

FOR CONFERENCE AND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTERS! (And local church news, too)

The United Church of Christ Movement for Palestinian Solidarity (UCCMPS) is organizing a UCC Delegation to the Palestine in August 2026, and we are hoping that you'll consider joining us. We fully understand that the situation in the Middle East is unstable and dangerous at present; if we cannot travel in August, we hope to organize a delegation to travel in 2027. Either way, your interest is important to us, and particularly so to our Palestinian partners in the region. Again and again, they have cried out, called out for solidarity and hope. It's our intention to respond in love and action.

Our intention is to travel with at least 15, and as many as 30 leaders, and to meet Palestinian Christians face to face, hear their first-hand testimonies and wrestle with the implications of their call for solidarity, resistance and friendship in a moment of excruciating violence and immense need. Working with our partners at Sabeel (the Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre in Jerusalem), we are designing an experience that will deepen relationships, expand our capacity for "costly" solidarity, and inspire us individually for the work ahead.

In their 2025 statement, "A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide," Palestinian Christians have renewed their urgent call for solidarity and action in the wider Christian community:

> *We live now in a time of genocide, ethnic cleansing and forced displacement unfolding before the eyes of the world. This moment demands from us a new stand, one unlike any before it. It is both a decisive moment and a moment of truth. Today, we renew our stand for truth and our commitment to fundamental religious, theological and moral principles. We look at our reality and take a renewed stand, responding to the voice of the Holy Spirit deep within us, listening to the call of faith in this time of genocide. We renew our message of faith, hope, and love — offering a faith-inspired vision for the time after genocide (The Kairos Palestine Initiative, 2025).*

As we recruit for this 2026 (or 2027) delegation, we're especially mindful of the connections between Palestinian efforts to dismantle Zionism and racism in their context and our efforts to dismantle white supremacy and Christian nationalism in the U.S. We believe this delegation is timely and critical for both communities, as we move forward united and courageous and inspired by the faith we share. Indeed, "this moment demands from us a new stand, one unlike any before it." What will this mean for us? What will mean for the United Church? How will we take that "new stand" together?

Please use the QR code here to indicate your interest in this delegation moving forward. If you respond, you'll be invited to a special Zoom session in May, during which our Palestinian partners will answer questions about the delegation, its timing, safety issues and more. Again, whether we're able to travel in August, or whether the delegation moves ahead in 2027, we're eager to find a lively and committed UCC contingent and to build on the powerful connections UCCMPS has made with these remarkable Palestinian partners.

Questions? Contact the Rev. Dave Grishaw-Jones, Delegation Planning Team, UCCMPS at **davidgj@ccdurham.org. See more about UCCMPS at www.uccmps.org.**