

A note from the Bishop on a resolution entitled “Ceasefire in Gaza” adopted by Diocesan Convention:

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i (October 21, 2023) adopted a resolution entitled “Ceasefire in Gaza.” It was submitted from the floor and adopted with several amendments. The final version as recorded by the Secretary is reprinted below.

This is a “mind of the Convention” resolution and does not call for any particular action in response from the Diocese, congregations, or individual members of this Diocese. The Secretary of Convention will need to forward the resolution to those noted.

I understand that faithful Episcopalians have different understandings and opinions regarding the conflict in Palestine/Israel. We must condemn unequivocally the horrifying and unprecedented acts of terror by Hamas in Israel on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Nothing can justify the deliberate murder, injuring, and kidnapping of innocent civilians. The blockade and bombing of Gaza by Israel has killed many and displaced even many more Palestinian non-combatants. Again, it is children, the elderly, the sick, and the infirm who most suffer. The prospect of an Israeli ground invasion of Gaza is unimaginable. We can affirm a collective desire for peace. An immediate ceasefire can save lives.

We must also agree with the United Nations’ Secretary-General, António Guterres, who recently said: “Finally, we must be clear on the principle of upholding human dignity. Polarization and dehumanization are being fueled by a tsunami of disinformation. We must stand up to the forces of antisemitism, anti-Muslim bigotry and all forms of hate.”

As Anglicans, the Archbishop of Canterbury has asked us to support the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem: [Anglican leaders call for global support of Diocese of Jerusalem’s ministries as war intensifies](#). We can most effectively do so by making donations to [The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem](#). Donations can be directed to support the [Ahli Arab Hospital](#) in Gaza.

It is also helpful to keep in mind that many in our Diocese have deep ties to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Four of our clergy – Jodene Hawkings, Heather Mueller, Honey Becker and Paul Lillie – have actually served in that Diocese. We have had members (clergy and lay) at the forefront of Palestinian issues in the Episcopal Church for decades. Many have gone on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and visited with our Palestinian Anglican siblings.

Some members of the Diocese are actively involved with [Friends of Sabeel North America](#) and the [Episcopal Peace Fellowship: Palestine Israel Network](#). The Reverend [Naim Ateek](#), a frequent guest of the Diocese and the founder of [Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center](#), is an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral of St. Andrew.

As a Diocese, we have very close ties to Palestinian Anglicans in Palestine/Israel.

Willis Moore, a member of our Diocese and a Delegate at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Convention, is a Regional Coordinator for the [Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\)](#). He welcomes hearing from any other Episcopalians interested in the Church's response to the conflict and becoming involved in peace making. He can be contacted at [profwillishamoore@gmail.com](mailto:profwillishamoore@gmail.com) or (808) 782-3562 (voice/text).

Brian Grieves, a retired Priest of our Diocese (now living in California, though he still frequently returns to the Islands) and the former director of Peace and Justice Ministries for the Episcopal Church, is currently the co-chair of [Friends of Sabeel North America](#). He too welcomes your questions or concerns. He can be contacted at [grievesbrian@gmail.com](mailto:grievesbrian@gmail.com) or (917) 495-2751.

We can pray with Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem:

*We pray without ceasing for justice, reconciliation, peace, and an end to hatred and war. We also pray for God to change the hearts of all leaders and decision-makers in our countries and around the world, For we are in dire need of hearts that love, show mercy, and are willing to live in unity with others – hearts that respect human dignity and choose life rather than death.*

*We entrust the countries of our Lord's earthly home into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, asking him to have mercy on us all and to give us his peace and blessing. Amen.*

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Bishop Bob

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**RESOLUTION FOR “CEASEFIRE IN GAZA” adopted as amended at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i:**

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2023,

NOTES that over 2,000 Israeli residents and over 4,000 Palestinians in Gaza have so far been killed since 07 October 2023,

NOTES that the Israeli Defense Forces have massed 350,000 troops for an assault on the enclave of Gaza,

NOTES that corridors of escape for the 2.3 million inhabitants of Gaza who are blockaded, and

NOTES that Gaza is 140 square miles (The size of our Island of Lana‘i), and is under total lockdown by the Israeli military,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this 55th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i calls for the borders of Gaza be opened to allow civilians to escape constant bombardment,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this 55th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i demands that humanitarian aid of water, food, health care, fuel, and other basic supplies be allowed into Gaza,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this 55th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i urges the prevention of any further loss of innocent lives,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this 55th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i urges its General Convention Deputation to prepare and submit a resolution reflecting this information and resolution to the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church convening in Louisville, Kentucky, on June 23-28, 2024, and

BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Hawai'i members of the US Congress, to the President of the United States, to Governor of Hawai'i, to members of the Hawai'i Legislature, and to the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations.