

**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 Palestinians<sup>1</sup>; 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 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;<sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> <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