

Palestine Israel Network  
of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship  
PO Box 15, Claysburg, PA 16625  
Tel 312-922-8628  
epfpin@epfnational.org  
<http://epfnational.org/PIN/>



Easter 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

Hello, I am The Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek, a Palestinian Episcopal priest. I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I write to you now as a brother in Christ to appeal to your sense of justice, asking you to become aware of the reality in Palestine and Israel. I appeal to you to approach this matter now as we near the 2018 General Convention with an open mind and heart. Our faith demands of us to “seek peace and pursue it” for both the Israelis and the Palestinians.

After receiving my theological education at The Church Divinity School of the Pacific in the 1960s, I returned to Nazareth for ordination. As an Episcopal priest, I served various churches in Galilee and eventually the Palestinian congregation at St. George’s Cathedral, Jerusalem, until my retirement in 1997.

As a boy, our family, as well as hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, were forcefully dispossessed and became refugees when the state of Israel was created. Since then the Palestinians - Christians and Muslims - have been seeking justice. Their cry resembles that of the widow in the Gospel before the unjust judge, “Give me justice”.

Although it was difficult for the Palestinians to accept the UN Partition of their country, they finally did and began seeking the establishment of a Palestinian state to live in peace and security alongside the state of Israel as specified by the United Nations. But for the last 50 years, Israel has been occupying the land slated for the Palestinian state, confiscating its land, building Jewish-only settlements, and denying the Palestinians their human and political rights. For peace to be achieved, justice needs to be done in accordance with the demands of international law.

Many mainline churches in the United States have courageously taken a stand for justice and peace. I hope and pray that our Episcopal Church will do the same by standing with us and supporting church resolutions that affirm true justice for Palestine and the Palestinian people.

In the name of Christ,

Naim Ateek

The Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek

