

Recommended Procedures and Other Matters Related to Israel and Palestine

Recommendation 1

Schedule early hearings: It is recommended that the two committees most likely to receive resolutions (#7 Social Justice and International Policy and #18 Stewardship and Socially Responsible Investing) related to Israel and Palestine schedule hearings (jointly if possible) no later than the second legislative day, and that they be scheduled a month prior to the opening of Convention so that people wishing to attend and give testimony at those hearings will have ample time to arrange to be in attendance.

Following those hearings, it is recommended that proposed resolutions be sent to the floor of the originating House no later than the 4th legislative day.

Recommendation 2

House of Initial Action: The working group recommends assignment to House of Deputies as the House of Initial Action for both legislative committees #7 and #18 which allows for greater breadth of participation from the wider church represented in the HOD while respecting the House of Bishops right to concur or not.

It is further recommended that resolutions on Israel/Palestine which relate to the Church's investments or economic pressure be referred to committee #18.

Recommendation 3

Special Order of Business: The working group recommends that each House call for a special order of business to allow debate for a time certain, thus preventing short circuiting of discussion of substantive resolutions on this important subject.

Recommendation 4

Role of Staff: Staff play an important role as resource persons to the various legislative committees. The working group recommends to the Presiding Officers that they remind and instruct all staff to legislative committees to tread carefully between being resource persons vs. being advocates of policy making, which is the purview of the bishops and deputies.

Recommendation 5

Role of the Archbishop of Jerusalem: It is the recommendation of the working group that no group, partisan or non-partisan, purport to speak for the Archbishop. It is further recommended that the two presiding officers (The President of the House of Deputies and the Presiding Bishop) confer with the Archbishop prior to the opening of General Convention and clarify his preferred representation on matters related to Israel, Palestine

and the ongoing occupation. The Presiding Officers, in consultation with the Archbishop, would share any appropriate part of their discussion with their respective Houses as the three parties agree, which might include a written statement. The Archbishop would, of course, be free to give testimony at legislative hearings, or not, as he chooses. If he elects to testify, it is recommended he be given preference to speak early in the hearing(s).