



A CALL TO
UNITED
METHODISTS

walking with palestinian christians

FOR HOLY JUSTICE & PEACE

featuring:



Lynne Hybels



Mike Slaughter



Alex Awad

August 7/8, 2014
@Ginghamburg Church

& voices from the
Palestinian Christian Community



CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

“Blessed are the peacemakers.” Matthew 5:9

Join United Methodist and Palestinian Christian leaders on Thursday and Friday, August 7-8, 2014 for *Walking with Palestinian Christians...for holy justice and peace*, co-sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and Ginghamburg Church.

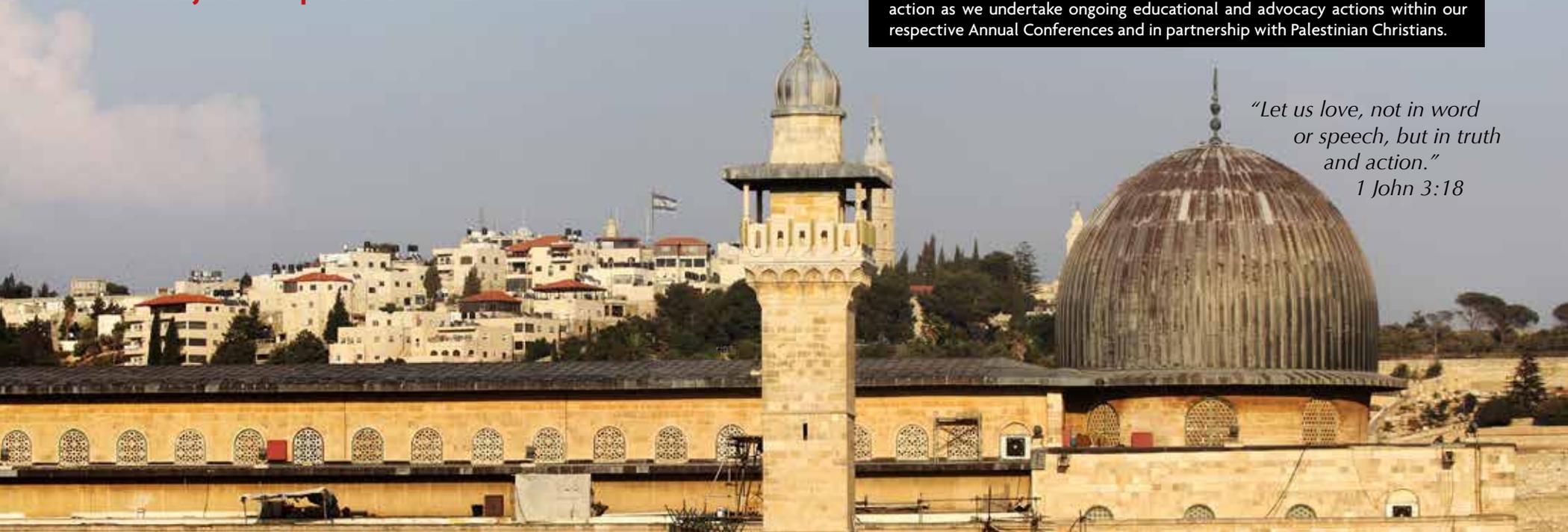
Through prayer, fellowship and study, we as United Methodists in partnership with Palestinian Christians will seek to put God’s call to love all our neighbors into action for justice & peace.

TOGETHER WE WILL:

- Examine the “things that make for peace.”
- Address “How religion both helps and hurts the quest for a just and durable peace.”
- Learn from leaders of United Methodist agencies, organizations and advocacy groups about the strategies and vision they utilize to seek justice and peace in Palestine and Israel.
- Meet with Advance projects and partners in Palestine and Israel to learn about how their work is affected by ongoing military occupation and how they are working to build hope among the people.
- Strategize with Palestinian Christians, peacemakers and one another about effective ways to tell the story of nonviolent actions needed for justice and peace.
- Learn from Annual Conferences already active in holy land pilgrimages, in nonviolent work for justice and peace, and share ideas from ecumenical partners on doing mission and advocacy work together.
- Meet with Global Ministries missionaries serving in Palestine/Israel and find out how to support and join in their mission for justice and peace.
- Explore the role of women as peacemakers in Palestine/Israel and in mobilizing our congregations for the work of peace.
- Share resources and ideas on deepening the involvement of seminaries and campuses in partnering with Palestinian Christians in biblical and theological reflection, in holy land pilgrimages & courses of study, and in advocacy for justice and peace for all God’s children.
- Explore how we can join in the growing efforts of nonviolent economic actions: shareholder engagement, boycotts, divestment and positive investment to seek an end to occupation and discrimination.
- Learn more about the history of our United Methodist policies and practices in pursuit of just peace for all in Palestine/Israel.

Conference participants will covenant with one another to demonstrate love as action as we undertake ongoing educational and advocacy actions within our respective Annual Conferences and in partnership with Palestinian Christians.

*“Let us love, not in word
or speech, but in truth
and action.”
1 John 3:18*



FEATURED GUESTS

Meet our featured guests...

Lynne Hybels - In 1975, Lynne & Bill Hybels started Willow Creek Community Church. For the last 15 years Ms. Hybels has engaged in ministry partnerships in under-resourced communities in Latin America and Africa. More recently she has been involved in Willow's Spanish-speaking congregation, Casa de Luz, and actively supports Comprehensive Immigration Reform. In 2010 Lynne established a personal fundraising initiative, Ten For Congo, to support the thousands of women and girls brutally raped during the last decade of civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In her personal ministry, she has also traveled extensively in the Middle East and actively advocates for peace with justice in the Holy Land.

Dr. Munther Isaac is an Instructor, Vice Academic Dean and Choir Director at Bethlehem Bible College. After obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Birzeit University, he studied theology and received his Master of Arts in biblical studies from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He is currently a PhD candidate at the Oxford Center for Mission Studies. His research is on biblical theology of the Promised Land. Since 2011, he has been the director of Bethlehem Bible College's International conference, Christ at the Checkpoint 2012 & 2014.

Nora Carmi - Born in Jerusalem a few months before the establishment of the State of Israel, Nora Carmi was displaced from her home and moved from the west to the occupied eastern part of the city along with her family in 1948. She has stayed true to the city of her birth and remains strongly connected to the civil society of Jerusalem. Ms. Carmi recently retired after 17 years of faithful service from the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. Before joining Sabeel, she served the Jerusalem YWCA for 15 years, traversing the globe with her work for justice and peace. Nora is currently working with Kairos Palestine, helping engage communities and civil society in understanding the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Zoughbi Zoughbi is the founder and director of the Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center in Bethlehem, Palestine. Started in 1995, Wi'am ("cordial relations" in Arabic) combines traditional Palestinian mediation methods with western conflict resolution training to transform conflicts within the community and promote equal rights and justice for all.

Grace Al-Zoughbi - A Christian Palestinian from Bethlehem, Grace Al-Zoughbi serves as a teacher at Bethlehem Bible College. She was an undergraduate student at the college and finished her M.A. in the Theology of Transformation: Church, Scripture and World from the London School of Theology in 2010. Al-Zoughbi has recently finished writing an exposition on Genesis and is a frequent blogger for WAZALA (SAT-7 UK). She joined the staff of Bethlehem Bible College in 2011, and she is currently the head of the biblical studies department.

Reverend Alex Awad is pastor of East Jerusalem Baptist Church. He and wife Brenda have been missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church since 1989. He is Dean of Students at Bethlehem Bible College, Director of the Shepherd Society and a board member of the Council of Local Evangelical Churches in the Holy Land. His second book, *Palestinian Memories: the Story of a Palestinian Mother and Her People*, was published in 2008.

Reverend Mike Slaughter is in his fourth decade of being the chief dreamer of Ginghamburg Church. His life-long passion to reach the lost and set the oppressed free has made him a tireless and leading advocate for the children, women and men of Darfur, Sudan, named by the U.N. as one of the world's worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Mike's call to afflict the comfortable challenges Christians to wrestle with God and their God-destinies. His books, *Change the World - recovering the message and mission of Jesus* (Abingdon Press, 2010) and *Christmas is Not Your Birthday* (Abingdon Press, 2012) embody what it means to take the church into the world rather than simply coaxing the world into the church.

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer has served as Episcopal Leader of the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church since September 2012. Bishop Palmer received his undergraduate degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and Master's of Divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School, Durham, N.C. Ordained a deacon and probationary member in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in 1977, Palmer was ordained an elder in full connection in the East Ohio Conference in 1981. He served as pastor at six United Methodist churches as well as a district superintendent before being elected Bishop of the Iowa

Conference in 2000. Bishop Palmer served as president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry from 2004 to 2008 and president of the Council of Bishops from April 2008 to May 2010.

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward is the Episcopal Leader of the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and the president of the General Board of Global Ministries. Her home church, Parkers United Methodist Church, is a three-point charge. She obtained her degrees from Duke University and Duke Divinity School and has served as a youth director, Christian educator, pastor, Director of Connectional Ministries and district superintendent within the North Carolina Conference. She was elected to the Episcopacy in July 2004 and assigned to the Mississippi Conference in 2004 and 2008.

Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams is the fourth person and first South African to serve as General Secretary of the World Methodist Council. He began his tenure in 2012 after a period of transition commencing at the close of the World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa. From 2003-2012, Bishop Abrahams served as Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa—one of the largest Christian denominations in Southern Africa. During his tenure he provided prophetic leadership and direction. His capstone achievement was the formation and successful completion of the multimillion rand legacy project, the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary.

Barbara Boige grain has served as the chief executive of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits since 1994. As general secretary, she oversees all fiduciary services and administrative operations. Prior to joining the General Board, Boige grain spent 11 years with Towers Perrin. Earlier in her career, she held positions with Dart Industries in the group insurance benefits function and with KPMG Peat Marwick tax practice. Boige grain received her B.S. from Trinity University and completed graduate coursework at the University of Chicago and UCLA.

Reverend Susan Henry-Crowe is the general secretary of the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) of The United Methodist Church. Prior to joining GBCS in 2014, Henry-Crowe was dean of the Chapel and Religious Life at Emory University for 22 years, conducting a ministry to and with a diverse constituency of 12,000 students and 2,400 faculty members. For 16 years, Henry-Crowe served as a member of the United Methodist Judicial Council,

the denomination's "Supreme Court." She is the first woman elected president of the Judicial Council, serving in that role from 2008-2012. Henry-Crowe was ordained an elder and continues to be a member of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Thomas Kemper is the general secretary and top executive of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, responsible for personnel, projects and mission partnerships in more than 130 countries. A native of Germany, Kemper is the first person from outside the United States elected to lead a United Methodist agency. Prior to his position as general secretary, he was mission leader for the German Central Conference of The United Methodist Church and was Director of Ecumenical Learning at the Lippische Landeskirche, a regional church of the Association of Protestant Churches in Germany. Kemper spent 8 years in Brazil as a missionary from 1986 to 1994, where he taught in the Brazilian Theological Seminary in Sao Paulo and engaged in ministry with the poor and new church development.

The Reverend Dr. Bruce Robbins recently retired from his service as Senior Minister of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church of the Minnesota Conference. Prior to that work he was appointed for seventeen years to the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the UMC. He was General Secretary for thirteen years and carried the portfolio of Christian-Jewish Relations as well as other ecumenical and interfaith matters. Robbins received his Ph.D. in ecumenical and mission history from Southern Methodist University.

The Reverend Dr. Wendy J. Deichmann serves as President and CEO of United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Previously, she served United as Academic Dean and Vice President, a tenured member of the faculty, and Director of United's former extension program in Buffalo, New York. She received a bachelor's degree education at The State University of New York at Geneseo, her Master of Divinity at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and her Ph.D. from Drew University in theological and religious studies with an emphasis in American Church History. Deichmann has also taught at Colgate Rochester Divinity School in New York and Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. Deichmann is an ordained elder and trustee of the Upper New York Conference of The United Methodist Church and has served congregations in pastoral ministry in New York, New Jersey and Ohio.

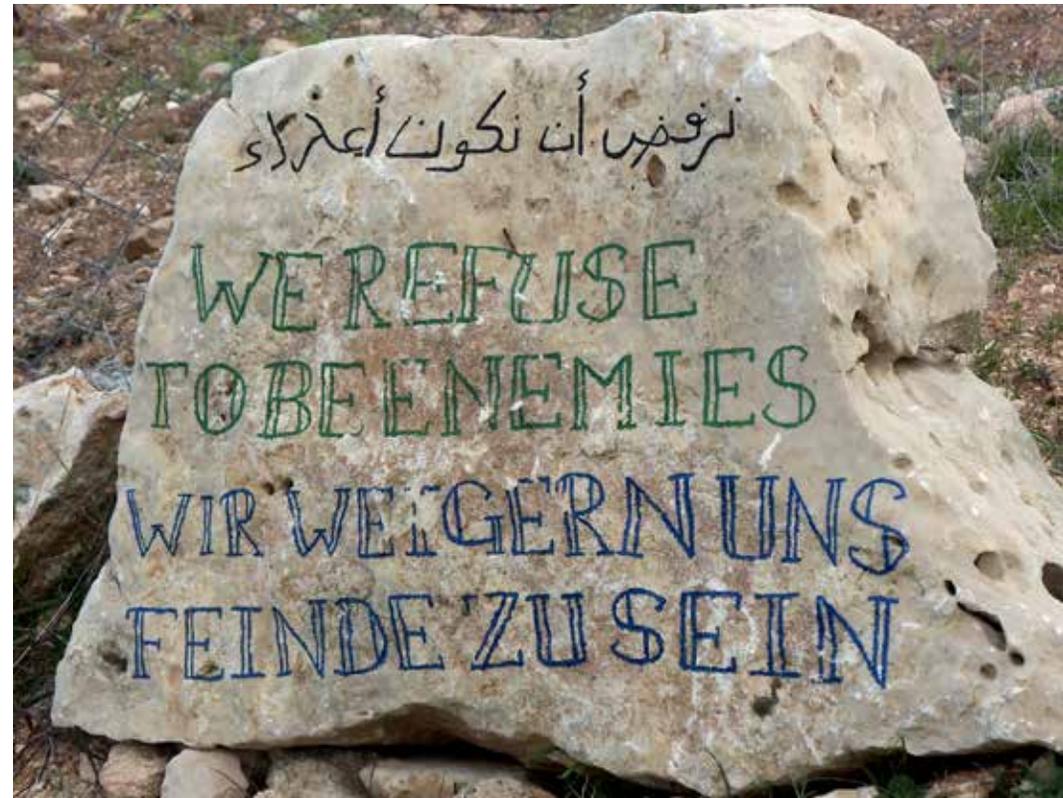
SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 7

8am	continental breakfast & gathering
8:45am	welcome & opening worship with: -Rev. Mike Slaughter, Lead Pastor, Ginghamburg Church -Mr. Thomas Kemper, General Secretary, General Board of Global Ministries -Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, West Ohio Conference
9:15am	plenary #1 Importance for Hearing & Responding to the Realities of Palestinian Christians in Israel/Palestine with: Ms. Lynne Hybels, Willow Creek Community Church with responses from: -Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, North Carolina Conference; President, General Board of Global Ministries -Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary, World Methodist Council
10:30am	break & bookstore browse
11am	plenary #2 Voices from the Palestinian Christian Community with: -Dr. Munther Isaac, Assistant Academic Dean, Bethlehem Bible College -Zoughbi Zoughbi, Founder, Wi'am - Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center -Grace al-Zoughbi, Professor, Bethlehem Bible College
12:30pm	information, instructions & announcements
12:45pm	lunch on campus
2pm	plenary #3 United Methodist Church Positions: agency perspectives & actions with: -Ms. Barbara Boigegrain, General Secretary, General Board of Pensions & Health Benefits -Ms. Susan Henry Crowe, General Secretary, General Board of Church & Society -Mr. Thomas Kemper, General Secretary, General Board of Global Ministries ...and facilitator: Dr. Bruce Robbins
2:45pm	table discussion on UMC positions, perspectives, actions
3:15pm	break & bookstore browse
3:45pm	working groups session #1
4:45pm	working groups session #2
5:45pm	Palestinian dinner (additional \$20 fee if choose to participate) <i>You are invited to enjoy a catered Palestinian Dinner, prepared by Palestinian Muslim friends within the Dayton, Ohio area, as a prelude to our cultural evening. (Menu included in this brochure.)</i>
7:30pm	"A Cultural Evening: Telling the Story of Palestine - a Journey of Tears & Hope" with Jorge Lockward

Friday, August 8

8am	continental breakfast & gathering
8:30am	opening worship with Dr. Wendy Deichmann, President, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio
9am	plenary #4 A Biblical Call to Action with Rev. Alex Awad, Dean of Students, Bethlehem Bible College
10:30am	break & bookstore browse
11am	working groups session #3
12:30pm	lunch on campus
1:30pm	plenary #5 Ecumenical Palestinian Call to Action with Ms. Nora Carmi, Kairos Palestine
2pm	break & bookstore browse
2:45pm	plenary #6 A Vision for Change with Rev. Mike Slaughter, Lead Pastor, Ginghamburg Church
3:15pm	Taking Actions for Just Peace
4pm	close



CATERED DINNER
Thursday, August 7. 5:45pm
Ginghamsburg Church
\$20 / person

Enjoy a catered Palestinian Dinner, prepared by Palestinian Muslim friends within the Dayton, Ohio area, as a prelude to "A Cultural Evening: Telling the Story of Palestine - a Journey of Tears & Hope."

Reserve your spot at the table when you register for the conference.

The menu features...

Fattoush Salad

lettuce, cucumber, tomato, onion, mint, parsley, toasted pita

Hummus

Mixed Olives and Pickles

Manakish Zaatar

pita, zaatar (oregano) olive oil

Dolmades (Stuffed Grape Leaves)

lamb and beef

Shish Taouk (Chicken Kebob)

Kofta (Ground Beef and Lamb)

Ouzi (Rice)

rice, ground beef and lamb, toasted almonds

Pita Bread



WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

During working groups sessions, choose from among the following areas of focus:

Focus One: Biblical/Theological Perspectives

- Theologies of land and their influence upon the occupation
- Covenants between God and Humanity: how many and with whom?
- Biblical perspective of God's call to us for holy justice and peace in Palestine/Israel

Focus Two: Pilgrimage and Presence

- How "Holy Land Trips" support this conference's vision: Educational Opportunities Tours, Interfaith Peace Builders, Society for Biblical Studies, Society for Biblical Exploration, Friends of Sabeel
- Ecumenical Accompaniment Program and Christian Peacemaker Teams

Focus Three: Political, Economic, Social Advocacy and Actions

- United Methodist Kairos Response—vision, activities and goals in relation to this conference
- Save Wadi-Fouquin—a Palestinian village besieged by settlements
- Positive investment as a social advocacy tool

Focus Four: Involvements and Positions within the United Methodist Church

- The United Methodist vision, activities and goals in relation to General and Annual Conferences
- Understanding how the program work of United Methodist organizations follows from the actions and mandates of General Conference. Includes workshops and dialogue with United Methodist Women, the General Board of Pension & Health Benefits, the General Board of Church & Society, the General Board of Global Ministries and other related organizations and constituencies.
- Methodist Liaison Office in Palestine/Israel— connectional advocacy for a just peace
- Annual conference activities and travel in Palestine and Israel
- Coordination and ecumenical action with other faith communities



"Love is seeing the face of God in every human being. [Love] does not mean accepting evil or aggression on their part. Rather, this love seeks to correct the evil and stop the aggression." (Kairos Palestine, December 2009)



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