

26 05-GS-40 VOTED: The Twenty-fifth General Synod adopts resolution “Proposed Substitute Resolution Concerning
27 Use of Economic Leverage in Promoting Peace in the Middle East.”
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29 **PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION CONCERNING USE OF ECONOMIC LEVERAGE IN**
30 **PROMOTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**
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32 WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has affirmed its commitment to Israel’s safe and
33 secure existence within internationally-recognized borders, neighboring an independent Palestinian state; and
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35 WHEREAS the Twenty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirmed its participation in and
36 commitment to the World Council of Churches’ Decade to Overcome Violence (2001), condemning all forms of
37 violence including but not limited to the violence perpetuated in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict including acts of
38 suicide bombings by Palestinians; and the use of force by Israelis in perpetuating occupation of Palestinian lands;
39 and
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41 WHEREAS General Synods of the United Church of Christ has been particularly mindful of its relationship in
42 Christ with Palestinian Christians, and notably the mission relationships mutually developed over decades of
43 engagement and presence; and
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45 WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has affirmed its relationship to the Jewish
46 community, condemning anti-Semitism in all its forms, and affirming that God’s covenant with the Jewish
47 community remains inviolate (1987); and
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49 WHEREAS the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has called for the use of economic leverage on behalf
50 of oppressed people in a variety of circumstances;
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52 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon the Covenanted Ministries,
53 Pension Boards, United Church Foundation, Conferences, local churches and members to use economic leverage,
54 including, but not limited to: advocating the reallocation of US foreign aid so that the militarization of the Middle
55 East is constrained; making positive contributions to groups and partners committed to the non-violent resolution of
56 the conflict; challenging the practices of corporations that gain from the continuation of the conflict; and divesting
1 from those companies that refuse to change their practices of gain from the perpetuation of violence, including the
2 Occupation; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all settings of the United Church of Christ are urged to remain committed to
5 inter-religious dialogue and to participation with Jewish, Christian and Muslim partners to work for peace in Israel-
6 Palestine.
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Twenty-fifth General Synod directs these aforementioned settings of the church
9 to provide materials that may be used by all settings of the church to discern how economic leverage can be used to
10 support the development of Palestine and Israel as two independent, secure, economically viable states; and
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12 FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED the Twenty-fifth General Synod calls upon these settings to create for and
13 disseminate to the local churches study materials on the range of issues contributing to violence and oppression in
14 the Middle East and ways to be involved in promoting peace.