



## **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS**

WHEREAS, on November 29, 1947, United Nations Resolution 181, the Partition Plan, was adopted, providing a two state solution to the Israelis and Palestinians; and

WHEREAS, the Palestinians have been offered on three separate occasions, 1947, 2000, and 2008, the opportunity for their own state and each offer has been rejected and replaced with an upsurge of violence resulting in a loss of life and deprivation for both Palestinians and Israelis; and

WHEREAS, United Methodist Church Resolution #6111 in the *2012 Book of Resolutions* states the “continued confiscation of Palestinian land for construction of settlements and the building of a separation wall violates human rights, subverts the peace process, destroys the hope of both Israelis and Palestinians who are working for and longing for peace and fosters a sense of desperation that can only lead to violence” and cites that the United States taxpayer has funded the “building of bypass roads and settlements that are illegal according to the Fourth Geneva Convention” of 1949 which “forbids the forcible transfer of populations to occupied territories” and that there are those who are profiteering from the building and maintaining of Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands; and

WHEREAS, the Fourth Geneva Convention on Rules of War was adopted in response to Nazi atrocities perpetrated on the Jews living in Germany during World War II when Jews were often forcibly transferred to concentration camps resulting in the genocide of approximately six million people; and

WHEREAS, Jews are not being forced to settle in the West Bank nor are Palestinians being forcibly deported from the West Bank; and

WHEREAS, Israel is not engaged in an illegal occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, or Gaza as the Palestinians have never had legal title, or sovereignty over the West Bank; and

WHEREAS, the last international legal allocation of territory that includes what is today the West Bank and Gaza Strip occurred with the 1922 League of Nations Mandate for Palestine, which “recognized Jewish national rights in the whole of the Mandated territory”, thereby recognizing a pre-existing right of the Jewish people to re-establish their homeland making it far more accurate to describe the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip as “disputed territories;” and

WHEREAS, the mischaracterization of Israel as an occupying military force is not only inflammatory but is used as justification to boycott, divest, and sanction (BDS) Israeli products made in the disputed territories; and

WHEREAS, Palestinians from the West Bank working in Israeli settlements receive double the wages they would receive in the West Bank and accounts for 12.3% of the West Bank’s Gross Domestic Product as of 2013; and

WHEREAS, by supporting the labeling of products originating from the disputed territories as a vehicle to generate financial pressure on Israel will only exacerbate the Palestinian unemployment rate while causing minimal pain to Israel as products made there only represent less than 2% of Israeli exports; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church urges reconsideration of the interpretation of the Fourth Geneva Convention by General Conference Resolution #6111 of the *2012 Book of Resolutions* as it applies to Israeli settlements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church affirms that peace has the greatest chance of survival through economic interdependence and not through de facto economic boycotts of the State of Israel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that at the close of Annual Conference this resolution be forwarded to the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, the Israeli Prime Minister, the Israeli President, and members of Congress.

*Submitted by Marty Bearden, Old Brashier’s Chapel United Methodist Church*

***The Committee votes no and encourages the Annual Conference to not support this resolution.***