RESOLUTION OF IMPLEMENTATION REGARDING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Submitted by Board of Deacons First Congregational Church of Old Lyme

WHEREAS historically the UCC has affirmed Israel’s right to exist within secure and internationally recognized boundaries (GS 16[1987], GS 18[1991]), and asserted the rights of Palestinians to enjoy sovereignty in an independent, contiguous, and viable state of their own, within secure and recognized boundaries (GS 16 [1987], GS 17[1989]) & GS 18[1991]; and

WHEREAS past General Synods have identified the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian land and its human rights abuses committed therein to be a major source of conflict and have called for the end of the construction and expansion of settlements. (GS 18 [1991] & GS 21[1997]); and

WHEREAS Palestinians in the West Bank have lived since 1967 under Israeli military occupation which subjects them to many human rights abuses including; loss of their land for the purpose of building Israeli settlements; limited access to their land and to each other due to the route of the Separation Wall on Occupied Palestinian Territory; being systematically pushed into small, non-contiguous geographic enclaves separated by barriers and checkpoints; gross inequality in the amount of water allocated to them; severe and arbitrary travel restrictions; limited access to holy sites; segregated roads; the demolition of homes; destruction of their crops by settlers and the Israeli army; arbitrary arrest, including the arrest of children; and

WHEREAS Palestinian Christians, seeking an alternative to violence born of hopelessness and despair, have called on their global partners to engage in nonviolent measures pressuring Israel to end its occupation in their document, Kairos Palestine 2009-‘A Moment of Truth’: A Word of Faith, Hope, and Love from the Heart of Palestinian Suffering; and

WHEREAS the resolution “Concerning the Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East,” passed by the General Synod in 2005, called upon “the Covenanted Ministries, Pension Boards, United Church Foundation, local churches and members to use economic leverage, including, but not limited to: advocating the reallocation of US foreign aid so that the militarization of the Middle East is constrained; making positive contributions to groups and partners committed to the non-violent resolution of the conflict; challenging the practices of corporations that gain from the continuation of the conflict; and divesting from those companies that refuse to change their practice of gain from the perpetuation of violence, including the Occupation”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of this 147th Connecticut Conference Annual Meeting call upon its churches and church members to study the Kairos Palestine document and take heed of its call for solidarity with the Palestinian people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we the delegates of this 147th Annual Meeting call upon the Connecticut Conference to divest any Consolidated Trust Fund holdings in companies profiting from the occupation of the Palestinian Territories by the state of Israel, including, but not limited to, Caterpillar Inc, Motorola Solutions, Hewlett-Packard Development Company LP, G4S, and Veolia Environment and its subsidiaries; and call on those member churches with investment holdings to do the same; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we the delegates of the 147th Annual Meeting call upon local
church members to support the boycott of, and refraining from buying, goods produced by
Israeli companies in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including, but not limited to,
Ahava skin care products, SodaStream products, and Hadiklaim dates;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we the delegates to the 147th Annual Meeting call upon local
church members to request their members of Congress to investigate whether US military
aid given to Israel violates US laws, specifically, the US Foreign Assistance Act and the US
Arms Export Control Act; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: that this resolution, if affirmed, be put into proper form for
submission to General Synod.