

**RESOLUTION**  
**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**DIOCESAN CONVENTION**  
**NOVEMBER 3-5, 2016**

**TITLE: Accompanying our Episcopal Sisters and Brothers in the Holy Land**

**PROPOSED BY:** The Rev. Canon Andrea McMillin  
Myles Clarke  
The Rev. Jeanne Forte  
The Rev. Pam Gossard  
The Very Rev. Cliff Haggenjos  
The Rev. Patricia Park  
Mary Taggart

**NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE:** The Rev. Canon Andrea McMillin

**REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION:** The Rev. Canon Andrea McMillin

**DATE:** August 22, 2016

RESOLVED, That the 106th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, through its prayers and actions support the peoples of the Holy Land, especially the Living Stones of our faith, the thousands of Christians who have resided in these sacred lands from the time of the birth of Christ and live there still, among whom are our Palestinian sisters and brothers in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, by implementing the following points in the Resolution C018 passed by the 78th General Convention in June of 2015, which reads:

“That the Convention affirm the work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in healing, education, and pastoral care;  
Affirm the work of Christians engaged in relationship building, interfaith dialogue, non-violent training, and advocacy rights for the Palestinians; and  
Urge Episcopalians to demonstrate our solidarity by making pilgrimage to Israel and the Occupied Territories and learning from our fellow Christians in the region.”

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the 106th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California implement resolution C018 of the 78th General Convention by

1. Encouraging parishes, deaneries and the Diocese to find ways to support the humanitarian work of the Diocese of Jerusalem through the raising of funds to be sent through American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.
2. Urging parishes to study the issues facing the peoples of the Holy Land, particularly those of our Episcopal brothers and sisters.
4. Encouraging the Diocese, its youth ministries, and its parishes to consider pilgrimages to the Holy Land.
5. Participating in the Presiding Bishop’s Good Friday Offering, which provides financial support for Anglican ministries throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

**EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION:**

The population of our Christian brothers and sisters of the Holy Land (the “living stones” of our faith), has diminished from 9.5 % in 1922 to approx. 1% in 2015 and continues to decline. Of those remaining Christians, about 7000 are Palestinian Anglicans. While the Palestinian Christians who remain in Israel/Palestine as a group are well educated and have provided some of the strongest leadership in the quest for peace, the conditions under which they continue to live make it increasingly difficult to remain in the area.

If Christians disappear from the Holy Lands, who will be the hands and feet of Jesus? Who from the Anglican church will be the voices of reconciliation? Who will run the schools, hospitals and many ministries for women, children, and youth as well as the interfaith dialogues? Will the only Anglicans be the pilgrims visiting a land where there is no church family?

While we all work towards a just peace in the Holy Lands, the Christian presence needs to be stabilized. The Diocese of Jerusalem teaches, heals and employs hundreds in good paying jobs. In this critical time in the tinderbox of the world, families need to put food on the table tonight and children need to go to school tomorrow. We can do that.

We call upon their sisters and brothers in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California to stand with them in their valiant effort to remain as living witnesses to the living Christ and his Resurrection by educating ourselves to the realities of their everyday lives; supporting the monumental amount of humanitarian aid they provide through educational services, health care and ministries for women, children and youth as well as interfaith dialogues with people of every faith in the Holy Land and by providing financial aid through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None. This resolution encourages existing program groups to engage in education, participation, and to devote time and energy in planning pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

**RELATION TO DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

Our primary Diocesan Strategic Priority is to create healthy congregations.

One way to do this is to connect our congregations to the larger Anglican Communion, and to develop our capacity to understand and support Christians in other parts of the world.

Learning about the Holy Land and our connection to that sacred geography is a foundation to the formation for youth and adults of all generations. Through education, travel, and personal connections we can strengthen our own congregations as well as the communities of Christians in the Holy Land and our common work towards reconciliation and peace in the Holy Land.