

1 **SECURITY, JUSTICE, AND PEACE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE HOLY LAND**
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3 WHEREAS, the prolonged Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the ongoing illegal
4 Israeli settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are
5 obstacles to peace, add fuel to violence that threatens people’s security
6 and create much suffering for Israelis and Palestinians; and
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8 WHEREAS, the ELCA gives thanks for our special relationship with the Evangelical
9 Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, which is marked by mutual
10 love and concern for lasting peace with justice, and rejoices that our
11 Palestinian brother in Christ, Bishop Munib Younan, is president of the
12 Lutheran World Federation; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, under the leadership of the Working
15 Group on the Middle East, has for nearly two decades adopted resolutions
16 at past assemblies encouraging its members to learn about, advocate for,
17 and support Lutheran institutions in the Holy Land as well as to view what
18 is happening in the Holy Land through a lens of both justice and security;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly passed a resolution supporting positive
22 investment in Palestinian goods and services and commending the “ELCA
23 Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens” to its members,
24 congregations, synods and agencies; and
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26 WHEREAS, the 1995 Social Statement *For Peace in God’s World*, passed by an
27 overwhelming majority, reminds us that seeking peace with justice is the
28 church’s proper work, and recognizes that in pursuing just political
29 structures “the responsible use of [economic] sanctions may on occasion
30 be the most effective and least harmful measure to lead states to stop
31 [oppressive behavior]”; and
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33 WHEREAS, on October 5, 2012, fifteen U.S. Christian leaders, including ELCA
34 Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, signed a letter urging Congress to
35 “undertake careful scrutiny to ensure that our aid is not supporting actions
36 by the government of Israel that undermine prospects for peace”;
37 therefore be it
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39 RESOLVED, that we affirm *Peace Not Walls* as the means by which the ELCA
40 implements its strategy for engagement in the Holy Land, and be it further
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42 RESOLVED, that we affirm our support for sisters and brothers in the Evangelical
43 Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land as they remain faithful to
44 the Gospel amid the oppression of Israeli military occupation; and be it
45 further

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47 RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly urge each congregation,
48 drawing on the resources of the synod's Working Group on the Middle
49 East and the ELCA's *Peace Not Walls*, 1) to organize educational settings
50 to study and listen to the cries of our Palestinian sisters and brothers as
51 declared in the *Kairos Palestine* document; 2) to encourage viewing and
52 discussing documentary films dealing with the situation such as the
53 academy award nominated films *Five Broken Cameras* and *The*
54 *Gatekeepers*; and 3) to seek and share those resources that provide
55 reliable and current information about creating a shared future in which all
56 the people of Israel/Palestine experience security, justice, freedom,
57 dignity, peace and reconciliation; and be it further

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59 RESOLVED, that the request to Congress contained in the October 5, 2012, letter
60 signed by 15 Christian leaders be endorsed by this Assembly and that the
61 Illinois Delegation in Congress be notified of this action; and be it further

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63 RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly memorialize the
64 Churchwide Assembly to commit to socially responsible economic
65 practices by encouraging individuals to invest in Palestinian economic
66 endeavors and to avoid products and services by companies that benefit
67 from or support Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory.

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70 Submitted by:

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72 The Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald, Martin Luther Church, Chicago, Ill.
73 Mr. Dieter Schulte, Luther Memorial Church, Chicago, Ill.