2016 Resolution on Divestment

WHEREAS, in 2005, the ELCA approved "Peace Not Walls" as a strategy for this church's engagement in the efforts to bring a just and lasting peace to the conflict between Israel and Palestine; and

WHEREAS, in spite of this church's call to "Awareness, Accompaniment and Advocacy," the nation of Israel and the Palestinian Authority remain deeply divided, and unable to negotiate an agreement that will provide security, justice and peace for both states; and

WHEREAS, the continued occupation of the Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, by the State of Israel hampers efforts to create a just and lasting peace, and violates the rights of Palestinians as defined by the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" (ICCPR) which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 16, 1966, and to which both Israel and the United States are parties; and

WHEREAS, several multinational corporations have provided materials and resources that instead of encouraging solutions that will bring a just and lasting peace in fact have exacerbated the conflict, perpetuated injustice, and violated the human rights of Palestinians, including:

Caterpillar Corporation which provides bulldozers that Israel has used for the demolition of homes of Palestinians accused or suspected of activity that challenges or combats Israel's continued occupation of the Palestinian territories seized during the 1967 War thus violating Article 17 of the ICCPR which states, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence"; and

Hewlett-Packard Company which developed, integrates and maintains finger print and facial recognition data collected on every Palestinian over the age of 16 that enables Israel to track and control their movements, which violates Article 17 of the ICCPR which states, "Everyone has the right to the liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence"; and

Motorola Solutions which supplies Israel with weapon components, military communications systems and surveillance systems that sustain the occupation of the Palestinian Territories and delay the formation of Palestine as a nation, which violates Article 24 of the ICCPR which states, "Every child has the right to acquire a nationality"; and

Group 4 Securicor (G4S) which provides equipment and services to Israeli prisons where political prisoners and children are detained without trial and subjected to torture, which violates Article 7 of the ICCPR which states, "No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"; and

WHEREAS, three of the ELCA's full communion partners - the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church - have each voted within the past two years to similarly divest funds from these and other companies that prolong Israel's occupation or inhibit the formation of a viable Palestinian state; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod meeting in Assembly recommend that the Synod Council take those steps necessary to divest any and all stocks the Southwest California Synod may have invested in Caterpillar Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company,Motorola Solutions and G4S; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod meeting in Assembly recommend to its member congregations, rostered leaders, agencies and institutions that they consider divesting any and all funds they may have in Caterpillar Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company, Motorola Solutions and G4S; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod meeting in Assembly recommend that the ELCA Church Council take whatever steps to divest any and all funds the ELCA has invested in Caterpillar Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company, Motorola Solutions and G4S; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod meeting in Assembly recommend that the ELCA Churchwide Assembly consider referring a motion to divest pension funds from Caterpillar Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company, Motorola Solutions and G4S to the Board of Portico Benefits for recommendation and action; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod Assembly direct the Synod Secretary to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.