

Process of Drafting “Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine”

The resolution is the product of extensive consultation and dialogue.

- ❖ Delegates at Kansas City in 2015 tabled a resolution on Israel/Palestine presented there, asked that it be re-written and brought back to delegates in two years.
- ❖ KC delegate table comments were compiled and carefully reviewed.
- ❖ The Executive Board approved a process for re-writing and testing the resolution.
- ❖ A three-member writing team gave much time and energy to this task over the course of the last year.
- ❖ The writing team conferred with a ten-member Mennonite reference group, meeting several times and consulting frequently with the group by e-mail and in individual conversations. The reference group included pastors, agency representatives, peacemaking practitioners, and conference representatives. It included participants with relationships with a significant diversity of Palestinian and Jewish leaders.
- ❖ The writing team consulted at several stages with a range of Palestinian and Jewish leaders.
- ❖ Multiple versions were drafted and tested with the reference group and others.
- ❖ The writing process itself facilitated conversations that had not happened before in our fellowship. For example, in one particular week, different members of the writing team and the reference group had conversations with senior Palestinian Christian leaders, activists in the anti-occupation movement, a senior staff member of a national mainstream Jewish organization, as well as a private dinner with then-Secretary of State John Kerry. Until this writing process, many of these deeply engaged Mennonites had not been in conversation with each other.
- ❖ A draft was made public in December 2016 with a request for feedback. 1700 people viewed the invitation for feedback. More than 80 responses were received from across the church, which were considered in making revisions to the resolution.
- ❖ On March 31, 2017, the Executive Board approved “Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine” for consideration by delegates at the Orlando Convention.