

## **ELCA Actions and Statements Promoting a Palestinian State and Just Peace in the Holy Land 2026**

**2001 CWA:** encouraged a negotiated solution in the “hope that the Quartet’s “Road Map” will lead to an end to the occupation, terrorist attacks, and all other forms of violent conflict, as well as to both a viable, contiguous, independent Palestinian state, and a secure Israel” (CA03.02.07).

### **May 4, 2006 news release ELCA Presiding Bishop Urges Peace Efforts in the Middle East**

The letter was issued through Churches for Middle East Peace, based here. Recognizing new obstacles in the peace process, Hanson said, "We affirm President Bush's vision of a two-state solution that provides for a viable Palestinian state living in peace alongside a secure Israel. But we are concerned that Hamas' rejectionist rhetoric and Israel's actions on the ground are making that goal seem impossible."

### **March 18, 2002 news release Church Leaders Welcome U.N. Resolution on Palestinian State**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ELCA) -- Leaders of several U.S. churches -- including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) -- welcomed the U.N. Security Council passage of a U.S.-initiated resolution proclaiming support for a Palestinian state, according to a March 14 news release from Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP).

**2003 CWA:** expressed “hope that the Representatives, appealing Quartet’s ‘Road Map’ will lead to an to them to do all in their end to the occupation, terrorist attacks, power to end the violence, and all other forms of violent conflict, respect human rights, and as well as to both a viable, contiguous, create a climate for the independent Palestinian state, and a establishment of a just peace secure Israel” (CA03.02.07).

**April 2004: joined with the LWF and WCC in calling for an end to the wall’s construction.** Construction on the separation wall should end as it undermines a credible two-state solution and, in some places, engulfs Palestinian land and resources.

### **2005 Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine**

Process for Strategy Development (p 50) Participants at the January 2005 consultation:

They agreed not only that ELCA work for a just peace in the Holy Land should be “an urgent, deliberate, fully resourced priority throughout this church,” but also that this intensified action should focus on an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and the establishment of a viable contiguous Palestinian state that will exist peacefully alongside a secure Israeli state.

#### A Sense of Urgency (p 48)

The possibility of two viable, secure states living side-by-side in peace is waning due to 1) the placement and extension of the separation wall on Palestinian land; 2) the resultant loss of natural resource (e.g., water); 3) the expansion of Israeli settlements on Palestinian territory;

#### 2. Pursuit of the Peace Process. (p 49)

As illustrated in the digest of official church body actions found in Appendix A, the ELCA has called on both parties in the conflict to adhere to international law and human rights conventions, including the protection and preservation of internationally recognized human rights. It has called for continued U.S. leadership in support of the Road Map for Peace, including support for an end to terrorist attacks and all other forms of violent conflict, as well as for a viable, contiguous, independent Palestinian state and a secure Israel.

**2007** received memorials from Pacifica, Metro NY, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, SE Michigan, and Metro Chicago synods **promoting peace with justice in the Holy Land**

**\*2008 Peace Not Walls FAQs** The ELCA has called for vigorous U.S. leadership in support of the Road Map for Peace, including support for an end to terrorist attacks and all other forms of violent conflict, as well as for a viable, contiguous, independent Palestinian state and a secure Israel.

## **\*2008 Middle East Peacemaking: From Accompaniment to Advocacy**

**Re the ME strategy:** Briefly, this strategy advocates a negotiated final status agreement that includes an independent and viable Palestinian state, recognition of Israel, normalized relations with neighboring Arab states, and a shared Jerusalem. Often such ELCA advocacy is conducted jointly with ecumenical and inter-religious partners, both at the national level and in grassroots action groups around the country.

*\*(The two preceding documents were developed by Dennis Frado and Carol LaHurd; not adopted formally but with the oversight of Church and Society.)*

**2009** received memorials of Western Washington-Idaho, Southwestern Texas, Indiana-Kentucky, New England, NE Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, and Metro DC Synods calling for **recommitment to Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land**

**2011** received with gratitude the memorials of NE Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, and Metro DC Synods related to **investment for positive change in Palestine**

**2013** received with gratitude the memorials of the Southwestern Texas, Saint Paul Area, Rocky Mountain, Southeast Michigan, Oregon, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Greater Milwaukee, Southwest California, Southeastern Iowa, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Indiana/Kentucky, New England, Lower Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis Area synods related to **Peacemaking with Justice in Israel and Palestine**

**Oct 24, 2014 news release ELCA presiding bishop says land occupation is counter-productive to peace, two-state solution** "Along with Jewish organizations like Peace Now and B'Tselem, we fully agree with your administration that such actions are counter-productive to achieving a comprehensive and sustainable peace based upon a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine, where international human rights and humanitarian law are respected and upheld." (Bishop Eaton)

**2016 Churchwide Assembly** approved a memorial to "urge this church's members, congregations, synods, agencies and presiding bishop to call on their U.S. Representatives, Senators and the Administration to take action requiring that, to continue receiving U.S. financial and military aid, Israel must comply with internationally recognized human rights standards as specified in existing U.S. law, stop settlement building and the expansion of existing settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, end its occupation of Palestinian territory and enable an independent Palestinian state ...."

**2016 Adopted Justice for Holy Land Through Responsible Investment**

**2016 Reaffirming Peace with Justice**

**2019** approved *en bloc* memorials from numerous synods on

--Palestine: No Way to Treat a Child

--Augusta Victoria Hospital

--Engagement in the Holy Land

**2025 Churchwide Assembly adopted by a 95% majority bundled synodical memorials as "Toward Ending the Occupation of Palestine"**

In response, **ELCA Presiding Elizabeth Eaton sent a letter** to President Donald Trump and members of Congress expressing support of "our Jewish-American and Israeli siblings who have suffered because of the Oct. 7 attacks," yet voicing "profound horror regarding the catastrophe in Gaza and the wider crisis in the Holy Land." Eaton added, "The lives of 2.1 million Palestinians in Gaza depend in part on the decisions you will make in the coming weeks and months." <https://www.livinglutheran.org/living-faithfully/bishop-eaton-sends-letter-to-president-trump-addressing-situation-in-gaza/>



**US Lutheran  
Palestine Israel  
Justice Network**