

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



## ***PIN Bulletin for Local Organizers***

*Volume 2, August 2019*

### **It's Time to Organize an EPF PIN Presence at Fall Diocesan Conventions!**



**Make your plans now. Reserve a table in the Exhibit Hall. Craft a resolution. Sponsor a PIN nominee as a Deputy to General Convention 2021 in Baltimore.**

An EPF PIN presence in the Exhibit Hall is a great way to do grass-roots organizing on behalf of Palestinian human rights. You can order a free packet of materials (you pay for shipping) from Shannon [shannon@epfnational.org], including copies of *Steadfast*

*Hope* with DVD, EPF and PIN brochures, Bookmarks detailing 2018 General Convention Resolutions re Palestine, decals and more. Here's a hint from Exhibit Hall veterans: don't wait for convention delegates to express interest. Step out and offer a copy of *Steadfast Hope* or a Bookmark. **Start a conversation!**



*Be it Resolved ....* Resolutions are an effective tool for education and policy-making in our church!

The clock is ticking and deadlines are approaching for submission of resolutions to be considered at fall Conventions. In some dioceses, the deadline has passed. If that's the case for you, use the 2019 Convention to observe the process and talk with delegates who are sponsoring resolutions this fall. Get tips on 'best practices,' including (1) how to organize education in your diocese and parishes in the year ahead to promote your proposed Resolution and (2) how to organize effective testimony in support of the Resolution at the 2020 Diocesan Convention.

For those able to submit resolutions this fall, here are some points to remember:

**\*Do not submit a resolution that repeats or "affirms" past General Convention Resolutions which are already stated policy of the Episcopal Church. Never open the door to a roll-back of achieved social justice policies. [Check out the July *PIN Bulletin* for links to Episcopal Church policies on Palestine/Israel, including the six resolutions passed at the 2018 General Convention.] If you do build on past Resolutions, make sure new ground is covered.**

**\*Testimony and discussion on the floor of convention have important educational value. Even if a resolution fails to pass, the discussion may**

pave the way for future positive action. It's a way to start the conversation.

**\* Every diocese is unique, but take another look at the step-by-step "How To" from the Diocese of Vermont in last month's *Bulletin*. PIN activists successfully shepherded three resolutions at their 2018 Diocesan Convention.**

**\* Find out what resolutions are being raised up in other dioceses. Currently, two topics appear to be gaining momentum: (1) the challenge of Christian Zionism and its financial support for the Settlement Movement in occupied Palestine; 2) First Amendment Rights to Free Speech in the context of attacks on BDS. Here are several samples:**

#### **A) Confronting Christian Zionism:**

**From the Diocese of Chicago (2004). This is the only Resolution passed in any diocese, to PIN's knowledge, on Christian Zionism :**

*RESOLVED, that this 167th annual Convention of the Diocese of Chicago, in order to alert the baptized in the diocese of the erroneous teachings of Christian Zionism, instructs the Peace and Justice Commission to prepare and send to each congregation in the Diocese materials about these erroneous teachings and a Christian response to these teachings.*

#### **B) Freedom of Speech:**

**PIN Resolution defeated in House of Deputies at Gen. Convention 2018:**

*Resolved, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church urges the President and the Congress of the United States to reject ['reconsider' if already passed] legislation that would penalize companies and organizations for their participation in nonviolent boycotts on behalf of Palestinian human rights. The Convention considers such legislation, at both federal and state levels, to be an infringement on our First Amendment rights, based on the Supreme Court's consistent definition of boycotts as protected speech; and be it further*

*Resolved, that if recently passed, or passed in the future, the Executive Council or the Presiding Bishop are directed to file an amicus brief in support of court challenges to the law.*

**From the Diocese of Vermont, passed at the 2018 diocesan convention:**

*RESOLVED, that the 186th Convention of the Diocese of Vermont urge the President of the United States and the Vermont congressional delegation to oppose legislation that would penalize companies and organizations for their participation in nonviolent boycotts on behalf of Palestinian human rights, as such legislation, at both federal and state levels, would be an infringement on First Amendment rights.*

***Readers: visit PIN's website to view these Resolutions with their Explanations, which provide context and supporting materials.***

*<https://epfnational.org/pin/educational-resources/pinresolutions2019/>*

## **Nominating Deputies to General Convention 2021**

**This fall most diocesan conventions  
will elect deputies to G.C. 2021. This**



Action on the floor of the House of Deputies in Austin, 2018.

is the time for PIN supporters to be proactive in the nominating process. Identify clergy or lay activists who have a heart for Palestinian justice and urge them to run. Pledge support in the election process. Each diocese has its distinctive deputation culture, from the 'closed shop' to heavy turnover every three years. Running as 'alternate deputy' may be a successful tactic. Once the deputation is in place, PIN activists can provide educational resources, such as Steadfast Hope and a record of the official policy of the

**Episcopal Church on Palestine/Israel. The PIN Tool Kit is a great resource for educating deputations, available on the PIN website:**

<https://epfnational.org/pin/>



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