

Central District Conference Delegates Reach consensus on
“Response to Ongoing suffering in Palestine” Resolution
By Doug Luginbill, Conference Minister

During my ten years as conference minister, no resolutions have been presented for discernment at our CDC Annual Meeting. . .until this year. Yes, we always affirm the spending plan and the slate of committee members. We attend seminars and hear stories which inform and shape our mission. But resolutions which invite our congregations and member/attendees to discuss, discern, and take action on an issue of conference-wide concern is something which hasn’t happened for over ten years. The Spirit was moving among us on the Saturday morning of Annual Meeting in Harrisonburg, VA as we discerned a resolution entitled “[Response to Ongoing Suffering in Palestine.](#)”

Lima Mennonite Church (Ohio) submitted the resolution. Central District board member, Lydia Brenneman, is a member of Lima Mennonite. Lydia was born into a Palestinian Christian family in Bethlehem, Palestine. In November 2025, Lydia was present at the conference in Bethlehem where representatives of various Christian faith traditions and 23 countries created the document and study guide, [Kairos Palestine II - A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide document \(Kairos II\)](#). Lydia was moved by the conference and knew she needed to do more when she returned home to Ohio. This was the impetus for her congregation to create the CDC Resolution: “Response to Ongoing Suffering in Palestine.” Lydia presented the resolution to delegates and participants.

Our collective concern and outrage at the violence experienced by Palestinians, Israelis, and others in the region isn’t new to Mennonites. In 2027, MC USA delegates strongly affirmed the “[Seeking Peace in Israel and Palestine](#)” Resolution. The resolution brought to our 2026 Annual Meeting by Lima Mennonite Church referenced this previous resolution as well as the Kairos II document.

The purpose of resolutions in Central District Conference serves four primary functions:

1. To provide information and education about issues facing the church
2. To build consensus across the conference to work toward common understandings and build unity. Resolutions are not consider binding on members and congregations unless identified as having that intent from the beginning. The “Response to Ongoing Suffering in Palestine” resolution was not presented as binding on congregations or individual members of CDC.
3. To provide conference understanding, while acknowledging dissenting voices
4. To provide a foundation for member advocacy to government.

I strongly encourage congregations, Sunday School classes, small groups, or study groups to study, reflect, and discern this [resolution](#) and the supporting documents provided. Our delegates and non-delegates engaged I healthy, rich, and meaningful discernment on the resolution and passed it unanimously.

Friends, Rise up! Take courage! May our voices and our actions bear witness to God’s shalom.

