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Public Statement on Israel-Palestine

The LWF Council, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from 27 June to 2 July, 2018, under the theme “freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8), deliberated and adopted the following message to the LWF member churches:

Israel-Palestine

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. (Romans 10:12)

- (1) The Council wishes to call on the LWF member churches to renew their awareness of the situation in Israel and Palestine where the occupation continues today. Much less concern is being expressed in the public arena about the situation of the Palestinian people, with its on-going effects on daily life and an increasing number of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories.
- (2) The Council reaffirms the LWF’s support for a two-state solution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine even though currently there are no active negotiations between the parties.
- (3) Bearing in mind that U.S. President Donald J. Trump has visited Jerusalem and recognized Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel, the LWF continues to recognize Jerusalem as a capital city shared between the two peoples and three religions and opposes all actions which seek to change the status quo absent a final status agreement.
- (4) The Council calls upon the Member Churches to inform their members about the public statement by the LWF Council on the situation in the Middle East in 2011 as a basis for building awareness, engaging in advocacy and accompanying the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).
- (5) The Council also reaffirms on-going interreligious dialogues of the ELCJHL among the Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities as well as the support and encouragement received from the Middle East Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches.