

RES 26-03 | ENDORSING THE KAIROS PALESTINE II DOCUMENT

SUBJECT: Answering the Call of Kairos Palestine II

SUBMITTED BY: Cal-Pac Palestine/Israel Task Force

FISCAL IMPACT: None

SOURCE OF STAFF TIME: Not applicable

WHEREAS we read in the New Testament, “Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering” (Heb. 13:3), and

WHEREAS the United Methodist Social Principles state: “We further believe that God calls all members of the human family to recognize and protect the dignity and worth of all people and to work for the well-being of all God’s creation. We, therefore, support structures in the church and in civil society that honor the basic freedoms and rights of all human beings and protect God’s creation,” and

WHEREAS in the resolution “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land,” adopted and re-adopted by the United Methodist General Conference in 2012, 2016, and 2024:

- The United Methodist Church has repeatedly affirmed our solidarity with Palestinian Christians and their message in the original Kairos Palestine Document and has urged all United Methodists to “read about the suffering of Israelis and Palestinians and nonviolent ways of ending the Israeli/Palestinian conflict from the perspective of all faith communities including the “Kairos Palestine” document of 2009,” and
- The United Methodist Church has stated that our church opposes: “continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a “Greater Israel” that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings,” and

WHEREAS Palestinians in Gaza are struggling for survival in the midst of devastation after two years of genocidal assault, as millions continue to live in desperate conditions, adequate humanitarian aid is withheld, and avenues for recovery and reconstruction are denied, while the United States and Israel develop plans for endless occupation, dispossession, and ethnic cleansing in Gaza, without reference to the rights of the indigenous people of Palestine, and

WHEREAS Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are experiencing a terrifying escalation of military operations, settler attacks, expansion of illegal settlements, and ethnic cleansing from their land, which have reached record levels in 2024–2026, with tens of thousands being displaced, entire Palestinian communities being erased, and plans for permanent annexation of occupied Palestinian territory moving forward in the Israeli government, and

WHEREAS Palestinian Christians, in the Kairos Palestine II document, titled “A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide” and issued in November 2025, have said to us:

- Referring to the original Kairos Palestine document of 2009: “After prayer and reflection on the suffering of our people under occupation, we released that cry of hope in the absence of hope, affirming our faith in God and our love for our homeland, convinced that our struggle is ultimately about human life and dignity,” and

- 1 • “We live now in a time of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and forced displacement unfolding
2 before the eyes of the world. This moment demands from us a new stand, one unlike any
3 before it. It is both a decisive moment and a moment of truth. Today, we renew our stand
4 for truth and our commitment to fundamental religious, theological and moral principles.
5 We look at our reality and take a renewed stand, responding to the voice of the Holy Spirit
6 deep within us, listening to the call of faith in this time of genocide. We renew our message
7 of faith, hope, and love — offering a faith-inspired vision for the time after genocide.”
8

9 WHEREAS, in Kairos Palestine II, our Palestinian Christian siblings are calling Christians around
10 the world to repentance for past inaction and to costly solidarity today, a call to “learn to do good;
11 seek justice; rescue the oppressed” (Isaiah 1:17), and
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13 WHEREAS their call includes rejection of Christian Zionism and all theology that would justify the
14 oppression and destruction of the Palestinian people, as well as rejection of the conflation of
15 antisemitism with opposition to Israeli apartheid and ethnic cleansing, and
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17 WHEREAS Palestinian Christians, in 2009, issued an urgent call to Christians: “to engage in a
18 process of study, reflection and confession concerning the historic and systemic deprivation of the
19 rights of the Palestinian people, and the use of the Bible by many to justify and support this
20 oppression,” and
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22 WHEREAS three Christian organizations, including United Methodists for Kairos Response
23 (UMKR), have developed a Congregational Study Guide that provides guidance for in-depth study
24 and discussion of Kairos Palestine II, in addition to valuable supplemental materials for learning,
25 liturgy, and more, and
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27 WHEREAS, having heard the Gospel imperative to love our neighbors, pursue justice, and care for
28 the vulnerable, we know that we cannot fulfill that call while remaining silent about the oppression
29 of the Palestinian people and that our solidarity with our Christian siblings in Palestine is urgently
30 needed today, and
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32 WHEREAS the California-Pacific Annual Conference has adopted several resolutions in recent
33 years supporting the Palestinian struggle for liberation and justice, including, in 2023, a resolution
34 “identifying and opposing Israeli apartheid,”
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36 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United
37 Methodist Church supports and endorses the Kairos Palestine II document, and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California-Pacific Annual Conference strongly urges its
40 congregations and all United Methodist laity and clergy of the conference to engage in study and
41 discussion of Kairos Palestine II with the Congregational Study Guide found at the website of
42 United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) (kairosresponse.org), with the goal of the actions
43 and advocacy called for in Kairos Palestine II to follow, and
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45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California-Pacific Annual Conference also strongly urges
46 each voting member to bring this resolution to their congregation.