

Franconia Mennonite Conference
**Church Together Statement
on ISRAEL/PALESTINE**

Purpose/Reason:

Mennonite Church USA adopted a resolution called “Statement of Support for Palestinian and Israeli Partners in Peacemaking” at the Convention in Kansas City in July, which stated that we will strive “to understand more fully the social, economic, and political context in which” Palestinians and Israelis work for peace, “to reflect on our own theological and political understandings of the land of Israel-Palestine, and to discern ways we can seek a more just future for all peoples of Israel and Palestine.” The purpose of this proposed Church Together Statement is to list some specific ways for Franconia Mennonite Conference to implement this resolution. The intended consequences of this statement are to educate ourselves about the people of Israel-Palestine and their problems, and thereby to prepare our congregations, pastors, and delegates to evaluate intelligently the longer resolution, called “Israel-Palestine” that was tabled until Convention 2017.

Church Together Statement:

Be it resolved that Franconia Mennonite Conference will

- publish a list of books and other materials about Israel-Palestine, and encourage its congregations to study and discuss them;
- invite all members of Franconia Conference congregations to come to the Winter Peace Retreat in February to learn more about Palestine-Israel as Andrew Bush shares his experience in and knowledge of Palestine-Israel;
- create other opportunities such as workshops, seminars, and meals, to meet and listen to others who also have firsthand knowledge of this region;
- provide a link to the American Friends Service Committee tool for testing investments, to assist individuals or congregations who want to avoid buying products made by companies that profit from the destruction of life and property in Israel-Palestine and/or investing in those companies.