

Churches for Middle East Peace



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Churches for Middle East Peace invites clergy of our member churches to join our advocacy in support of Israeli-Palestinian peace

At this time, when Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking has come to a standstill, Churches for Middle East Peace appeals to clergy of our member churches to join our important work. CMEP is the official ecumenical advocacy voice of twenty-one Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant denominations, churches and church-related agencies. Our direct advocacy work with the Administration and Congress has been strengthened by the advocacy of the individual church members and clergy who are already part of CMEP's network.

But we need more help; we need your help – as clergy of our member churches – to amplify the message of peace because, without a restoration of constructive U.S. leadership and hope, the opportunity to resolve this tragic conflict could be lost.

Please sign the “Christian Clergy Letter for Israeli-Palestinian Peacemaking” and encourage others to do so. Ask members of your congregation to join you in signing the letter, invite other clergy in your denomination or community to co-sign with you, or seek signers from your regional judicatory body. Use official letterhead if that is appropriate for the signers. You will want to adapt the introduction sentence and other identifiers to fit the signers, such as change “Our churches” to “We, pastors of ELCA churches in Cleveland, commend your... But, for this campaign to be effective, the body of the letter should not be changed.

Mail or fax the letter to President Bush and fax copies of the signed letter to your two senators, your representative and to CMEP. We will use these clergy letters in our Hill meetings.

The U.S. churches place a high-priority on Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking for numerous reasons. First is the profound connection of our faith to the Holy Land, particularly Jerusalem, and to the Middle Eastern Christians and churches. Second is the enormous dangers presented by the conflict, not only to the people caught in the struggle, but also to the whole of the region and to the United States itself. And the third reason is because of the schism this conflict brings to relations among Jews, Christians and Muslims.

CMEP knows that sometimes local churches are reluctant to address Israeli-Palestinian issues because of its complexities and controversies. This letter is based on long-held policies of the denominations and churches that make up CMEP, and is consistent with CMEP's constructive and balanced voice.

If you have questions, please contact CMEP at 202-543-1222 or info@cmep.org

Send the Christian Clergy Letter to:

The Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, The White House
Washington, DC 20500 or Fax: 202-456-6218, Office of the Public Liaison

Members of Congress: 202-224-3121 – connects you to any office – or access Member's website at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov for fax numbers and addresses.

CMEP: 110 Maryland Ave. NE, Ste. 311, Washington, DC 20002 or Fax: 202-543-5025

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Alliance of Baptists

American Friends Service
Committee

Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America

Armenian Orthodox Church

Catholic Conference of Major
Superiors of Men's Institutes

Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Common Global Ministries Board

Church of the Brethren

Church World Service

Episcopal Church

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in America

Franciscan Friars (OFM)
English Speaking Conference,
JPIC Council

Friends Committee on National
Legislation

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of America

Maryknoll Missioners

Mennonite Central Committee

National Council of Churches

Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Women's Division