



Jewish Community Relations Council

of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties
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Media Announcement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JCRC Hails Presbyterian Church for Dropping Divestment from Israel policy

Spokespersons available for on-the-record comment and analysis

In response to the Presbyterian Church's (U.S.A.) passage of a resolution at its General Assembly reversing a two-year old 'phased selective divestment' position focused specifically on Israel, the San Francisco-based Jewish Community Relations Council, today issued the following statement:

"The JCRC commends the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for adopting a balanced and thoughtful policy on peacemaking between Israelis and Palestinians. The church will now hold companies working in Israel to the same standard as the rest of its investments. Today's resolution calls for a 'new season' of interfaith cooperation,' to which we are deeply committed," said Michael Futterman, JCRC President.

The resolution also changes the church's stance on Israel's security barrier, by recognizing Israel's needs to protect its borders, and no longer calling for the barrier's removal, but instead focusing on its location. "The PCUSA General Assembly has turned an important corner," Futterman added, "by changing its policies, calling for improved relations, and acknowledging the pain and misunderstanding caused by the process and policies from two years ago. The challenge to work together constructively now falls to all who have engaged in this spirited conversation."

JCRC, in conjunction with major American Jewish organizations, have works diligently to foster collaborative relations between the Christian and Jewish communities.

Yitzhak Santis, JCRC's Middle East Affairs Director, said: "We must build on the lessons we have learned - and continue to engage on even the most contentious issues. Clearly there is great passion on issues pertaining to the Middle East. Our fervent prayer is that we can harness these energies in the pursuit of justice, peace, and security for Israelis and Palestinians. We will continue to promote dialogue and understanding, as we also make the case that threats of divestment are not the path to peace."

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The Jewish Community Relations Council is the central public affairs arm of the organized Jewish community, representing more than 80 synagogues and Jewish organizations in the Bay Area on public affairs issues.