https://www.episcopalarchives.org/sites/default/files/gc_resolutions_2018/Israel-Palestine_AECResearchReport_09-05-2017.pdf)

That history has unwaveringly supported the right of Israel to exist in secure and safe borders, while at the same time supporting a sovereign state of Palestine, with Jerusalem to serve as the shared capital of both nations. And the Church has opposed acts of terrorism and violence against Israel, including suicide bombers attacking innocent civilians, while opposing Israel's occupation that includes detentions, demolition of Palestinian homes, military checkpoints, the building of a wall/fence where it violates Palestinian land, and building illegal Jewish settlements.

The Episcopal Church's Executive Council Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility regularly reviews its investment portfolio for social performance. Over the years, a number of issues have been identified as areas where the Episcopal Church should not invest its resources. Among those are:

Tobacco companies

Oil companies in Sudan

Prison Industry

Companies in South Africa (during the apartheid era)

Certain military contractors

These companies are placed on a No Buy List to avoid ongoing Church complicity in areas that violate the values of Jesus Christ as determined by policies of General Convention and Executive Council.

For the past 12 years, the Church has pursued corporate engagement with companies in its portfolio that are involved in the occupation, including Caterpillar, Motorola and Trip Advisor, among others. Nonetheless, these investments make the Church complicit in the occupation. Thus, consideration of a No Buy list of companies would be a logical progression as the Church seeks justice for all Israelis and Palestinians.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-D016  
**Title:** On the Topic of Investment in Israeli-Occupied Palestine  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 78th General Convention direct the Executive Council's committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), consistent with existing policy of corporate engagement adopted in October 2005, to develop a list of U.S. and foreign corporations that provide goods and services that support the infrastructure of Israel's Occupation, and maintain and update such a list annually, and to vigorously conduct an audit of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) investment portfolio to determine which of these companies, if any, are in the portfolio, and report its findings to the Winter Meeting of Executive Council, 2016, to be made public through the Episcopal News Service; and be it further

*Resolved*, That, consistent with existing Episcopal Church policy, CSR communicate by letter, emails, meetings and otherwise with the companies identified in the DFMS investment portfolio as being involved in the maintenance of the Occupation, if any, requesting that said companies withdraw from their business operations in Occupied Palestine until it is ended, and report on such corporate engagement to the June, 2016, meeting of Executive Council to be made public through the Episcopal News service; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Executive Council, with the aid of its CSR committee, file shareholder resolutions with any companies earlier identified, at its Fall meeting, 2016, asking said companies who have not agreed to terminate their business operations in Occupied Palestine and with whom dialogue has not been fruitful, to begin a process of divestment; and be it further

*Resolved*, That upon receiving the position of said companies to these shareholder resolutions, Executive Council, by its June meeting of 2017, with the aid of the CSR committee, develop a process of divestment from those companies who have refused to divest or in which further engagement is deemed futile, and are considered by CSR to be the most egregious supporters of the infrastructure of the Occupation, and to develop a process for placing on its No Buy List those companies earlier identified as supporting the Occupation, whether currently held or not, and for Council to make known its process for divestment and adding to the No Buy List (and the companies involved) through the Episcopal News Service, and that Council provide a report to the 79th General Convention on its implementation of this resolution; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this General Convention directs the Executive Council to establish a work group to identify a list of products made or businesses present in West Bank settlements (including East Jerusalem) and publishing them within one year of adjournment of this Convention so that Church entities, including congregations and individual members can seek to boycott those products and/or businesses which are illegal under international law; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Executive Council identify \$15,000 for the work to be done in 2015, and that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance provide \$30,000 in 2016 and \$30,000 in 2017 and \$30,000 in 2018 to fund the work of CSR on this and other issues.



**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:** 1994-D065  
**Title:** Recognize Illegality of Israeli Settlements in Gaza and the West Bank  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 71st General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize that Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip and the occupied territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem are illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace, and, therefore, calls upon the United States government:***

***to withhold funds equivalent to those used by Israel for any settlement activity; and to make those funds available to Israeli settlers leaving the occupied territories for resettlement in pre-1967 Israel and equally for Palestinians accepting the principles of compensation for their lands and homes in Israel;***

and be it further

***Resolved, That the General Convention commends the brave leadership of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yassir Arafat for their bold steps towards peace.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), p. 310.



**Resolution Number:** 1991-D008  
**Title:** Urge a Peaceful Resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Substituted and Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church:*

**affirms the importance of the Church in the exercise of its prophetic role by standing on the side of the oppressed, including both the Palestinian people and the people of Israel, in their struggle for justice, and by promoting justice, peace and reconciliation for all peoples in the Middle East; and reaffirms the existence of the State of Israel and its right to secure borders recognized by all nations, as well as the civic and human rights of all those who live within its borders; and commits itself to continued prayer for Israelis and Palestinians, for Muslims, Jews and Christians, for the achievement of justice, peace and reconciliation for all;**

and be it further

*Resolved, That this 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church goes on record in support of Secretary of State Baker's efforts to convene a conference to resolve the Palestinian/Israeli conflict in which all parties involved are included; and be it further*

*Resolved, That this 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church urges the President and the Congress of the United States:*

**to require the State of Israel to account to the Government of the United States for all aid in whatever form that the United States grants to the States of Israel and its instrumentalities in compliance with all sections of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as far as all sections of the Act are applied to Arab governments in the region; and to hold in escrow aid to Israel by an amount equal to any expenditures by the Government of Israel to expand, develop or further establish Israeli settlements in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem and only release the aid from escrow if proof is given that settlements are not being established;**

and be it further

*Resolved, That the Episcopal Church in the United States urges each diocese to take an active interest in the events taking place in the Middle East through study programs, sponsoring forums and workshops; and be it further*

*Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President, the Secretary of State and all Members of the Congress of the United States.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 237.