

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Emily Schappacher
UCC Communications Specialist
Mobile: (216) 571-8967
Email: schappachere@ucc.org

United Church of Christ votes to divest from companies that profit from Israeli Occupation

CLEVELAND (June 30, 2015) - The United Church of Christ has passed a resolution calling for divestment from companies that profit from the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and for a boycott of products produced by Israeli companies based in the settlements there.

The decision was made Tuesday, June 30, during the denomination's biennial General Synod gathering taking place June 26-30 at the Cleveland Convention Center.

"The UCC has been engaged in global issues of peace and justice for a very long time, and on Israel/Palestine for decades," said Peter Makari, executive for the Middle East and Europe for Global Ministries (a joint ministry of the UCC and the Christian Church Disciples of Christ). "These resolutions reflect our urgent concern for the worsening effects of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian people and lives, including the disparity in rights and power. These votes reaffirm the UCC's commitment to the dignity of all people."

The UCC believes that the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is one of the most enduring conflicts of our time, and remains deeply concerned about the violence perpetuated through acts of terror and by the Occupation. The church considers Tuesday's actions a next step in the UCC's involvement with peace in the Middle East.

"The United Church of Christ condemns all forms of violence and anti-Semitism, and affirms Israel's right to exist within secure and internationally recognized borders," said the Rev. James Moos, executive minister of UCC Wider Church Ministries and co-executive of Global Ministries. "We similarly assert the right of Palestinians to have a sovereign, independent and viable state within secure and recognized borders."

###

About the United Church of Christ:

The United Church of Christ is a mainline Protestant denomination with nearly 1 million members and more than 5,000 congregations nationwide. Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, the UCC is a church of many firsts, including the first mainline denomination to ordain a

woman, the first to ordain an openly-gay man and the first predominantly white denomination to ordain an African American.

The UCC and its members are tireless advocates for social issues such as immigration reform, racial equality, LGBT rights, marriage equality, environmental protection and economic justice.