

# ***PIN Bulletin For Local Organizers***

## ***Volume 33, March 2022***

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



## **ON THE ROAD TO GENERAL CONVENTION**

**Hearings are Scheduled  
for**

**Legislative Committee 07:  
Social Justice and  
International Policy**



Mark your calendars and register early to observe PIN Testimony Teams in action. This Episcopal News Service [article](#) provides more information on the zoom hearings and how to register to attend as an observer. PIN supports eight of the Resolutions to be heard and opposes C001.

### **THE HEARINGS:**

Thursday, March 31, 1:00 p.m. EDT

Resolution [C013](#) Freedom of Speech & the Right to Boycott [Chicago]

Resolution [C039](#) Justice and Peace in the Holy Land [Olympia]

Resolution [C041](#) On Defending the Right to Boycott [Washington, D.C.]

Friday, April 8, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) EDT

Resolution [C001](#) Regarding Antisemitism & Palestinian Christians [Maryland]

Resolution [C012](#) Confronting Christian Zionism [Chicago]

Resolution [C025](#) Recognition of Apartheid in Israel/Palestine [Vermont]

Resolution [C031](#) Confronting Apartheid [Chicago]

Resolution [C041](#) On Confronting Christian Zionism [Washington, D.C.]

Resolution [C042](#) On Opposing Israel's Apartheid [Washington, D.C.]

In preparation for hearings, PIN has organized a series of practice Zooms, where those testifying share their 2-minute testimonies, receiving feedback and assuring a diversity of points, pro or con, for each resolution.

Those testifying are drawn from the sponsoring dioceses, PIN activists, allies in the wider church and beyond, including Palestinian and Jewish voices.

Also assigned to Committee 07 are two Memorials on Palestine/Israel, M004 and M005, which you can study [here](#). It is not clear yet whether testimony will be welcome on Memorials or whether they will function to provide a context for Committee 07's deliberations.

A final round of testimony will take place on-site at the Convention Center in Baltimore. It will offer an opportunity for closing comments on all resolutions.

## Why is PIN so Heavily Invested in Resolutions at General Convention?

by Tom Foster, Local Organizing Convener

We've all heard it and, if we're honest, we've thought it. What good are resolutions? They don't accomplish anything. The Episcopal Church has passed resolutions for years, and conditions for Palestinians continue to get worse. Yes, all of this is true. So, toward what good end is PIN so heavily focused on resolutions at General Convention 2022?

The answer is simple and direct. *Resolutions passed at General Convention establish the policy of the Episcopal Church.* Every action, every statement, every petition, every lobbying effort of our Church is enabled and at the same time constrained by policy established through resolutions passed at a General Convention. Thus, they define the voice of the Church in the public square. Examples from resolutions passed in 2018 at the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention tell the story.

Resolution C038, Safeguard Rights of Palestinian Children, has made it possible for the Church's [Office of Government Relations](#) to publicly support Betty McCollum's HR 2590, Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act. Among other forms of advocacy, Action Alerts from the OGR's Episcopal Public Policy Network have encouraged Episcopalians to contact their Congressional representatives, urging them to support this bill.

Significant also at the 79<sup>th</sup> Convention was the passage of Resolution B016, Adopt Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Action on Israel, which directed the Church's Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility to apply a human-rights-based investment screen on Israel and Palestine. That screen resulted in the Church selling its investment shares in several entities that profit from the Occupation, including Caterpillar, whose equipment is used in home demolition, separation wall construction, and illegal settlement building.

And so we press on with resolutions as one part of an effort to expand and strengthen the Church's voice on Palestinian human rights and self-determination.



## An Update on The Consultation: What Exactly Is It?

"We're an organization of organizations. We don't have individual members. We bring together the progressive groups in The Episcopal Church. The Consultation doesn't set priorities for its member organizations but we look for ways to help each other reach our goals. Our focus is on the General Convention every three years. We've been doing this since 1985 and most of the remarkable progress our church has made since then has been a result of the mutual assistance and sharing of perspectives that the Consultation has encouraged. The challenges remain and may be even more daunting. The Episcopal Church needs the Consultation. We are more effective together." [*Issues*, March 2020]

Member organizations of the Consultation appoint four representatives, one of whom is a General Convention Deputy. EPF PIN is currently represented by Dr. Carolyn Mok (Deputy, Diocese of Rochester), Melanie Merkle Atha (EPF Exec. Dir.), Harry Gunkel and the Rev. Cliff Cutler (PIN leadership). PIN's representatives attend regular Zoom meetings to prepare for the Consultation presence at Convention. Member groups create the Consultation Platform, which articulates the groups vision and legislative goals for G.C. The Platform is circulated by member groups prior to Convention and published in "Issues," the communication tool of the Consultation. *The Bulletin* will publish the 2022 Platform in the April issue!

### **The Consultation is seeking an online media specialist for General Convention. Here is the job description for this paid position:**

"The Online Media Specialist is tasked with assisting the Consultation, which is a collaboration of progressive groups within the Episcopal Church, in its communication on online platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and its webpage. They also assist with the production of the daily electronic newsletter ISSUES which is published at the Episcopal General Convention. The General Convention is currently scheduled for July 5-14, 2022 in Baltimore, Maryland."

Please see this [.pdf](#) for more information!

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