

## **General Synod 2010 Global Relations Resolutions Report**

Introduction: The two Global Relations-related resolutions passed at General Synod 2010 (A 183 & A184) concerned relations and advocacy and Palestine Israel. The text of these resolutions is included below. They can also be found online: <http://archive.anglican.ca/gs2010/type/pimj/index.html>

### **Resolution A 183: Strengthening Partnership with the Diocese of Jerusalem**

Of the work outlined in Resolution A183, much has been accomplished in Section 1. c: Strengthening relationships for peace through the establishment of the Canadian Companions of the Diocese of Jerusalem (<http://www.anglican.ca/relationships/programs/global-relations/jerusalem/companions>) , approved by COGS November 2011 (<http://news.anglican.ca/news/stories/2450> ) . A Companions Advisory Council comprised of 8 national volunteers, Global Relations staff support and the Primate (ex officio) has been meeting quarterly or more, prior to and following COGS approval. 48 individual, 11 parish and 5 diocesan members joined the Companions network in 2012, raising almost \$9,000 through membership fees and donations for ministry priorities in the Diocese of Jerusalem. A membership brochure was produced and is being circulated in various local ways. The Companions of Jerusalem will provide information, membership and educational resources at a Joint Assembly /General Synod display booth.

A second major accomplishment in strengthening relationship with the Diocese of Jerusalem has been the appointment of The Rev. John Organ to the position of Bishop's Chaplain, Diocese of Jerusalem (<http://news.anglican.ca/news/stories/2509>) . John and his wife Irene are serving in a three year, paid appointment, at the invitation of Bishop Suheil Dawani. From all reports, John is working effectively in the Bishop's office. John and Irene have settled well into life in Jerusalem and beyond.

A third significant development toward stronger relationship between the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Jerusalem has been the growing diocesan companionship between Ottawa and Jerusalem. Elements of this companionship include short term clergy appointments in diocese of Jerusalem parishes, parish to parish twinning, volunteers in short term work placements, financial support and weekly photo prayer cycle.

Regarding Section 1.a. Pray for peace: the Companions Advisory Council worked to promote October 23, 2012, as The Feast of St. James of Jerusalem, through online prayer and liturgical resources(<http://news.anglican.ca/news/stories/2524>) . This year, the Advisory Council will propose the following Motion on **Jerusalem Sunday** to General Synod:

That this General Synod invite Anglicans in Canada each year:

- i. To observe the Seventh Sunday of Easter, commonly known as the Sunday after Ascensions Day, as Jerusalem Sunday;
- ii. On that day give special attention to the work of the Anglican Church in the land of our Lord's birth, death and resurrection, and;

- iii. On that day take up a special financial offering as a gift to the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Of the remaining work associated with Resolution A183, progress has been made on educating for peace though much more can be done. General Synod worked with ecumenical partners in 2011 to produce and distribute a three session study guide to *A Moment of Truth : Kairos Palestine* (<http://news.anglican.ca/news/stories/2430>) . A stable *Relations: Jerusalem* (<http://www.anglican.ca/relationships/programs/global-relations/jerusalem>) site was developed on the national website with direct links to the Diocese of Jerusalem, and national and global ecumenical organizations committed to working in solidarity with Palestine Israel partners toward peace with justice. Over the triennium, the national website carried ten (10) feature news stories on some aspect of relationship with Jerusalem. Zatoun (<http://www.zatoun.com/>) will join the Companions display table at General Synod with products for purchase and information about Palestinian fair trade olive oil products. General Synod staff and volunteers regularly participate in meetings with ecumenical and church-related organizational partners to learn about issues and realities of Palestinian and Arab Christians in the Middle East.

Further work is needed in fulfilling the request of General Synod for a regular prayer cycle for the diocese of Jerusalem and for Christians in the Land of the Holy One, and the Companions Advisory Council plan to work with Mr. Chris Dunn, Diocese of Ottawa, in developing a national link or version of Ottawa's weekly photo prayer resource. Work is also needed in encouraging church members nationally to study and learn about the history and current realities of the Middle East, and Palestine Israel in particular. The Companions Advisory Council intends to participate in the development of a conference/consultation on Christian Zionism in 2014, in collaboration with General Synod's Faith Worship and Ministry department and Global Relations.

Further work is also needed in providing information, guidelines, resources for parishes and dioceses to participate in multi-faith dialogue in their own communities, and in developing a prayer resource for Canadian Anglican pilgrims to the region. Discussion is ongoing as to the best media for such a prayer guide.

#### **Resolution A 184: Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel**

Of the work outlined in Resolution A184, a letter was written by the previous General Secretary to the Prime Minister of Canada reiterating the Anglican church of Canada's established policy with respect to peace with justice in Israel and Palestine. The ecumenical study guide to *A Moment of Truth: Kairos Palestine* (mentioned above) was produced and distributed to PMEJC members, the House of Bishops, through Augsburg Press online catalogue and upon request for use as personal and parish study material.

A new resolution is before PMEJC for consideration and recommendation to the Council of General Synod, calling for re-affirmation of General Synod's existing commitments to solidarity with people seeking peace with justice in Palestine Israel, for reiteration of our position to the Government of Canada, and for concrete, concerted action including education and economic advocacy measures directed at products produced in or related to the illegal Israeli settlements. The new resolution also calls for the building of awareness of the impact of these settlements on the live of Palestinians and Israelis, for exploring and challenging theologies and beliefs, such as Christian Zionism, in support of the occupation, and for stronger relationships with Canadian Jews and Muslims to resolutely oppose anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.