

**Christian Clergy Letter for Israeli-Palestinian Peacemaking:
A Negotiated Two-State Solution with a Shared Jerusalem**

Dear President Bush,

(Our churches) commend your call for a negotiated two-state solution to the conflict and we share your vision of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state living in peace with its neighbor Israel. We recognize that new challenges have arisen in the pursuit of peace and encourage your continued leadership.

We remain steadfast in our pursuit of peace and justice, and we continue to be hopeful that, with your help, both parties can achieve peace and security for their peoples. These three elements reflect the long-standing positions of (your denomination/church) and Churches for Middle East Peace, an ecumenical coalition of twenty one churches and church related agencies.

Active, sustained and constructive engagement by the United States government, in cooperation with the United Nations, toward resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, for the sake of Israelis, Palestinians, the broader region and for our own national security.

A negotiated resolution of the conflict that realizes the vision of a region where two viable states, Israel and Palestine, live side-by-side with secure and recognized borders.

The sharing of an undivided Jerusalem by the two peoples – Israelis and Palestinians – and by the three religious communities that call it sacred.

We therefore ask you to:

- Make Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking a high priority of your Administration, and work cooperatively with the Quartet to prepare Israel and the Palestinians for negotiations.
- Express your support for the sharing of Jerusalem by Israel and the future state of Palestine, and affirm the importance of the Holy City to Jews, Christians and Muslims.
- Reject unilateral actions by Israel that threaten to prejudge final status negotiations on borders and Jerusalem, including the building of settlements and the separation barrier in the East Jerusalem area and the West Bank.
- Press the new Palestinian government to commit to nonviolence, recognize Israel and accept previous agreements, while you continue to engage the moderate Palestinian leadership and help the Palestinian people through financial aid from the U.S.
- Promote religious freedom in the Holy Land and encourage the continued presence of local Christians, who play an important role in a democratic and pluralistic Palestinian society.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator NAME
Senator NAME
Representative NAME