GA-1332  
(Sense-of-the-Assembly)  
Encouraging a Fuller Experience of Israel-Palestine  

Adopted by the General Assembly as Amended

WHEREAS, the region of the Middle East known as Israel-Palestine, often referred to as the Holy Land has deep religious significance and spiritual value for Christians, as well as Muslims and Jews; and

WHEREAS, many Christians make pilgrimages to this region and tour both religious and secular sites while there; and

WHEREAS, there are important things to see and do in areas populated primarily by Israelis and also in areas populated primarily by Palestinians; and

WHEREAS, many of our sisters and brothers in Christ are Palestinians who live in areas populated primarily by Palestinians; and

WHEREAS, many of our mission partners are Palestinian Christians who live in and carry out our shared Christian mission in areas populated primarily by Palestinians1; and

WHEREAS, these mission partners have invited and encouraged Disciples of Christ and other Christians in the United States and around the world to visit these areas when they visit Israel-Palestine; and

WHEREAS, standard Holy Land tours often do not include many of these areas; and

WHEREAS, this situation fails to make available opportunities for personal and spiritual interaction with Palestinians, including our mission partners and many other sisters and brothers in Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries provides information about tours and other resources for a fuller experience that includes encounters with mission partners, allowing visitors opportunities for greater education concerning current political and social realities in the region, for increased interaction-with Palestinians and our mission partners and for exposure to the lives of persons living in this situation of conflict;2

1 For a list of our mission partners in Israel-Palestine, please see http://globalministries.org/mee/countries/israel-palestine/  

2 http://globalministries.org/mee/living-stones
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Orlando, FL, July 13-17, 2013, invites and encourages all Disciples who are planning to visit Israel-Palestine to prayerfully consider plans that will allow for a fuller tour of this extremely significant region of the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly invites and encourages all Disciples who are planning to visit Israel-Palestine to be in contact with the Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries about opportunities for tours and pilgrimages that provide a fuller experience of the region; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly encourages all of our regions and congregations to host events in which those Disciples or other Christians who have participated in these fuller tours of Israel-Palestine may share their experiences with others.

Bethany Beach Christian Church, Bethany Beach, Delaware