



Supplemental Report B of the Memorials Committee



August 14, 2013

The Memorials Committee received nine motions from members of the Assembly prior to the deadline of 9:30 pm last evening and considered each of them at its meeting Tuesday morning, August 13, 2013. Our recommendations are incorporated into our supplemental report below.

Revised Recommendation for Category C: Israel and Palestine

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Southwestern Texas, Saint Paul Area, Rocky Mountain, Southeast Michigan, Oregon, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Greater Milwaukee, Southwest California, Southeastern Iowa, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Indiana/Kentucky, Lower Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods related to Peacemaking with Justice in Israel and Palestine;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

1. Continue its awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine;
2. Learn more about the experiences of both Israelis and Palestinians and their mutual fears, aspirations, and hopes;
3. Work to convey the concerns and perspectives of Palestinians and Israelis that dispel stereotypes and caricatures and promote better understanding;
4. Lift up the voices within both communities, especially those of victims of violence, that seek peace with justice through nonviolent responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
5. Continue to help alleviate the humanitarian needs of all of those affected by the conflict;
6. Support U.S. funding that promotes peace and cooperation for all parties to the conflict; and
7. Continue to pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land;

To reaffirm the 2011 Churchwide Assembly action (CA11.04.27) to receive, read, and discuss the Kairos Palestine document as an “authentic word from our brothers and sisters in the Palestinian Christian community” that “warrants our respect and attentiveness”;

To reaffirm the 2011 Churchwide Assembly action (CA 11.04.27) “to commend the policy, “ELCA Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens, “ to the members, congregations, synods, and agencies of this church; and to decline to undertake a review of the investment of funds managed within the ELCA but to commend these recommendations to the Office of the Treasurer, the Office of the Secretary, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Mission Advancement unit, and the ELCA Board of Pensions for consideration.”

To encourage this church’s members, congregations, synods, and agencies to call on the President of the United States and their representatives in Congress to commit to a goal of facilitating a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and

To refer to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Mission Advancement unit, the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Treasurer, and Portico Benefit Services the matter of evaluating possibilities for investing in specific Palestinian economic endeavors and other projects that would promote peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians; and to provide a report with recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

Category D1: Holy Communion

We have removed for separate consideration Memorial D1 on Holy Communion. The Memorials Committee recommends its adoption.

Category A3: Community Violence

The Memorials Committee received one additional substitute motion related to the memorial on, "Community Violence": "To encourage synods and congregations to contact their elected officials and advocate for passage of legislation that promotes universal background checks, prevents gun trafficking, and requires the reporting of lost or stolen guns to law enforcement so that violence in our communities might decrease." The Memorials Committee does not recommend its adoption.