

Moderators of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



June 15, 2012

Dear Commissioners and Advisory Delegates to the 220th General Assembly:

We write to you as Moderators of previous General Assemblies who over the course of many years have collectively observed the good integrity of our Presbyterian system in regard to the financial stewardship of the resources God has given to our Church. We know that those chosen to serve on the Committee for Mission Responsibility Through Investment and the General Assembly Mission Council do not take their calling lightly. We firmly believe that the recommendation to divest from Caterpillar, Inc., Hewlett Packard and Motorola Solutions is the morally responsible thing to do at this time.

Those who oppose this action will be asking you to join them for two reasons: 1) That we do not damage our historic relationship with the Jewish people, and 2) So that we might give “positive investment” time to work. We urge you to ignore those pleas for two reasons.

First, our investment in corporations that profit from non-peaceful pursuits anywhere in the world is not about our relationship with any group of people but rather, the integrity of our public witness as the Church of Jesus Christ. For over four decades now we have had a clear policy of faith-based investment. Faith based investment means we practice what we preach by making sure we do not invest in the misery and even death of God’s people anywhere.

MRTI has scrupulously followed the process of corporate engagement for the past eight years, but without any change on the part of Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard. The integrity of our public witness now requires divestment as the last resort.

Second, peace will not come to the Middle East without non-violent pressure to end the Israeli occupation and the ongoing theft of Palestinian land. Those who urge investment instead of divestment fail to recognize the military occupation as the major roadblock to peace. Few have made this point any stronger or clearer than Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb in the enclosed letter.

The truth is that normal “positive” investment is not possible in a land that is occupied militarily, divided into Bantustans, and where the residents are so restricted in movement they cannot even visit family and friends. In addition, there are many

examples of the Israeli military actually destroying positive investment initiatives in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Positive investment will occur when Palestinians are allowed to live and do business in the same manner free peoples anywhere in the world do the same rather than depend upon outside churches, groups and agencies trying to come up with ideas that simply will not work given the present state of occupation in Palestine.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, 218th GA-PCUSA, 2008-2010

Elder Rick Ufford-Chase, 216th GA-PCUSA, 2004-2006

Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel, 214th GA-PCUSA, 2002-2003

Rev. Dr. Jack Rogers, 213th GA-PCUSA, 2001-2002

Rev. Syngman Rhee, 212th GA-PCUSA, 2000-2001

Elder Freda A. Gardner, 211th GA-PCUSA, 1999-2000

Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Oldenburg, 210th GA-PCUSA, 1998-1999

Elder Patricia Brown, 209th GA-PCUSA, 1997-1998

Elder Marj Carpenter, 207th GA - PCUSA, 1995-1996

Rev. Dr. David Dobler, 205th GA - PCUSA, 1993-1994

Rev. John M. Fife, 204th GA-PCUSA, 1992-1993

Rev. Benjamin Weir, 198th GA-PCUSA, 1986-1987