

PIN Bulletin For Local Organizers

Volume 17, November 2020

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?



EPF PIN Congratulates the Executive Council Committee for Corporate Social Responsibility :

50 Years of Faithful Action for Socially Responsible Investments by The Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility will celebrate 50 years of advocacy in 2021. The committee was created by Executive Council in 1971 and oversaw the filing of the first ever shareholder resolution by a faith based organization. The resolution asked General Motors to withdraw from apartheid South Africa. Presiding Bishop John Hines personally spoke to the resolution at GM's annual meeting. A video is being prepared that will chronicle the faithful behind-the-scenes work of corporate engagement and action for responsible investing over the last 50 years. This is a video that EPF PIN members won't want to miss! It will be an educational opportunity to learn about the quiet, persistent work of volunteer CCSR members supported by staff and consultants, who, working with interdenominational allies, bring Gospel values to the "worldly" process of investment.

Since General Convention 2018, CCSR has worked to implement PIN-supported Resolution B016: calling for a Human Rights Investment Screen for Israel/Palestine thus establishing a No-Buy List for church investments, and divestment from companies already in the portfolio. B016 was adopted by the 2018 General Convention in Austin,

Texas. According to the Episcopal News Service: Bishop Dan Edwards of Nevada spoke in favor of B016 before the vote, saying it balances targeted divestment from companies when appropriate with shareholder activism when that might produce greater results. "There is a time to disinvest, and there is a time to do shareholder activism," Edwards said. "This resolution provides for both of those. To do one without the other is to limp badly."

Subsequently CCSR prepared and Council adopted the screen in October 2019. As a result, Council approved divestment from **Caterpillar, Motorola** and the **Israel Discount Bank**. Last month, CCSR recommended and the Executive Committee of Council added **Leumi Bank** and **DXC** (formerly part of Hewlett-Packard), bringing to five the companies from which TEC has divested since General Convention 2018 on the basis of human rights violations. Corporate engagement with several companies, including **Trip Advisor** and **Booking** will be ongoing in the coming year. These companies advertise in the illegal West Bank Settlements. Engagement involves an interdenominational presence at shareholder meetings, advocating for corporate compliance with international human rights.

The screen was made to apply to human rights issues globally, with specific criteria for Israel/Palestine. Thus CCSR is challenging companies to observe human rights wherever they operate, including Myanmar (on behalf of the Rohingya) and China (on behalf of the Uighur). Environmental justice and human rights issues often overlap. Currently, a new effort vis a vis **Chevron** has emerged. Chevron has purchased Noble Energy, leader in gas drilling in the Eastern Mediterranean, including off the coast of Gaza. Correspondence has been sent by interdenominational advocates to Chevron's corporate headquarters requesting further information on its corporate human rights policy.

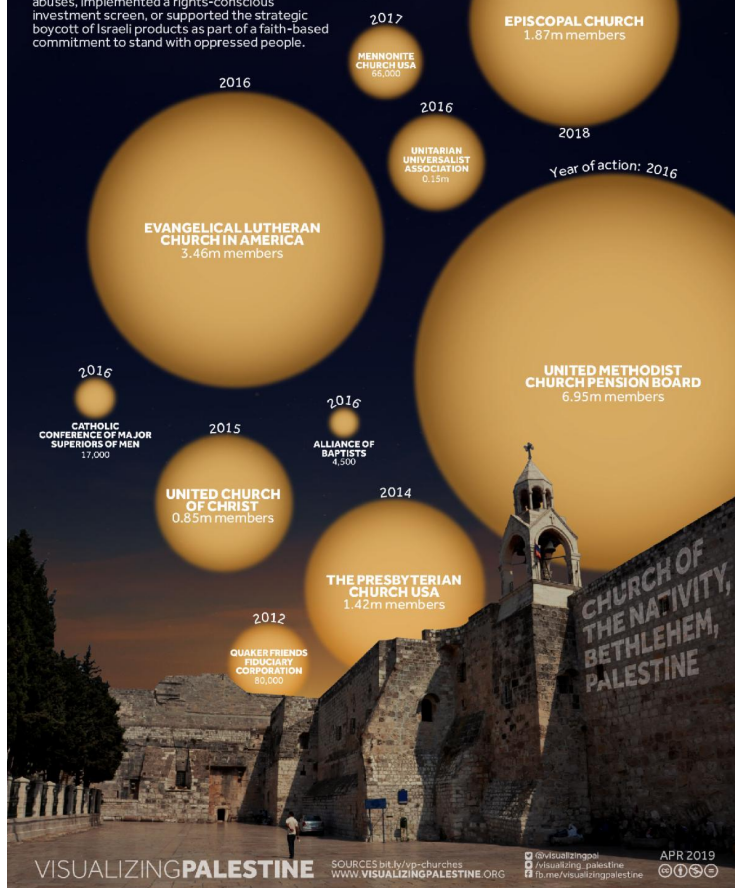
The work of CCSR demonstrates that the way we deal with our money and investments witnesses to our grounding in the spiritual gifts or charisms which are ours in Baptism. Among the many gifts given for spiritual discernment, such as teaching, prophecy, healing and ecstatic speech, is administration or oversight. Those charged with oversight are called to be exemplary in love. This means that God's love

for Creation must shine forth in all of our decision-making including the ways we invest our treasure to further our mission. Therefore, attention must be paid to

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

BOYCOTT AND DIVESTMENT ACTIONS BY AMERICAN CHURCHES

14.87 million Americans are a member of a church or denominational group that has divested from companies that profit off of Israel's human rights abuses, implemented a rights-conscious investment screen, or supported the strategic boycott of Israeli products as part of a faith-based commitment to stand with oppressed people.



social responsibility in investments. The ultimate question faces us: does this investment promote abundant life for all Creation or does it underwrite death-dealing forces that prey on the human community and the natural world?

EPF PIN believes that justice is love in action. We are thankful for the dedicated work of the Committee for Corporate Social Responsibility, putting love in action over 50 years. We look forward to celebrating that witness in 2021.

WRITE!

EPF PIN has joined in a collaborative effort with the [media watch group](#), **WRITE!**, the Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace (PCAP), and several other denominational PINs to monitor particular print media for Palestine or Israel related topics. When a published article or OpEd catches its attention, the group sends out an [email alert](#), asking **WRITE!** subscribers to write a response: thank the outlets for good articles or correct misinformation and bias. With a small cadre of writers so far, the group is limiting its surveillance to the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*.

This work is more important than ever. While support for our cause is getting stronger in American society, we do not see it being reflected sufficiently in mainstream media.

No more than one alert per week is sent to subscribers and individuals have the choice whether to respond and how. If you would like to be added to the **WRITE!** e-mail list, please send your request to monica70x7@yahoo.com.

This is a safe form of activism during the pandemic.

Consider signing up for alerts today!



An Invitation from PIN
Activists working with the
Chicago Interfaith Coalition:

Interfaith Service in Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Sunday, Nov. 29
5 - 6 pm Central Time

Register online:
bit.ly/nov29service

*A program of music, prayers, and words of inspiration from
the Muslim, Christian and Jewish traditions.*

**Presenters include: Rae Abileah, Ahmed Abu Artema, Tarek
Abuata, Rev. Naim Ateek, Rev. Dr. Waltrina Middleton, Imam
Malik Mujahid, Sarah Nahar, Rami Nashishibi, Rev. Dr. Mitri
Raheb, Rabbi Brant Rosen, Nida Sahouri, Leslie Williams**

**Organized by the Chicago Faith Coalition on Middle East Policy;
Hosted by the American Friends Service Committee**



PIN Activist Designs Advent Calendar with a focus on Palestine

**The House of Bread Guided Journey
through Advent is available to
download here: [house-of-bread-
advent-book.pdf](http://house-of-bread-advent-book.pdf) May it bring your
household closer to Christ this
Advent while deepening
your understanding of the little
town of Bethlehem.**

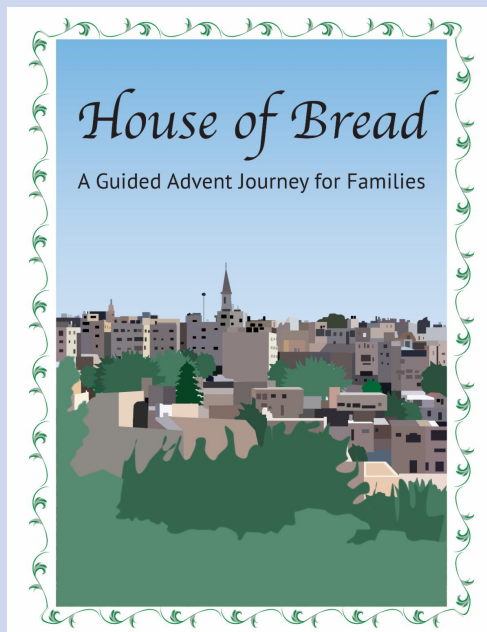
Hello, I am Natalie Keller, a parish youth
director and circus artist from Broomfield,
Colorado. Last year, I was offered an
opportunity to travel to Bethlehem, Palestine

to work with adults and youth to create a circus outreach program,
collaborating with a long time friend. That's me in the photo, kneeling, as I
teach some moves in a circus class in Bethlehem!

The two weeks I spent in Israel and Palestine were magical, a part of the world
that is truly a thin space, yet filled with strife. I struggled with the fact that

where our Prince of Peace was born is now a war zone. We were volunteering at Dar Al Kalima, a school sponsored by Christmas Lutheran Church. Being able to work with the children of Bethlehem was such a treat! Most were multilingual, which made teaching easier, as did the camaraderie among them. 40% of the boys will end up imprisoned and girls will grow up to cater to their families or to tourists, while they will rarely if ever get the opportunity to travel outside Palestine.

I knew that I must find a creative way to share my life-changing experiences in Bethlehem. At the same time, Rami Kader, who was the director of the program in Bethlehem, decided on a new direction in his life: to direct the Makan Initiative and its main project, House of Bread. House of Bread's name is a double entendre: first it aligns with its mission but it is also how "Bethlehem" translates into Arabic. The mission is to feed, train and employ women who are experiencing homelessness, domestic violence or other hardship, in order to become skilled bakers. I wondered if there were a way to lift up House of Bread as I shared my experience in Palestine.



Back home in Colorado, in my role as Children and Youth Director at Holy Comforter, I knew my Advent project would be to create family friendly ways to decolonize our view of the Nativity to create a much richer experience of the Scripture. After brainstorming, an Advent Calendar came into being to do that exact mission--with daily Scriptures and family friendly activities that bridge learning about ancient and modern day Bethlehem, Armenian Orthodox Christmas and Chanukkah through food and discussion. While Bethlehem is in our hearts, hymns and Scriptures, it made sense to partner with House of Bread to help walk in the

way of love through education and fun activities. Designing this project, I did not want money to be a deterrent, so the activities are free to download, but if you are able, a donation to House of Bread through our crowdfunding campaign will make a real difference in the lives of those who live where our Messiah was born 2,000 years ago.

Donate to the House of Bread [HERE](#).

GARTH HEWITT - Troubadour for Justice

CONCERT & CONVERSATION

Commemoration of UN's
Universal Declaration of
Human Rights



**Sunday, December 6,
2:00pm Eastern time**

ZOOM LINK

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87354300960?
pwd=KzNRUWI4bWs1NHFsWTc3UmpBZStoQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87354300960?pwd=KzNRUWI4bWs1NHFsWTc3UmpBZStoQT09)

Palestine-Israel Network (PIN) Co-Sponsors & other peace partners
Christian Church Disciples of Christ PIN
Episcopal Peace Fellowship PIN
Israel-Palestine Mission Network, PCUSA
Kairos West Michigan
MennoPIN - Mennonite Church USA
United Church of Christ PIN
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HOST: Indiana Center for Middle East Peace

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