

**IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PALESTINIAN “BOYCOTT,
DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS” MOVEMENT (BDS) (UPDATED)**

Submitted by: Mary E. Neznec, delegate, St Mark's Capitol Hill, and co-sponsored by Rev. Michele Morgan, Rector, St Mark's Capitol Hill; Thomas Getman, delegate, St Mark's Capitol Hill; Rev. Jeanie Martinez-Jantz, Interim Rector, St. Mary's Church; Rev. Vidal Rivas, Rector St. Matthews; Rev. Sally Ethelston, St. Matthews; Rev. Peter Jarrett Schell, Rector, Calvary; Steve France, delegate, Redeemer; John Harbeson, delegate, Redeemer.

RESOLVED, That the 129th Convention of the Diocese of Washington show solidarity with the nonviolent International Palestinian “Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions” movement known as BDS by adopting the criteria developed – and implemented -- by the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CCSR) of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, pursuant to General Council Resolution 2018-B016, to establish a “global human rights’ investment screen” in regard to investments of the Church in entities that profit from the continued occupation by the State of Israel since 1967 of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, commonly referred to as Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Diocese of Washington, consistent General Council Resolution 2018-B016 encourage members, congregations, and institutions of the Diocese to increase positive investment in Palestine as for other under-resourced areas where human rights abuses materially impact the well-being of all people; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Diocese of Washington support CCSR in its actions to engage in shareholder advocacy in support of human rights in Israel and the Occupied Territories by exercising the right of a shareholder to submit resolutions at a corporation’s annual meeting.

EXPLANATION: The Episcopal Church has a rich history of policing its endowment investments such that they are consistent with the Church's teachings, core beliefs, and policies, for as the Gospel says, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21. A prominent example of such stewardship involved the Church's divestment from companies profiting from apartheid in South Africa. Today, it is the Palestinians who are suffering under an apartheid system in Israel/Palestine -- as recognized by the Diocese at its annual convention in 2022 -- and are asking the world through their Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement (BDS) to boycott products and divest from companies profiting from Israel's apartheid system. In recent years, Christian denominations, such as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Church of Christ, and the Society of Friends (through its American Friends Service Committee), have shown solidarity with various forms of divestment programs.

In 2018, Resolution B016, was adopted at the 79th General Convention, calling upon its Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CCSR), which has long handled the Church's shareholder investment screening and advocacy, to create a general global human rights screen applicable to Episcopal Church investments in Israel/Palestine, and other countries. In 2019, CCSR placed a negative screen on the shares of three companies -- Caterpillar, Inc, Motorola Solutions, and the Israel Discount Bank -- all found to be complicit in illegal Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories of the West Bank. More companies have since been placed on the screen, while others have been identified as companies with whom active engagement would be undertaken to assess their willingness to end documented complicity with the Occupation. (The screen has been applied to other countries, including China, Myanmar, and Saudi Arabia.)

The solidarity of the Church in responsible endowment management has been replicated at the Diocesan level inconsistently and without a clear mandate. Application of the Church's Global Human Rights Screen to the endowment portfolio of the Diocese of Washington will bring our practice into alignment with that of the Church and be an example to other dioceses.

Adoption of the resolution will have no budgetary impact on the Diocese. It will not be necessary to fund a diocesan entity to conduct reviews, or to follow up on decisions. The diocese will merely need to track the actions of CCSR and execute the requisite transactions in the ordinary course of business.