

Creating A Ministry of Advocacy

Presenters

In order of appearance:

- Mittie Quinn, Laity, Dumbarton UMC
- Ken Longmyer, Laity, National UMC
- Susanne Hoder, Laity, Friendship UMC
- Neal Christie, Clergy, Greater NJ AC
- Kathryn Johnson, Clergy, New England AC

NEED

What need do you see in your church, community, region, world?

NETWORK

Who else do you know who is concerned or might be concerned about this issue?

INFORMATION/RESOURCES

What information or resources do you need to get started?

PLAN of ACTION

What outreach, ministry, action is appropriate for this need?

A Ministry of Advocacy for the People of Palestine

How did “UMAP” get started?

Kairos Palestine – The Palestinian Christian Initiative

A Moment of Truth: Faith
in a Time of Genocide





United Methodists from the U.S. in attendance at the Kairos Palestine Conference

Front row, right to left:

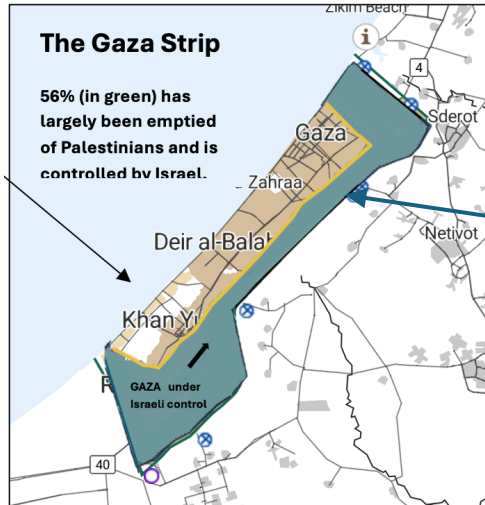
Carol Garwood, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR);

Rev. Dr. Jin Yang Kim, Global Ministries' Liaison for Peace and Justice and the Middle East

Back row, right to left:

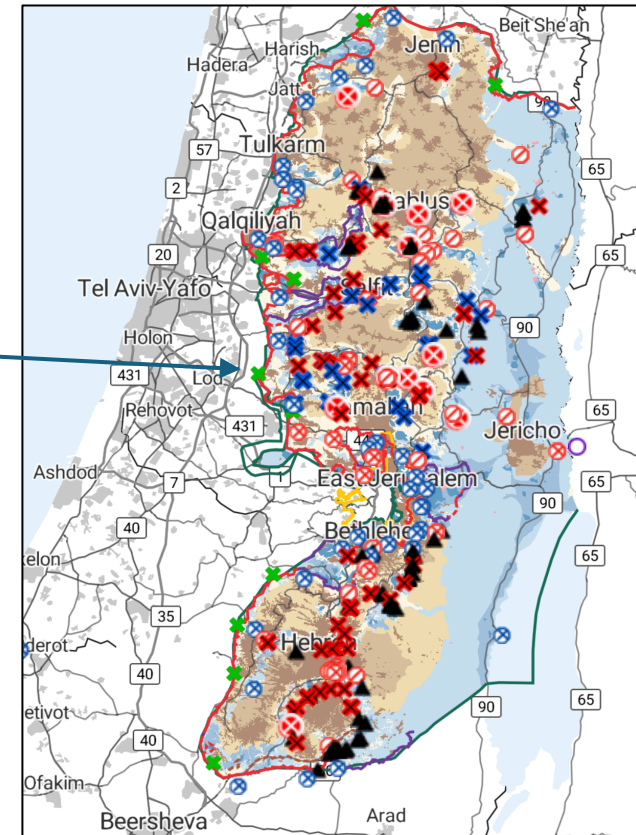
Rev. John Wagner, former Co-Chair of the UMKR Steering Committee;

David Wildman, UMKR Steering Committee Member and former Executive Secretary for Human Rights & Racial Justice with the UMC's General Board of Global Ministries



Note: The green area on the map above has been added to show that more than half of the tiny Gaza Strip, which was only 25 miles long and 3.7 miles wide in places, is now occupied by Israel's military.

Setting the stage...





Mays Nassar

Kairos Palestine Staff

“With the beginning of the genocidal war on Gaza and the worsening reality of apartheid and ethnic cleansing in the West Bank, we reached a decisive moral and theological turning point. Our hearts were compelled to reflect on the meaning of faith in such a time of horror.

We asked ourselves what must we say to our people now?

What is the Christian word in the face of genocide?”

PART 1

“The Reality: Genocide, Colonization and Ethnic Cleansing”



“We raise this cry from the heart of the assault on Gaza – a war that has left behind hundreds of thousands of martyrs and wounded, and nearly two million displaced people.

Many were buried beneath the rubble, burned alive, tortured to death in prisons or forcibly displaced more than once.

Others endured starvation, targeted even as they ran in search of food.

Tens of thousands of children were killed in the most horrific ways.

Gaza’s health, education, economic, and environmental sectors – indeed, every component of life – have been destroyed.”



“Exposed today, is the true face of Zionist ideology: a system that over decades has entrenched an organized and sophisticated regime of apartheid supported by advanced technologies that exercise total control over every aspect of Palestinian life – fragmenting the land, dividing its people, and turning Palestinian existence into an unbearable hell.”

Genocide is both a cumulative process, **“one that began in the minds of the settler-colonial powers of Europe** when they denied the image of God in others and legitimized death, domination and slavery,”



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“We consider the State of Israel, established in 1948, to be a **continuation of that same colonial enterprise** built on racism and the ideology of ethnic or religious superiority.”



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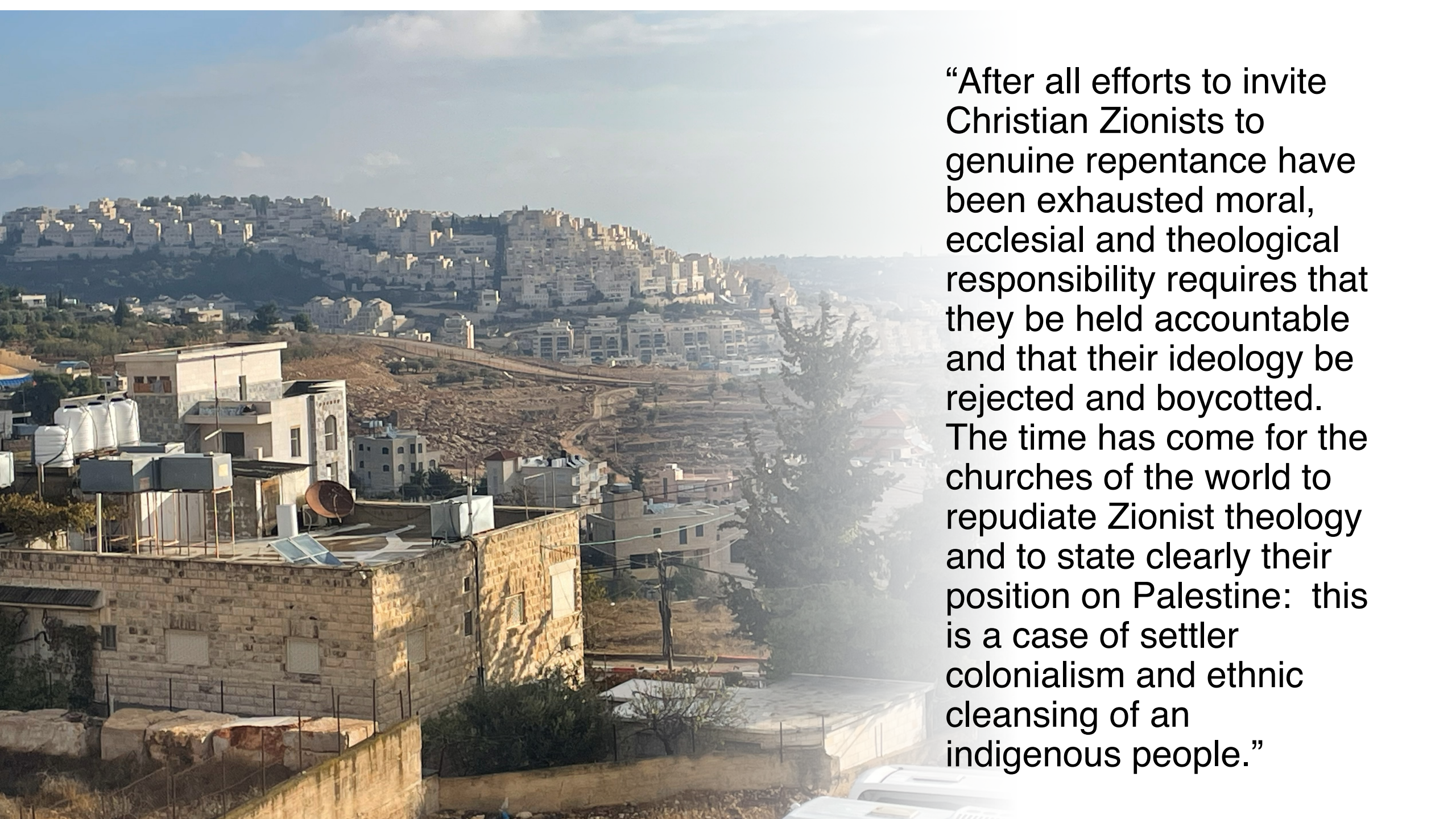


“the genocidal war has laid bare the hypocrisy of the Western world, its hollow values and its empty boasts of commitment to human rights and international law. In truth, the Western world has sacrificed us, revealing racism and double standards toward our people.”

Christian Zionism

“a theology of racism, colonialism and ethnic supremacy...a theology that has produced apartheid, ethnic cleansing and genocide of indigenous people.” “Christian Zionism calls on a tribal, racist god of war and ethnic cleansing, teachings utterly alien to the core of Christian faith and ethics. Christian Zionism must therefore be named for what it is: a theological distortion and a moral corruption.”





“After all efforts to invite Christian Zionists to genuine repentance have been exhausted moral, ecclesial and theological responsibility requires that they be held accountable and that their ideology be rejected and boycotted. The time has come for the churches of the world to repudiate Zionist theology and to state clearly their position on Palestine: this is a case of settler colonialism and ethnic cleansing of an indigenous people.”

The Violence of Israeli Settlers

“Across the occupied West Bank...[t]hey wreak havoc upon the land, destroy crops, poison or seize water resources and attack residents – all under the protection, support and even participation of the Israeli army in acts of violence, killing, home demolitions and forced displacement.”





Palestinians living within the State of Israel

“blatant racism and discrimination persist. Palestinian communities face intimidation, criminalization of free expression, and persecution of any effort to defend Palestinian rights, along with deliberate neglect of rampant organized crime in Palestinian towns. Those displaced within Israel in 1948, whose lands were confiscated, are still denied the right to return to their villages and rebuild their homes. Bedouin communities remain victims of systematic displacement and ethnic cleansing...”

“In recent years, our region – the Middle East – has undergone major political and regional transformations shaped by a deliberate plan to impose Israeli military dominance over the entire area with the support of Western powers, drawing a new political and demographic map. Backed systematically by its allies, Israel has attacked many countries of the region, violating their sovereignty and that of their peoples, flouting international law and entrenching itself as an aggressive, bullying state as if it stands above all laws and conventions – pushing the region and indeed the world to the brink of catastrophe.”



**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**

**International
Criminal
Court**

Part II

A Moment of Truth for Us

“In the face of this harsh reality and at this decisive moment we raise this cry – first to ourselves, to the sons and daughters of our churches and congregations, and to our entire people in the homeland and the diaspora.” Calling “for a comprehensive national reevaluation of our reality to draw lessons and insights leading to a unified, collective vision and a clear strategy for future action... within a legitimate representative framework” warning “against giving our national struggle a religious character or turning it into a religious issue that pits religions against one another.”



The Palestinian Woman

“the unbending backbone, partner in the struggle, holding together home, land, memory and future all at once...

There can be no true liberation without her full participation at every level of decision-making and nation-building.”



The Palestinian Church

“We are the sons and daughters of the first Church...those who cultivated this land, built its cities and villages and drank from its waters. We do not live on the margins of this land. We are woven into its fabric. We carry its history and heritage, Its very soil knows us as its own. Many empires have passed over this land and disappeared, buried in the dust of history, yet the bells of our churches continue to ring – bearing witness to the truth and proclaiming resurrection every day.”



تمت رعاية فخامة رئيس دولة فلسطين
العرس الجماعي الوطني الفلسطيني
10/08/2017



Our Youth

“You are the living Church... We see your anger, your sorrow, your fear. We also see your strength... We do not call you to naïve optimism, but to hope that is rooted in action... Express yourselves. Write. Sing. Create. Organize. Resist through your humanity in a world that seeks to strip it from you.”

Our People in the Diaspora

“You may be geographically far from Palestine, but Palestine lives within you... Your voice has the power to shift realities. Share our suffering and our stories of steadfastness and success... We will not lose our dream of reunification, nor will we abandon our right of return.”



A Call to Repentance and Action

To Christians:

“working together with both religious and secular coalitions... pressure governments to isolate Israel, hold it accountable... press for the prosecution of war criminals whoever they may be... ensure reparations for the Palestinian people... work for the immediate return of the displaced through the reconstruction of Gaza and the strengthening of its people’s steadfastness.”



To people of conscience:



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“believers in God from every faith and persons of conviction...join together in coalitions that safeguard humanity from further descent into the reality of injustice, tyranny and domination.”

“We call for a global theological movement built on the pillars of God’s Kingdom – a movement that arises from the contexts and struggles of peoples suffering from colonialism, racism, apartheid and the structural poverty produced by corrupt economic and political systems that serve the interests of the world’s empires.”

To the Jewish voices that oppose the war and confront Zionism from moral, faith-based and human conviction:

“[W]e find [in you] partners in our shared humanity and in the struggle for freedom and human dignity – partners also in religious and political dialogue.”

Rejecting the conflation of *Jew* and *Zionist*, the document declares, “Not every Jew is a Zionist and not every Zionist is a Jew.”

“By its very nature, true solidarity is costly. It has a price. It is a faith-based stance, a human commitment and a moral responsibility. True solidarity is also the embodiment of our shared humanity and fraternity. Either we live together – or we perish together. Today it is Palestine. Tomorrow it will be other marginalized and oppressed people.”



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Faith in a Time of Genocide:

“To speak of a political solution today is futile unless we first undertake the serious work of acknowledging and rectifying past wrongs – beginning with recognition of the historic injustice done to Palestinians since the rise of the Zionist movement and the Balfour Declaration. Any genuine beginning must involve dismantling settler colonialism and the apartheid system built on Jewish supremacy... What is required is international action and protection... Enduring solutions will not rest on the logic of force, but on the foundations of justice, equality and the right to self-determination.”

UPDATE Since December

GAZA

At least 32 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since early April



738 Palestinians killed since a ceasefire came into effect on 10 October 2025,

Total number of Gazans killed since October 7, 2023 exceeds 73,000

West Bank



Settler attacks continue to increase, with burning of cars and homes, destruction of orchards, killing and theft of livestock, poisoning of wells and attacks on Christians and Muslims

Between October 7 2023 and April 2026 - over 1,000 Palestinians - including 200 children - were killed in the occupied West Bank