IPMN
The Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church(USA)
OUR MANDATE
from the Presbyterian Church (USA)
HOW IPMN BEGAN

- IPMN was born out of an overture to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2004.
- As our mandate calls for, we seek to “demonstrate solidarity, educate about the facts on the ground, and change the conditions that erode the humanity of both Israelis and Palestinians, especially those who are living under occupation in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza.”
THE IPMN...

... encourages congregations and presbytery mission committees, task groups and other entities, toward specific mission goals that will create currents of wider and deeper involvement with Israel/Palestine.
Though our mandate establishes a “Palestine Mission Network” to advocate for Palestinian rights, we believe our efforts are in the interests of both Israelis and Palestinians and for this reason, have included both peoples in the name of our network. Additionally, Israel (under 1967 borders) is home to over a million Palestinians whom we also advocate for.
We work in close cooperation with the Office for the Middle East of the General Assembly Mission Council of the PC(USA) and with ecumenical partners.

We also work with The Office of Public Witness (Washington Office), The Presbyterian UN Office and with other appropriate entities of the General Assembly and General Assembly Mission Council.
THE IPMN IS...

- The network provides opportunities for Presbyterians throughout the country and at all levels of the church to coordinate ongoing efforts and discover new ones. Ultimately, we aim to support our church partners in Palestine to:
  - Strengthen Christian social institutions
  - Create jobs and promote economic development
  - Maintain schools and hospitals
  - Enable affordable and safe housing for Palestinians
OUR MISSION

In joyful obedience to the call of Christ, and in solidarity with churches and our other partners in the Middle East, this network covenants to engage, consolidate, nourish, and channel the energy in the Presbyterian Church (USA) toward the goal of a just peace in Israel /Palestine by facilitating education, promoting partnerships, and coordinating advocacy.

*Our network speaks TO the Church not FOR the Church.*
CONNECTION TO THE PC(USA)
In the mid 1990s, the denomination de-centralized World Mission and allowed grassroots groups around the country to form independent mission networks.

Mission networks became a reality because Presbyterians want to be involved in mission at a grassroots level.

IPMN is one of 38 mission networks of the PC(USA) we are one of the most successful, based on membership, fundraising, publications, grants, etc.
by speaking TO the Church, not FOR the church, we hope to lead the way for the rest of the church body towards working for a peace with justice in Palestine and Israel
CREATING THE NETWORK

Bethlehem Hilltop
After the mandate was passed by GA in 2004, about 15 people met in Spring 2005 at a first planning meeting in Louisville, KY.

- a leadership group emerged

A second meeting was held in March 2006 in Washington DC in conjunction with Ecumenical Advocacy Days

- about 30 people attended
At March 2006 meeting, plans were put into place for an overture for a “Week of Witness” asking the denomination to celebrate the Christians of the Middle East.

- The 2006 GA passed the overture and allocated Week of Witness funds to mail materials to all 11,000 churches.

- IPMN produced many different resources for the Week of Witness that took place in Spring 2007, including worship materials, education and a speakers bureau.
Network meetings in fall 2006 and spring 2007 were spent on organizing for the Week of Witness and putting together educational, liturgical and worship resources

- *Cradle of Our Faith, the Enduring Witness of the Christians of the Middle East* was published for the Week of Witness
- This resource was published with the PC(USA) imprimatur
- The success of the Week of Witness established IPMN as an entity
In April/May 2006, a group of 100 Presbyterians went to see the facts on the ground with the PC(USA) Peacemaking Program on a now renowned trip.

The 12-day trip had people commissioned for peacemaking from all over the country.
- Presbyteries and local congregations helped defray costs for many delegations.
By the Fall of 2007, the Network realized that it needed a formal fundraising campaign to continue its work and voted to install a group to lead this initiative.

- Election of leadership, formal bylaws and committees established
  - Education, Trips & Partners, Advocacy, Communication, Finance
    - ongoing monthly conference calls
Within 2 years of the Peacemaking Trip, 50 of the 100 were at the 2008 General Assembly actively advocating for Palestinian human rights.

The “Trip of 100” provided a crowd of new active members to the fledgling network.
In the early years, IPMN met in the spring and fall at the Cenacle Retreat Center in Chicago, IL.
- attendance was about 40 to 50 people by Fall 2007
- By Fall of 2008, meetings held once a year
  - attendance now averages about 60 to 70
  - members travel to annual meeting at their own expense
  - Membership rolls at approx. 450
  - members are from over 80 presbyteries around the country
The 2011 Annual Meeting was held in Louisville, KY so IPMN members could meet with GAMC staff work together in person.

At the 2011 meeting, IPMN sponsored a full-day theological symposium entitled: “Bible, Land and our Theological Challenge”

- Attendance was over 100
- The entire event was live-streamed all day from the Presbyterian Center for viewers around the world (a first for the Presbyterian Center)
- The video is available at our website.
IPMN has no paid staff and is an all volunteer organization.

IPMN’s mission is funded 100% by member pledges made annually.
- We are a true grassroots organization, organized from the bottom up.
  - Being grassroots is our true strength.