

**TO ENCOURAGE UNDERSTANDING OF AND
ENDORSEMENT OF THE KAIROS PALESTINE DOCUMENT 2009**

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- WHEREAS, the ELCA strategy "Peace Not Walls" promotes and supports the ministry and work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL); and
- WHEREAS, the Bishop of the ELCJHC, the Rev. Dr. Munib Younan and other patriarchs and heads of churches in Jerusalem have published and signed the *Kairos Palestine Document 2009: A Moment of Truth—A word of faith, hope, and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering*; and
- WHEREAS, this document is the Palestinian Christians' word to the world about what is happening in Palestine, written out of a desire to see the glory and grace of God in Palestine and in the suffering of its people, and in this spirit, the document requests the international community to stand by the Palestinian people who have faced oppression, displacement, suffering, and clear apartheid for more than six decades; and
- WHEREAS, the document is a cry of hope, with love, prayer and faith in God; and
- WHEREAS, this document puts forward ending the occupation of Palestinian land and all forms of discrimination as the solution that will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state and the end of Palestinian resistance against their occupiers, because, if there were no occupation, there would be no resistance; and
- WHEREAS, this document demands that all peoples, political leaders, and decision-makers put pressure on Israel to take legal measures in order to oblige its government to put an end to its oppression and disregard for international law; and
- WHEREAS, this document also holds a clear position that non-violent resistance to this injustice--including boycotts, divestments, and sanctions—is a right and duty for all Palestinians, including Christians; and
- WHEREAS, this document declares that any use of the Bible to legitimize or support political options and positions that are based on injustice transforms religion into human ideology and strip the Word of God of its holiness, universality, and truth, and also declares that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land is a sin against God

39 and humanity because it deprives the Palestinians of their basic human rights,
40 bestowed by God; and

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42 WHEREAS, our own Bishop Wayne Miller was a visitor to Israel and Palestine for the 2009
43 Bishop's Academy, and has confirmed the untenable situation that Palestinians
44 are enduring; and,

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46 WHEREAS, the Church and its members are called to be prophetic in the face of injustice
47 and oppression; therefore be it

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49 RESOLVED, that this assembly endorses the Kairos Palestine 2009 document
50 (www.kairospalestine.ps) as an expression of faith from our Christian
51 brothers and sisters in Palestine and as given to us for our careful reading.
52 This assembly urges individuals and congregations to study and endorse it
53 as a sign of our solidarity and a demonstration of our Christian commitment
54 to the justice to which all God's people are entitled.

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56 Submitted by:

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58 The Rev. Gretchen Winkler, Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary, Mt. Prospect, Ill.

59 Mr. Dieter Schulte, Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill.