ANNUAL REPORT

Program Year:
September 2021 - August 2022
DEAR CMEP FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

As another year comes to a close, it is hard to believe all you have helped us accomplish through our efforts at Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP). It has been a gift to return to face-to-face meetings at local churches across the country and to revisit our friends and partners in the Middle East. The following report is a testament to how your donations and support make a difference. We couldn’t do this work without you!

From September 2021 through the end of summer 2022, CMEP continued in our mission to EDUCATE, ELEVATE, & ADVOCATE in order to mobilize US Christians to embrace a holistic perspective and to be advocates of equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East.

• We EDUCATED more people than ever via our virtual webinars and in-person events. Including several webinar series co-hosted with organizations such as Embrace the Middle East, American Friends of Combatants for Peace, the American Association of Catholic Priests, and others!
• CMEP staff was on the ground to support and ELEVATE our partners in Israel, Palestine (including time in Gaza), Armenia, and Egypt throughout the year.
• Your support has allowed us to increase our ADVOCACY efforts that influence U.S. foreign policy from the White House to the State Department and among lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

As we head into 2023, we are hopeful to see more peace than conflict. We will continue to do the work to encourage U.S. policies that actively promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

This year marked my seventh year as the executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), and it is my privilege to continue to lead the organization. I believe it is our Christian responsibility to respond to the oppression we witness and to advocate for justice and equality for all people in the Middle East. Our friends in the region inspire us with their steadfast presence, their commitment to nonviolent resistance, and their hope for a better future. As we seek to follow the example of Christ Jesus, may we better love and respond to the injustices we witness. May the power of God go before us.

Many Blessings,

REV. DR. MAE ELISE CANNON
Executive Director

SUPPORT THE WORK: CMEP.ORG/DONATE
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PARTICIPATE
OPERATIONS, DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE, AND OTHER DETAILS
this past program year saw work & advocacy from:

2  FELLOWS
2  INTERNS
2  VOLUNTEERS
18 STAFF  just under 9 “full-time equivalents”
21 REGIONAL COORDINATORS
21  LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS
32  BOARD ORGANIZATIONS
132  CHURCH PARTNERS
50k CONSTITUENTS
CMEP BOARD ORGANIZATIONS
and their representatives as of Fall 2022

Alliance of Baptists: Katherine Metres Akbar
American Baptist Churches, USA: Rev. William T. Young, IV
American Friends Service Committee: Michael Merryman-Lotze
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America: Fr. Thomas Zain
Armenian Orthodox Church: Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Catholic Conference of Major Superiors of Men’s Institutes: Tom Southard
Catholic Relief Services, observer
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Peter Makari
Christians for Social Action: Nikki Toyama-Szeto
Christian Reformed Church: David Zigterman
Church of the Brethren: Rev. Nate Hosler, Ph.D.
Church World Service: Steve Weaver
Community of Christ: Steve Kellogg
The Episcopal Church: Paul Feheley
Evangelical Covenant Church: Erikkka Hedberg
Evangelicals For Justice: Dr. Andrea Smith
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Dennis Frado
Franciscan Friars (OFM): Russ Testa
Friends Committee on National Legislation: Hassan El-Tayyab
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America: Maria Kouroupas
Lott Carey Foreign Missionary Society: Rev. Emmett Dunn
Maryknoll Office for Global Concern: Susan Gunn
Moravian Church in America: Sue Koenig
National Council of Churches: Tony Kireopoulos
Presbyterian Church, USA: Catherine Gordon
Reformed Church in America: Laura Osborne
Unitarian Universalist Association: Bruce Knotts
United Church of Christ: Peter Makari
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church & Society: Holly Metcalf
United Methodist Church, General Board of Global Ministries: David Wildman
United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women: Tatiana Dwyer
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, observer: Lucas Koach

learn more about our board members at cmep.org/board
Through events, resources, & trips to the region, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) provides opportunities to learn about the Middle East and a holistic approach to advocating for peace.

Communications & Outreach Teams

Jennifer Maidrand
Outreach Manager

Anna Baker
Communications & Special Projects Manager

Fayelle Ewuakye
Communications Coordinator
The Christian Community in the Middle East

Settlements and Land Confiscation

Lebanon, Yemen, Iran, Armenia, and the Broader Middle East

The murder of Shireen Abu Akleh

H.R. 2590 and other legislation

LEARN MORE AT: CMEP.ORG/PRESS
SOCIAL MEDIA

@ChurchesforMEP

6,880 subscribers & followers on social media

10% growth since last year
Churches for Middle East Peace

If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (Psalm 137:5)
The Christian community is essential to Jerusalem’s identity, both now and for the future. Yet its continued presence is threatened by occupation and injustice. Many of those we encountered are facing violence and intimidation by settler groups, restrictions on their freedom of movement, or separation from their families because of the status they are assigned. From the Holy Land’s Final Communiqué. Find the entire communiqué here: https://thoholyland.org.uk/bishops-conclude-their/
#MiddleEast #MiddleEastPeace #Jerusalem #HolyLand

Bishops conclude their journey of faith, encounter and solidarity in the Holy Land

Holy Land Co-Ordination

PUBLIC STATEMENT

CMEP Says Biden’s Visit to Israel and Palestine a “Missed Opportunity”

12:02 PM - Jul 19, 2022 - LaterMedia

8

CMEP opposes violence and laments growing tensions in Jerusalem during this season holy to Muslims, Jews, and Christians. CMEP calls on all religious leaders in Jerusalem to maintain support for the Status Quo, preserving both Jewish and Muslim worship in the Old City. Even in the midst of violence, police must not endanger the lives of innocent worshippers.

Full article over at The Guardian at the link in bio.
#MiddleEast #MiddleEastPeace #Jerusalem #Passover #Ramadan #Easter

The Guardian

More than 150 Palestinians injured in Jerusalem clash, say medics

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The Guardian

More than 150 Palestinians injured in Jerusalem clash, say medics

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12,962 subscribers to our weekly bulletin. (We've more than doubled our list in the past year!)

LEARN MORE AT: CMEP.ORG/PRESS
### 2021-2022 Program Year

#### Outreach Updates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional events</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Virtual and in-person events tailored to the needs of our church partner communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilgrimage to peace hosts</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>P2P hosts in California, Washington, and Michigan in April and June 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835 Events</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Focused on young adults aged 18-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New church partners</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Churches that give at least $250 per year and commit to supporting the work of CMEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New resource</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CMEP Study Guide: A Land Full of God is now available for churches and small groups to read through the book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webinars</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Virtual events on political advocacy, Biblical Zionism, American complicity, memorial ceremonies, theology, Gaza, and more!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WEBINAR HIGHLIGHTS

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18 - 21

A daily time for prayer with Middle Eastern leaders and CMEP staff.

GAZA 101
A Mini-Course in Four Parts

The Culture of Gaza, February 10 at 12:30pm EST
Moderated by Maya Berry, Executive Director, Arab American Institute

The Historical Significance of Gaza, February 17 at 12:30pm EST
Moderated by Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director, Churches for Middle East Peace

The Politics of Gaza, February 24 at 12:30pm EST
Moderated by Aziz Abu Sarah, Board Member, American Friends of Combatants for Peace

The Economics of Gaza, March 3 at 12:30pm EST
Moderated by Dr. Jim Zoog, Founder and President, The Arab American Institute

Churches for Middle East Peace, Arab American Institute, and American Friends of Combatants for Peace co-organized a series of discussions on Gaza in February and March which focused on these four aspects of Gaza: History & Historical Significance, Politics, Culture, Economics.
CMEP once again co-sponsored these two May events.

We co-led a 4 week mini-course with author Colin Chapman with Embrace the Middle East.
INCLUDES 12 NEW PARTNERS THIS YEAR

Church Partners contributed over $35,400 to CMEP in the past program year.
After an almost two-year hiatus, we were excited to begin traveling again and visiting church partners. Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P) tours happened in both April and June.

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Tala Raheb, and Jennifer Maidrand

After an almost two-year hiatus, we were excited to begin traveling again and visiting church partners. Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P) tours happened in both April and June.

Tala Raheb (Ambassador Warren Clark Fellow) and Jennifer Maidrand (Outreach Manager) at a P2P event in June 2022.
Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) serves to elevate diverse voices who are advocating for equality, security, & human rights for all people in the Middle East.
TRIPS TO THE HOLY LAND

As the world began traveling again, CMEP led FOUR trips to the Holy Land and several other trips (organized by others) had the chance to meet with CMEP staff on the ground in the Holy Land to learn about our work and how they can use their experience to fuel advocacy when they returned to the U.S.

TRAVEL WITH US IN 2023

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT MARATHON TRIP!

10 DAY CMEP-LED TRIP
MARCH 2023
Run for environmental justice & freedom of movement in the oPT!
MORE INFO: ABYSEN@CMEP.ORG
MIDDLE EAST WORK

We established and grew relationships via:

Communities and neighborhoods:
In September 2021, CMEP advocated in opposition to the evictions in Sheik Jarrah. CMEP visited the Israeli Supreme Court to support residents of al-Walajah as they heard the results of their appeal against the demolition orders against their town. We also established relationships in Masafer Yatta with people from organizations including Humans of Masafer Yatta and Youth of Sumud. One of these individuals spoke on a CMEP advocacy webinar in support of HR 2590.

Women peacemakers in the ME:
And Still We Rise (ASWR) is our women's peacemaker initiative. This past program year, we established a leadership team with plans to host another ASWR-focused advocacy summit by 2024.

Local Churches:
CMEP's Manager of Middle East Partnerships visited or preached at 7 local churches where CMEP connections pastor or attend worship. These churches included the Lutheran Christmas Church, East Jerusalem Baptist Church, St. George's Anglican, and Redeemer Lutheran.

Supporting local citizens and organizations:
CMEP has been working with Tent of Nations to advocate for the re-registration and legal protection of Tent of Nations. This past program year, our staff was able to visit the farm several times and help respond to and support the family after a violent attack in addition to our ongoing work regarding their land.

Consulting with US Government:
CMEP was proud to contribute to the US State Department's annual religious freedom report for the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt).
Reception
Jerusalem | May 2022

BLESSED BY HIS BEATITUDE
THEOPHILOS III

WITH CHURCH, NGO,
AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERS
CMEP is proud to have become a member of AIDA, expanding our NGO partnerships and joint advocacy efforts. (AIDA is a membership body and coordination forum of over 80 international non-governmental and non-profit organizations working in the occupied Palestinian territories).

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon gave a presentation at Christ at the Checkpoint as a part of a panel with Daniel Munayer, Rifat Kassis, and moderated by Munther Isaac. The topic was the theology of peace. There were roughly a hundred people in the room.

Cannon discussed sustainability in efforts toward peace. She highlighted the importance of knowing your role and that everyone has their role. She named that pain must be transformed – otherwise, it comes out damaging and encouraged attendees to resist the urge to be right and instead focus on trying to be faithful.

Since 2000, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has organized the Holy Land Coordination Committee (HLCC). Bishops and lay delegates visited the holy city of Jerusalem from 21 – 26 May to stand in solidarity with the local Christian communities and to express their support. As part of their trip, they met with CMEP's Middle East Manager (Kevin Vollrath). This included a reception hosted by CMEP at the Dar al-Kalima art museum, where the HLCC met with Palestinian Christian leaders in Bethlehem.

CMEP is proud to have become a member of AIDA, expanding our NGO partnerships and joint advocacy efforts. (AIDA is a membership body and coordination forum of over 80 international non-governmental and non-profit organizations working in the occupied Palestinian territories).
Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon and Kevin Vollrath visited Gaza and met with church and NGO partners, learning about their work and challenges. CMEP staff met with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the Latin Parish, and others.
Kevin, Kyle, and CMEP Board representative for the United Methodist Church - Global Mission, David Wildman at the MECC conference in May 2022.

Kevin and Dr. Michael Abs, Secretary General of MECC

Kyle Cristofalo, CMEP's Senior Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, and Kevin Vollrath, CMEP's Middle East Partnerships Manager represented CMEP as international partner guests at the 12th General Assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches hosted by His Holiness Pope Tawadros of the Coptic Orhood Church, in Wadi Natroun, Egypt at the Papal Logos Center. Over the course of the Assembly, Kyle and Kevin had the chance to have conversations with several of CMEP's partners and members,

Following the MECC General Assembly, Kyle was able to visit other partners in the region, including spending an afternoon with Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) and seeing two of their programs--one working with vulnerable youth and one encouraging dialogue between Christians and Muslims.
Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon with the Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) delegation to Etchmiadzin for a meeting with His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

In order from the left: His Eminence Archbishop Nathan Hovhannisian; Rev. Dr. Cannon (CMEP); His Holiness Karekin II; The Rt. Rev. Mark D. W. Edington, Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe; Rev. Margaret Rose, the Episcopal Church Deputy for Ecumenical and Interfaith Collaboration; His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian.

CMEP STATEMENT ON ATTACKS ON THE ARMENIAN BORDER

Writing from Etchmiadzin Monastery near Yerevan, Armenia, our Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) delegation woke today to the news of attacks on the Armenia border. . . CMEP calls for an immediate end to the attacks on the Armenian border and the violence centering around the region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

09/13/22: (CMEP) Calls for an End to the Attacks on the Armenian Border and an End to Hostilities Between Armenia and Azerbaijan
Elevating our connections in the Middle East and the United States is central to our advocacy efforts. These organizations are some of Churches for Middle East Peace’s (CMEP) connections that work in the United States and the Middle East.

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is grateful for our coalition relationships. However, these logos and relationships do not indicate agreement on all policy positions. See more at cmep.org/connections.
Equipping individuals and churches to be advocates for just U.S. policies toward the Middle East by contacting members of Congress, participating in Hill & Government meetings, & attending Advocacy Summits.

Advocacy and Mobilization Team

Kyle Cristofalo
Senior Director of Advocacy and Government Relations

Brian Evans
Mobilization Manager
Regional Coordinators are CMEP’s grassroots advocacy team. Coordinators work with people in distinct geographical areas to coordinate meetings with Senators and/or Congressional Representatives, increase the number of people responding to CMEP’s calls to contact their elected officials or members of the White House administration, raise awareness and education their grassroots networks to equip them to be better advocates for peace in the Holy land.

CMEP is proud to have 21 Regional Coordinators from 15 States.
We sent a total of seven action alerts to Congress and the Administration.
CMEP led a June advocacy training on The Palestinian Children and Families Act, HR 2590 for the La Crosse (Wisconsin) Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), a church partner of CMEP. In it, CMEP’s Senior Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, Kyle Cristofalo, and Mobilization Manager, Brian Evans, gave an overview of the act and equipped 16 participants from Wisconsin and Minnesota with tools for effective advocacy regarding this legislation in their districts.

“CMEP (along with No Way to Treat a Child) has been instrumental in providing background information and talking points for the proposed legislation. The CMEP workshops at Ecumenical Advocacy Days and the CMEP summit provided additional resources, advocacy training, and the opportunity to meet with Tonko and/or his staff in Washington, DC. Being a part of the regional coordinators' network has also been extremely helpful in offering ideas, encouragement, and a kind of accountability and incentive. Learning what others are doing inspires me to do likewise. I remember in particular Mike Abel talking about how she assembled a diverse coalition of supporters/advocates in Delaware.”

John Paarlberg, CMEP Regional Coordinator, Albany, NY, whose Representative (Paul Tonko - NY) was one of the new sponsors this past program year.
Palestinian Children and Families Act (HR 2590): prohibit US assistance to Israel from being used to violate the human rights of Palestinian children, or to illegally demolish Palestinian property, or annex Palestinian land.

Justice for Shireen Act, proposed legislation that would require a U.S. investigation into the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh.

Constituents from 27 states participated in the campaign.

Accountability Matters: Advocate for Palestinian Children & Families

AUGUST IN-DISTRICT ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

WEBINAR

VIRTUAL ADVOCACY TRAINING

CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS

FOCUS

Constituents from 27 states

California

Washington, D.C.

Delaware

Maine

Georgia

Indiana

Illinois

Massachusetts

Hawaii

Michigan

Minnesota

Missouri

Montana

Nebraska

New Hampshire

New York

South Carolina

Pennsylvania

New Jersey

Wisconsin

Virginia

Washington

Participated in the campaign
UNRWA FUNDING
The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

THE ASK
CMEP JOINS 17 CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS IN ASKING BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO RESTORE FUNDING TO UNRWA.

March 2, 2020

Dear Members of Congress:

We are writing as U.S. churches and church-related organizations, with a long commitment to working toward a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict in Israel-Palestine.

Our faith commitment calls us to ensure that those who are most vulnerable receive the assistance they need. We were heartened to see the restoration of some bilateral assistance to programs in the West Bank and Gaza for Fiscal Year 2020. We encourage Congress to ensure...

THE ANSWER

The United States is proud to announce nearly $64M for UNRWA providing health care, and emergency relief to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable Palestinian children and families, bringing total support in 2022 to nearly $344M. We call on other donors to contribute.

3:55 PM · Sep 16, 2022 · Twitter Web App
In May of 2022, CMEP was honored to convene a meeting between His Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan and global Christian leaders. CMEP's Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, thanked His Majesty for Jordan's role in protecting Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem and our ongoing concern with the continued violations against the Status Quo impacting both Muslim and Christian worshippers.
PARTICIPATE

Operations, Finance, and Support Teams

Aune Carlson
Director of Operations

Nicole Morgan
Executive Administrator

Harold Cromartie
Financial Manager

Emily Courter
Supporter Engagement Specialist
June 2022: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is pleased to announce the addition of Community of Christ (CoC) as CMEP's newest member communion.

Community of Christ is an international faith movement with 250,000 members in more than 60 nations. They celebrate their diversity and nurture welcoming, inclusive communities, and seek genuine, vulnerable connections with one another and God. They develop and equip people of all ages to generously share the peace of Jesus Christ and to courageously pursue justice. Community of Christ offers a community where you can belong, be valued and loved, deepen your spirituality, and discover a purpose that can change lives and communities. Community of Christ is represented by Steve Kellogg, a member of the Community of Christ Peace and Justice Team.

“Community of Christ looks forward to partnering with fellow Christians and peacemakers promoting peace and justice for all in the Middle East,” said Mr. Kellogg.

CMEP is grateful to welcome our newest member organization and looks forward to increased opportunities to work constructively toward Middle East peace with Community of Christ, Mr. Kellogg, and our other member communions.

Grounds for Peace

Episode 513: UN International Day of Peace

CMEP Executive Director Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon joined Community of Christ board representative Steve Kellogg on the Community of Christ podcast Grounds for Peace to discuss how we can work for Peace in Israel/Palestine.

https://www.projectzionpodcast.org/

Churches for Middle East Peace Outreach Manager Jennifer Maidrand attended the Southern Province Moravian Church Synod 2022 in Winston-Salem, NC in June. Jennifer had the opportunity to connect with many leaders in the Moravian Church in America, which is one of CMEP's Member Communitons.

Maidrand also had the opportunity to participate in the Partnership and Collaboration Committee, where she was invited to give a short presentation on CMEP's work and write a memorandum suggesting ways the province can better engage with Churches for Middle East Peace.
We saw more challenges in income as the economy struggled with inflation, but we also saw bright spots and unexpected victories as we continued to fund our work for peace and justice and witnessed people’s commitment to this work.

TRYING NEW THINGS
We held our first-ever auction in November 2021 - auctioning off everything from original art to local jams and jellies, and olive oil.

We also encouraged people to get outside and enjoy nature and their pets through our social media with #PlayForPeace and #PetsForPeace. We’re looking forward to more ways to increase CMEP’s social media presence and bring in new donors in the coming program year.

DATABASE UPDATES
This year, we took steps to update and correct our contacts’ mailing addresses - Great news, it is working! We have experienced far fewer instances of returned mail and greater numbers of contributions. Help us keep your contact information up to date by inputting your current info here: https://cmepevents.salsalabs.org/subscribe

INCOME SOURCES DURING THE 2021-2022 PROGRAM YEAR

You’ve most likely heard us say this before. We believe that by working together: Justice can prevail. Peace is possible. CMEP is grateful for every penny and every prayer given toward our mission. Thank you for your part in seeking justice and peace.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF CMEP. Make a donation at cmepevents.salsalabs.org/donate
Working Together: Justice can prevail. Peace is possible.