

Resolution 2017-03

Support for the Palestinians: A Way to a Just Settlement

Source: Presented by ten voting members of this year's assembly

1 **Whereas**, in regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, United States financial support and media
2 coverage have favored Israel; and

3 **Whereas**, the Israeli government has: since 1948, in violation of international law, subjected
4 Palestinians to human rights abuse and ethnic cleansing; and daily intimidated and
5 harassed the Palestinians by setting up check points, road blocks, and curfews;
6 demolishing homes; confiscating land; and illegally arresting, beating, killing, and
7 confining Palestinians; and

8 **Whereas**, 4½ million Palestinians remain in refugee camps in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon,
9 Syria, and Jordan; and

10 **Whereas**, the wall built by the Israeli government inhibits the access of Palestinians to medical
11 treatment, employment, and contact with family and friends; and

12 **Whereas**, many Jewish people and Jewish organizations, in Israel and the United States, defend
13 and support Palestinians; therefore be it

14 **Resolved**, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, in Assembly,

- 15 1. encourage its members to learn about all aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
- 16 2. request its Bishop to recommend resources for leaning about this conflict; and
- 17 3. support its members in urging their congressional representatives to work for a just
18 and peaceful resolution of this conflict; and
- 19 4. memorialize the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to divest any church-related
20 investments that support Israel until this conflict is resolved.

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23 *The Committee of Reference and Counsel recommends adoption of the resolution.*