Resolution #5: Our Holy Land - Amended


RESOLVED, that the 232nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut celebrates that our faith is rooted in Jesus’ life, ministry, death and resurrection in Israel and Palestine thereby making it our Holy Land, and recognizing that it is also the Holy Land of other faiths; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention express its solidarity in prayer and support for Christians in Israel and Palestine; and be it further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention affirm the work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in healing, education, and pastoral care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention invite Episcopalians in Connecticut to learn about and participate in programs of relationship building, interfaith dialogue, non-violence training, and advocacy for human rights in Israel and Palestine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention urge Episcopalians in Connecticut to demonstrate solidarity with the people and places of Israel and Palestine by making pilgrimages to our Holy Land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Convention commends the ministries and encourages support for The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (www.afedj.org), Jerusalem Peacebuilders (www.jerusalempeacebuilders.org), and the Holy Land Ministry Network of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut as resources for this education and engagement with our companions in our Holy Land.
Explanation:
The population of Christians in Israel and Palestine has diminished from 9.5% in 1922 to approximately 1% in 2016. This resolution affirms Resolution C018 of the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church (2015) calling Episcopalians to support Christians in Israel and Palestine, especially our sisters and brothers in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. It invites Episcopalians in ECCT to pray for, be educated about, and engage with our Holy Land through the ministries of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) and Jerusalem Peacebuilders (JPB), both based in Connecticut, and ECCT’s Holy Land Ministry Network.

How does this resolution further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all of creation?
The life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus in the lands of what today is Israel and Palestine is the good news of healing, wholeness, justice and reconciliation for the whole world. Sadly, the land where our faith began is torn by violence, injustice, poverty and oppression. This resolution calls on Episcopalians in Connecticut to learn about, and be actively engaged with our Holy Land, particularly sisters and brothers in Christ in Israel and Palestine. Sharing in the struggles and possibilities of our Holy Land brings us into the heart of God’s mission of reconciliation in the world today.

Statement of Requirements to Implement the Resolution:
This resolution does not require any funding from the budget voted by the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. Programs, pilgrimage and other forms of engagement are at the discretion of parishes, organizations, and individuals as they choose to fulfill this resolution. The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (www.afedj.org) and Jerusalem Peacebuilders (www.jerusalempeacebuilders.org) are prepared to assist in multiple ways.