

COME AND SEE FUND
MENNONITE CHURCH USA

The “Come and See Fund” is a fund created by the Director of Holistic Witness of Mennonite Church USA, together with the Coordinating Minister of the Peace and Justice Support Network, on behalf of the Executive Board and Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA.

GOALS: Come and See makes available scholarships to Mennonite Church USA leaders (pastors, denominational leaders, others) to join Mennonite Church USA-sponsored or endorsed learning tours to Israel/Palestine to:

- Gain a better understanding of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and current realities “on the ground.”
- Learn about Palestinian and Israeli organizations that are working for peace and justice, including those with whom Mennonite agencies are partnering
- Explore ancient historical sites and walk in the footsteps of Jesus to deepen understanding of his ministry.
- Encounter Middle East Christians, who have invited us to “come and see” their reality and learn with them about how followers of Jesus engage with these circumstances.
- Better understand Jewish experiences and perspectives that shape Israeli attitudes and policies.
- Consider the role of the church today, both in the Middle East and in North America.
- Return home with a commitment to engage in education and advocacy regarding justice issues in Palestine and Israel.
- Move toward a pro-justice, pro-peace and pro-Jesus commitment – rather than simply a pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian approach.

CRITERIA/TOUR COMPONENTS: Because the goals of the Come and See Fund are rather specific, the fund committee shall use the following criteria in determining whether to endorse a non-MCUSA learning tour:

- 1) At least one full day shall be spent in the West Bank outside Jerusalem, meeting with Mennonite partners -- including Christian Palestinian partners such as Bethlehem Bible College, Wi'am, etc.
- 2) Meet with MCC (Mennonite Central Committee), MMN (Mennonite Mission Network) and/or CPT (Christian Peacemaker Teams) staff to learn about the work of Mennonite agencies in the region (as well as Mennonite Church Canada, EMM and VMM workers who may be present).
- 3) Meet with at least one Israeli peace organization which opposes the military occupation (e.g. Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, Zochrot or New Profile).
- 4) Meet with at least one Israeli Jewish proponent of either conventional Israeli government policies, or a representative of the settler movement.

- 5) Visit sites and individuals that help the group engage with the Jewish experience of Zionism and the Holocaust.
- 6) Consider and critique biblical and theological interpretations that relate to the land, including Christian Zionism.
- 7) A session or background reading that helps participants consider the US role in Israel/Palestine.
- 8) Add depth and meaning to our faith by visiting Holy Land sites important to Judaism, Jesus and the Apostles, and the history of the Christian church.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact:

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