**Resolution #1**

**Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment**

WHEREAS, the continued occupation of the Palestinian Territories by the State of Israel, the ongoing building of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories, and other activities associated with this occupation and settlement, including but not limited to expulsion of Palestinians from their legally held lands; demolition of their homes; prolonged detention with torture and without due process; arrest, mistreatment, and detention of children; separate and unequal systems of law for Israeli settlers and Palestinians; severe restrictions on movement and travel through arbitrary permit systems, checkpoints and the separation wall; and segregated roads and buses; deny the fundamental human rights of Palestinians, hamper efforts to create a just and lasting peace, jeopardize a two-state solution and violate international law as set forth in the United Nations Charter, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land,” as our church’s strategy of engagement in the Holy Land, a strategy that advocates for equal human dignity and rights for all people in the Holy Land, an end to Israeli settlement building and the occupation of Palestinian land, and a two-state solution, with two viable, secure states living side-by-side; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian Christians, in the 2009 Statement “Kairos Palestine,” written and supported by leaders and heads of thirteen churches in the Holy Land, including Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran – Bishop Munib Younan and Pastor Mitri Raheb of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land both contributed to the statement – called on churches of the world to “stand alongside the oppressed” and work to end “the sin of occupation imposed upon us;” and

WHEREAS, multiple sources, including the American Friends Service Committee’s investment screening database, confirm that certain multinational corporations, including Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S have been complicit in the occupation and its associated human rights abuses: Caterpillar provides specialized bulldozers, including unmanned bulldozers, to demolish Palestinian civilian homes and property; HP Inc. and Hewlett Packard Enterprise provides IT services and systems so that the State of Israel can collect finger print and facial recognition data on every Palestinian over the age of 16 to track and control their movements; Motorola Solutions provides invisible radar fences, surveillance, and communication equipment used in the occupied territories; and G4S provides security systems for Israel’s prisons and detention centers, West Bank settlements, and military checkpoints; and

WHEREAS, three of the ELCA’s full communion partners - the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church - have each voted within the past two years to divest funds from these and other companies and banks that profit from or are complicit in human rights violations arising from the occupation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly encourage its members and congregations, to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to direct the Church Council to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation and cease operations in the illegal settlements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly memorialize the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to encourage synods, congregations, and agencies and institutions of this church to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, such as Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions, and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation and cease operations in the illegal settlements.

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Lutherans and others who have visited the Holy Land have seen first-hand the devastation brought about by policies making it nearly impossible for Palestinians to legally build homes or businesses on the West Bank while the Israeli population in the area continues to grow. Driving through Bethlehem, for example, you see how Palestinian farmers have been cut off from their olive groves. Likewise, many Palestinians are currently unable to reach the Augusta Victoria Hospital to receive life-giving services such as chemotherapy and dialysis.

Resolution #1 asks us to put our prayers into action for the needs of the Palestinian people. Divestment is an action that has proven to be effective in getting the attention of American businesses. The Resolution calls for American companies to cease making profit by supporting the creation of illegal settlements, dividing people from their own land, and treating people with a variety of dehumanizing practices. The ELCA, in its statement, “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land,” has already spoken against these activities. This Resolution calls on the synod to put our concern into action, to invite congregations and individuals to consider doing the same, and to urge the ELCA assembly to take similar action.

The Reference & Counsel Committee recommends adoption of Resolution #1.