Happy New Year to all of you. Your IPMN Steering Committee brings you greetings and prays for a year of significant progress towards justice and peace in Israel/Palestine.

Since the last Network Highlights was produced in late October, there has been a lot of activity by your Steering Committee. The 2010-2011 Steering Committee met last week to catch up with each other and to move forward in the many statements and actions which have occurred since we last met. We took actions or heard reports on the following:

- Welcomed new Steering Committee members John Bivens, Nahida Gordon and David Jones.

- Approved with regret the resignation of Will McGarvey as vice-moderator. Asked the Nominating Committee to get underway in nominating a new vice-moderator.

- Heard a report from Finance Committee chair, David Johnson about the progress of our current pledging campaign Sustaining the Hope. As of the end of 2010, we have reached 73% of our $36,000.00 goal with cash and pledges totalling $26,525.00. If you have not yet given your gift to this campaign follow the directions in the box below and make an extra notation of Sustaining the Hope next to the ECO number.

- Heard a report from the Education Committee about the placement of the IPMN Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth Study Guide in the PC(USA) store. It is available through a link on our IPMN homepage or at www.pcusa.org/store (put Kairos Study Guide in search or enter 264661001 in the search).

- Heard another report from the Education Committee regarding the possible second edition of Steadfast Hope. Details and statistics are still being collected before a decision is made.

- Began a process of getting our IPMN historical records in order to be deposited with the Presbyterian Historical Society. This will take some time but these documents need to be preserved in an organized way for the future.

- Continued conversation about our strategy and ability to pay for press releases and advertisements through the Religion News Service. Since the spring of 2010, we have submitted several press releases in response to various attacks or issues. Each of these has a significant charge and decisions must be made quickly in between meetings as to whether to respond.

- Heard a brief report from Jeff DeYoe on the work of the ME Monitoring Committee of which he is a member.

- Agreed that IPMN has to issue a position statement opposing the Dept. of Justice subpoenas in Chicago area targeting Palestinian solidarity activists. IPMN will be asking our denomination as well as other national religious bodies to join us in opposing infringements on constitutional rights.

The Right to protest: Codified by the First Amendment and upheld over time as one of our most basic rights as Americans, the right to assemble, protest, and petition still continue to come under fire today. [http://www.aclu.org/free-speech/right-protest](http://www.aclu.org/free-speech/right-protest)
We hope that you will begin to make it a habit to go to the IPMN web page (www.TheIPMN.org) on a regular basis. This is the main place where you can find press releases, up to date articles, book reviews, videos and our community.

NEWS ABOUT IPMN MEMBERS

- We were saddened to learn of the death of IPMN member Marjorie Ford in Tucson in December. We were also saddened to hear of the death of Carol Weir, wife of former moderator Benjamin Weir, in San Francisco in December. Keep these families in your prayers.

- IPMN member from Detroit Presbytery, the Rev. Dr. William G. Gepford was honored by the Islamic Center of America for his many years of work with the Middle Eastern community of Dearborn, MI. Bill came to Dearborn in 1979 and has been instrumental in helping the schools, hospitals, and the community in general learn how to work together. He has been associated with the Littlefield Church in Dearborn all of these years. Southeast Michigan now has the largest population of peoples from the Middle East after France. Working also for the Presbytery of Detroit, Bill has spent these years concentrating on interfaith relationships and educating Presbyterians about this new population in our midst. He was given one of the two annual Imam Muhamad Jawad Chirri Commitment to Excellence Awards.

- Please keep Polly and David Johnson’s 9 year old granddaughter Annie in your prayers. Annie received a heart transplant a few days after Christmas and is doing quite well at this time but recovery will be lengthy. Please keep all of the Johnson family in your prayers.

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

(Taken from Presbyterian Voices for Justice Network News – Summer 2010)

Gifts to Israel/Palestine Mission Network

All individual gifts to IPMN should be sent to the following address, noting ECO #E052802 on the memo line:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Carol Hylkema, Moderator (chylkema@wowway.com)
Polly Johnson, Secretary (phj5@insightbb.com)