Summary of 2017 Resolution on the plight of Palestinian Children

This Resolution calls attention to the plight of children suffering under Israel’s prolonged military occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. In particular, this resolution names the traumatic situation of children living with constant fear of arrest, detention, and violence at the hands of Israeli forces. It calls the United Church of Christ to advocate for the human rights of the children of Palestine. It requests the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ to petition the Prime Minister of Israel and the Israeli Ambassador, asking them to guarantee basic due process rights and exercise an absolute prohibition against torture and ill-treatment of children detained by Israeli authorities. This resolution insists that, from the moment of arrest, all operations and procedures imposed on Palestinian children be carried out in accordance with international juvenile justice standards, specifically the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Israel ratified in 1991. Further, this resolution calls on the United States government to adhere to U.S. laws concerning human rights violations and the disbursement of military aid and assistance to Israeli armed forces. Recognizing that establishing a just peace between Palestinians and Israelis is essential for creating and sustaining the conditions under which life can flourish for both Palestinian and Israeli children, this Resolution also urges all settings of the United Church of Christ to persist in efforts to end the Israeli military occupation of Palestinians living in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza as called for in particular by the Thirtieth General Synod.