

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

**Volume 52, November 2023**

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



**Come ye thankful people,  
come,  
Raise the song of harvest-  
home.**

**All the world is God's own  
field,  
fruit unto his praise to yield.**

**Olive trees so gladly sown  
unto joy or sorrow grown.....**

**As War Rages, Israeli Settlers and IDF Soldiers Attempt to  
Block the Annual Olive Harvest in the West Bank**

**Read it all [HERE](#)**



**With General Convention Set for June, 2024**

## **Local Organizing and Voting on PIN Resolutions Goes Forward at Fall Diocesan Conventions**

In October and November, resolutions relating to the growing crisis for Palestinian human rights were on the agenda at the yearly conventions in three dioceses: Pennsylvania, Rochester and Chicago. At all three conventions, the backdrop for debate and vote was the violence, destruction and death that began with the Hamas attack on Oct. 7 and expanded exponentially with Israel's assault on Gaza deploying massive ordinance and heavy bombardment by IDF pilots flying the latest American jets.

**The resolution presented to the Diocese of Pennsylvania, titled "A Call for Ending Apartheid Against Palestinians,"** directed the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church to "call on the Office of Government Relations to represent ending Israel's apartheid as a policy priority of The Episcopal Church and to influence policy and legislation on this issue."

The resolution was adapted from a model PIN resolution by members of the Philadelphia group, Christian & Jewish Allies, working together with representatives of EPF PIN and Kairos Palestine USA on a project called "Organizing for Palestine from the Church Grassroots." C&J Allies organized persuasive online testimony and floor testimony at convention, while mobilizing support at the grassroots. After months of hard work, the final count fell short by just 17 votes. The polarized atmosphere led supporters to believe that the vote might have gone the other way prior to Oct. 7.

**In the Diocese of Rochester, a resolution entitled "On Responsible Travel to the Holy Land,"** adapted an EPF PIN model resolution to ask the 81st General Convention to "recommend that pilgrimage travelers to the Holy Land explore and engage the realities of the circumstances and conditions impacting the lives of today's Palestinians and Israelis, paying particular attention to the Israeli military Occupation of Palestinian territories, to the violations of human rights, and to Palestinian national aspirations."

The Convention was virtual and there was no pre-convention testimony. During debate, opposing voices were strident; there were motions to table, postpone and/or amend the resolution, none of which prevailed. The resolution was adopted with 51% voting in favor. It will be sent forward to General Convention for debate and vote.

**In the Diocese of Chicago, a resolution entitled "Solidarity with the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement"** came to a final vote after a last-minute substitute resolution was rejected. Abstentions were requested and allowed on this resolution only. Lay deputies narrowly approved the resolution (91 yes, 89 no, 44 abstentions) but clergy defeated it (50 yes, 60 no, 15 abstentions). After a model campaign, with educational events around the diocese prior to convention, the organizers judged that BDS may well have been affirmed if not for the fallout from Oct. 7, especially since the diocese already affirmed that Israel is an apartheid state at a previous convention.

As part of the preparation for the Diocese of Chicago vote on solidarity with the BDS Movement, members of the diocesan Peace and Justice Commission planned this Zoom event:

*Preparing for Difficult Conversations -*

## *Thorny Questions and Thoughtful Responses*

*featuring:*

**Lesley Williams**, board member of Jewish Voice for Peace Action

**Donna Nevel**, steering comm. -- International Jewish Collective for Justice in Palestine

**Access the recording of this Zoom [HERE](#)**

**Passcode: iaxeM4^W**

### **AN OPEN LETTER FROM PALESTINE CHRISTIANS TO WESTERN CHURCH LEADERS AND THEOLOGIANs**

Read the letter [here](#) and endorse with your signature.

Express your solidarity with:

**Kairos Palestine**

**Christ at the Checkpoint**

**Bethlehem Bible College**

**Sabeel Ecumenical Center for Liberation Theology**

**Dar al-Kalima University**

**Al-Liqa Center for Religious, Heritage and Cultural Studies in the Holy Land**

**The East Jerusalem YMCA**

**The YWCA of Palestine**

**Arab Orthodox Society, Jerusalem**

**Arab Orthodox Club, Jerusalem**

**The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council  
of Churches**

**Arab Education Institute Pax Christi, Bethlehem**

*Please note - EPF and EPF PIN are now on a new platform for giving!  
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new platform to make your gift. Consider increasing your monthly  
donation to support our efforts for peace and justice.*



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