

*The following resolution was adopted by the 2015 Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly which met on June 19-20, 2015 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. "Whereas" clauses are listed as background for Voting Members. The Assembly votes on "Resolved" clauses only.*

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**CONDITIONING U.S. AID TO ISRAEL ON CESSATION OF ISRAELI  
SETTLEMENT CONSTRUCTION IN OCCUPIED AREAS**

- WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in assembly in 2005 adopted a "Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine" to build "a movement that will strengthen the resolve of political leaders to find a peaceful and just solution in the Holy Land" (I.A) <sup>1</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, the Strategy commits the ELCA to work toward a "cessation of all settlement activities;" (II.B.1.b) and
- WHEREAS, the 2011 Metropolitan Washington, D. C. Synod Assembly received Kairos Palestine: a Moment of Truth as an authentic perspective of Palestinian Christians on the state of affairs in their homeland, and as an expression of their commitment to finding peace, justice, and reconciliation with their brothers and sisters through the way of the Christ we follow together; <sup>2</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits the transfer of an occupying power's civilian population into occupied territory; <sup>3</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Israel continues to announce new settlement construction and to actively build settlements on occupied Palestinian land; <sup>4</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Israeli Housing Minister Uri Ariel estimates that the number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem will increase 50% by 2020, 5 living in more than 125 Israeli-approved/sanctioned settlements <sup>6</sup> subsidized by the Israeli government at an estimated cost of \$281,050,000/year; <sup>7</sup> therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly direct the synodical bishop to urge members of the Congress of the United States representing the districts of the synod to make future U.S. aid to Israel contingent on Israel's halt to all settlement-building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, that Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod Assembly encourages members of the synod's congregations to contact their congressional representatives and senators, asking them to support and apply this condition to future U.S. aid to Israel and that the Middle East Working Group of the synod provide information and resources in support of this advocacy on the synod website.

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*1 Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine:  
[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/PNW\\_Strategy.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/PNW_Strategy.pdf)*

2 *Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth, A Word of Faith, Hope and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering*: <http://www.kairopalestine.ps/content/kairos-document>

3 *Fourth Geneva Convention, Article 49*: <https://www.icrc.org/ihl/WebART/380-600056>

4 *Reuters, 6 April 2015*: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/06/us-israel-palestinians-settlements-insig-idUSKBNOMXOT220150406>

5 *Jerusalem Post, 3 Mar 2015*: <http://www.jpost.com/National-News/Housing-minister-sees-50-percent-more-settlers-in-West-Bank-by-2019-352501>

6 *B'Tselem, The Israel Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories*  
<http://www.btselem.org/settlements/statistics>

7 *The Macro Center for Political Economics, 19 Feb 2015*: <https://www.scribd.com/doc/257760015/A-Comprehensive-Analysis-of-the-Settlements-Economic-Costs-and-Alternative-Costs-to-the-State-of-Israel>