

Memorial For an End to the Occupation and Recognition of Palestinian Statehood in the United Nations

WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 2005 established the initiative, “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land,” recently renamed “SUMUD¹: for Justice in Palestine and Israel”; and

WHEREAS the ELCA in its 2017 social message *On Human Rights* states that “concern for the well-being of others lies at the very heart of Christian faith (Matthew 22:36-40)”; and that “The United States occupies a pre-eminent position on the world stage, and its failure to accept instruments of international human rights law isolates the United States and undermines the work of the international community. The failure of the U.S. government to ratify many treaties and agreements of the United Nations calls for action on the part of U.S. citizens” (p. 10); and that “The ELCA as a church also supports human rights around the globe in its work with global partners. In response to God’s call to comfort God’s people (Isaiah 40) and through the strategy of accompaniment, our church seeks to accompany those among our global partners who suffer human rights violations” (p. 10); and

WHEREAS the United Nations in its Resolutions 446, 452, 465, 471 and 476 has already declared that the state of Israel’s military occupation of the West Bank is illegal according to international law; and

WHEREAS Israel’s ongoing occupation of the Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and Gaza continues to endanger the security and well-being of both Palestinians and Israelis and makes peace in the region an unattainable goal; and

WHEREAS illegal military occupation has included the following activities that contravene international human rights:

- Restriction of the freedom of movement within the Palestinian Territories due to checkpoints, and restricted residency cards;
- Military incarceration without due process or a civil trial;
- Demolition of family homes;
- Restriction of the water usage that is administered by the state of Israel;
- Restriction of electricity that is administered by the state of Israel;
- Appropriation of Palestinian homes in Jerusalem,
- Appropriation of Palestinian land by illegal Israeli settlements;

therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Oregon Synod Assembly memorialize the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to urge the Presiding Bishop to direct a letter to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate, and the Speaker

¹ The name *sumud*, Arabic “steadfastness,” was chosen at the suggestion of our Palestinian Lutheran companions. Receiving this word as a prophetic gift from our companions reminds us that God’s steadfastness calls us to steadfastness.

of the House, calling for the U.S. to take action in its foreign policy that would support the recognition of Palestine as a legitimate state in the United Nations as other United Nation member states have done; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oregon Synod Assembly memorialize the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to urge the Presiding Bishop to direct a letter to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, calling for the U.S. to take action in its foreign policy that will support the human rights of all Palestinians and Israelis by calling for an end of the illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Oregon Synod Assembly memorialize the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to encourage its members to recommit to advocate for the human rights, justice, and peace for all Palestinians and Israelis.

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