

Greetings,

As your General Council Executive Representatives, Doug and I would like to communicate to you the decision on GS27 - Implementation of General Council Motion on Palestine/Israel Education and Economic Action. The purpose of this motion was to ask the advice of the Executive on when to roll out the Economic Action against products produced in the settlements located in occupied Palestinian territories.

As background to this, the General Secretary, Moderator and General Council Office received, as of April 28, 2013 185 pieces of correspondence. Of these that were directly sent to the General Council Office at least two originated within the bounds of London Conference. Doug and I received personally 11 pieces of correspondence, 5 of which were from London Conference individuals. All of these were in overwhelming support of the immediate beginning of the economic action as outlined in option A of the motion. In light of this support and the general consensus and understanding of General Council Executive Members, who were also General Council Commissioners, adopted option A with slight change for clarity. The following was the motion adopted:

That the Palestine/Israel Education and Economic Action Campaign be activated beginning spring 2013, in the following phases:

- *From June 2013: engagement with select companies and retail stores, and selection of target items;*
- *From September 2013: consumer economic action, highlighting spiritual reflection and action for Advent, Christmas, and Lenten seasons*
- *July - December 2014: Evaluation, follow-up actions, and preparation of report for March 2015 Executive meeting.*

The slight changes were to clarify the beginning of the engagement of companies in June 2013, to subsequently highlight this at major times in the church calendar and commercial season, and to evaluate the ongoing process in July-December of 2014. This will be in addition to the ongoing engagement of the Government of Canada to label settlement products, to call for a freeze on settlement expansion, continue to have guest speakers available for congregations and groups, and to create educational information and have it available through the United Church website. Part of this work will also be to emphasize the relationship of Christians, Palestinian Christians and Israelis within Palestine/Israel and Canada.

Please feel free to contact Doug and myself if you have any further questions regarding this or any other decision of the General Council Executive.

Yours in Christ,
Charles McMillan & Rev. Doug Wright
Email: www.united-church.ca/contact/gce/london
May 15, 2013