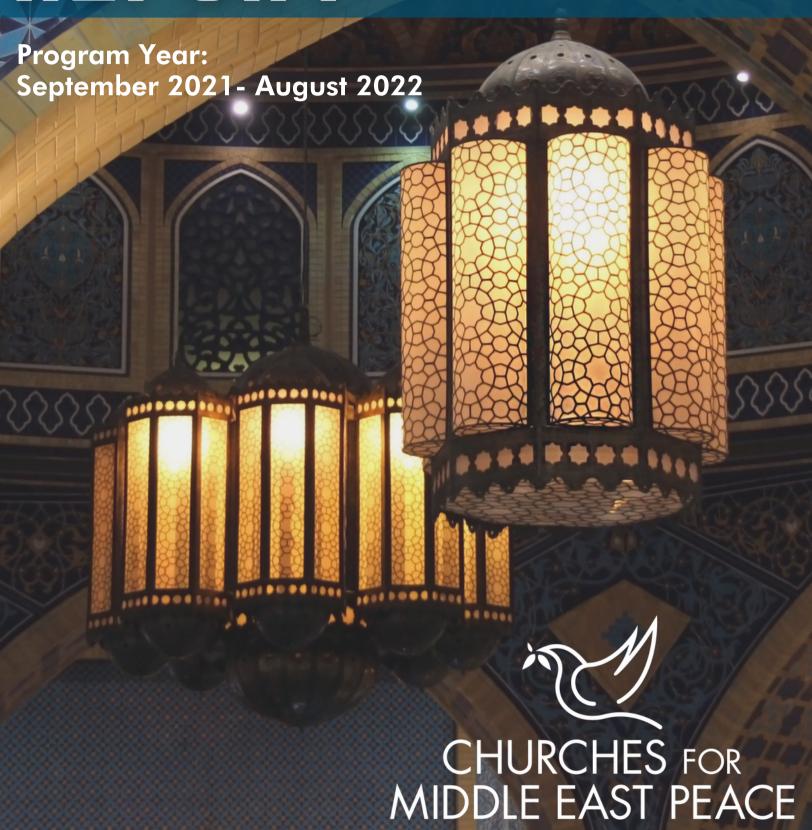
ANNUAL REPORT



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

EMBODYING GOD'S PEACE

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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WHO WE ARE

THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE CMEP

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ROLL CALL

this past program year saw work & advocacy from:

- 2 FELLOWS
- 2 INTERNS
- 2 VOLUNTEERS
- 5TAFF 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: Erikka Hedberg

Evangelicals 4 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

EDUCATE

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.

Manager



32 PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON TOPICS SUCH AS:



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











subscribers & followers on social media





10 % growth since last year



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 Communique. Find the entire communique here: https://theholyland.org.uk/bishops-conclude-their.../

#MiddleEast #MiddleEastPeace #Jerusalem #HolyLand



Holy Land Co-Ordination



CMEP Says Biden's Visit to Israel and Palestine a "Missed Opportunity"

WE 中心 图像中国自己的一位 自由中心上,他的特

12:02 PM · Jul 19, 2022 · LaterMedia



churc

churchesformep · Follow

churchesformep 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

24w





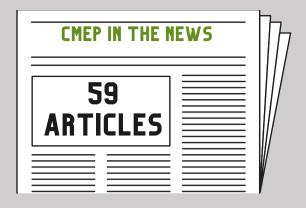


APRIL 16

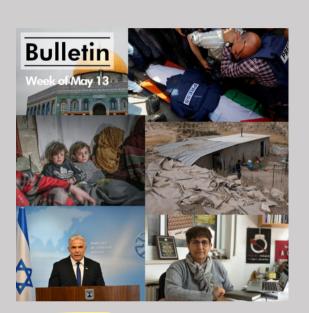


Add a comment...

 \Box



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



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









Mondoweiss

News & Opinion About Palestine, Israel & the United States







CHRISTIAN TODAY

ICN
independent catholic news

THE JERUSALEM POST

2021-2022 PROGRAM YEAR

regional events

virtual and in-person events tailored to the needs of our church partner communities

pilgrimage to peace hosts

P2P hosts in California, Washington, and Michigan in April and June 2022

1835 Events

focused on young adults aged 18-35

new church partners

churches that give at least \$250 per year and commit to supporting the work of CMEP

new resource

CMEP Study Guide: A Land Full of God is now available for churches and small groups to read through the book

webinars

virtual events on political advocacy, Biblical Zionism, American complicity, memorial ceremonies, theology, Gaza, and more!

HGHLIGHTS



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



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.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial Day Ceremony

Sharing Sorrow, Bringing Hope

May 3rd | via web streaming Jerusalem 8:30pm | NY 1:30pm | CA 10:30am



CMEP once

again co-





"How Strong is the Biblical Basis for Christian Zionism?" We co-led a 4 week mini-course with author Colin Chapman with Embrace the Middle East.

MINI COURSE

June 21 • June 28 • July 5 • July 12





132 CHURCH PARTNERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY



INCLUDES 12 NEW PARTNERS THIS YEAR

Church Partners contributed over \$35,400 to CMEP in the past program year.





April 18 - May 2 2022 | June 2022 Colorado | California | Washington State | Michigan

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.



EVENTS

SOUPPEOPLE

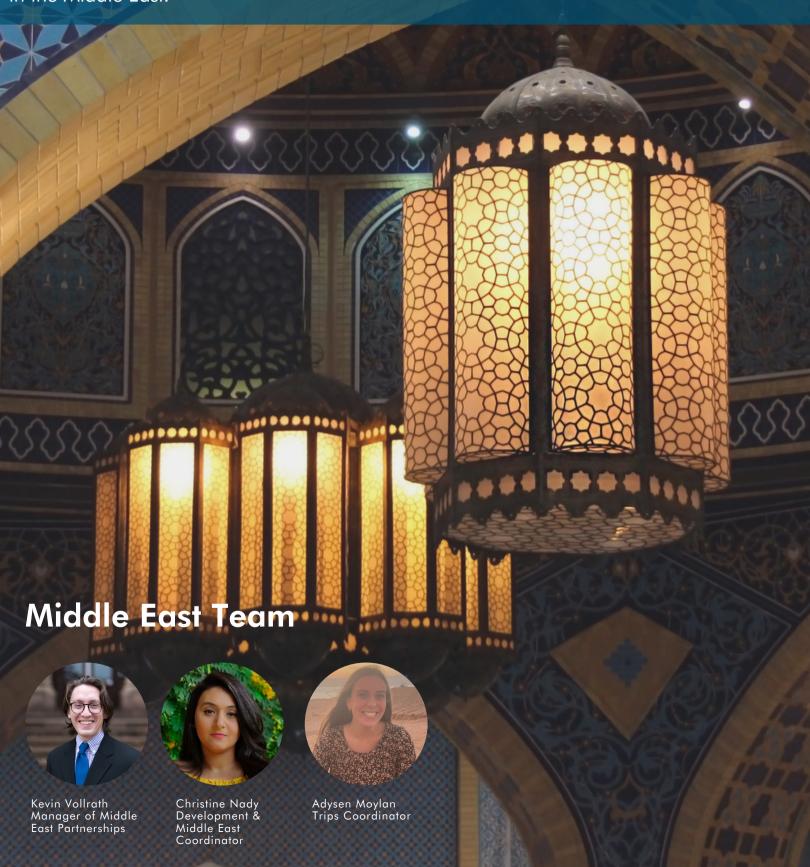
4STATES

Tala Raheb (Ambassador Warren Clark Fellow) and Jennifer Maidrand (Outreach Manager) at a P2P event in June 2022.



ELEVATE

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.

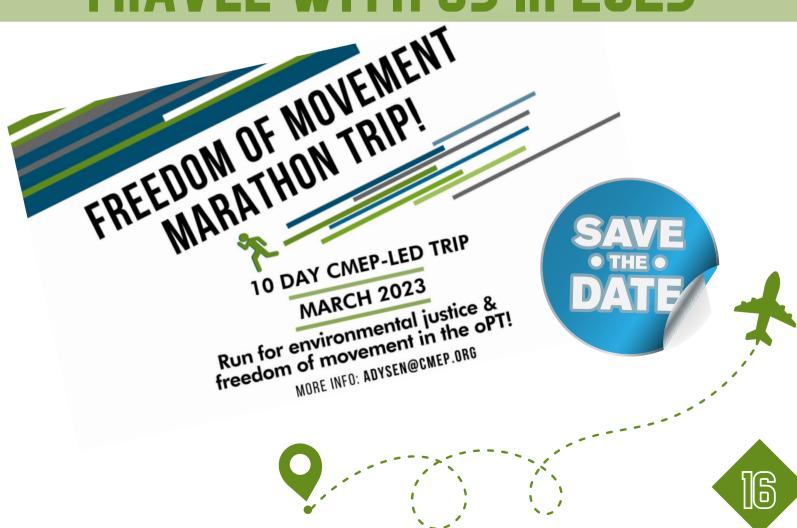








TRAVEL WITH US IN 2023



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).





BLESSED BY HIS BEATITUDE THEOPHILOS III

> WITH CHURCH, NGO, AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

MIDDLE EAST EVENTS





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.



HOLY LAND CO-ORDINATION

AWARENESS, ACTION AND PRAYER

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).



CMEP Middle East Partnerships Manager, Kevin Vollrath entering Gaza May 2022.

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.



Mae and Kevin with Bassam Nasser of CRS in Gaza.

EGYPT



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 Orthood 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.

CESS



ARMENIA

September 2022 CMEP Executive Leaders Delegation to Armenia at the invitation of CMEP Board representative Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Ecumenical Director and Diocesan Legate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).



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 Echmiadzin 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.

45 CONNECTIONS (9 NEW THIS YEAR)

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.

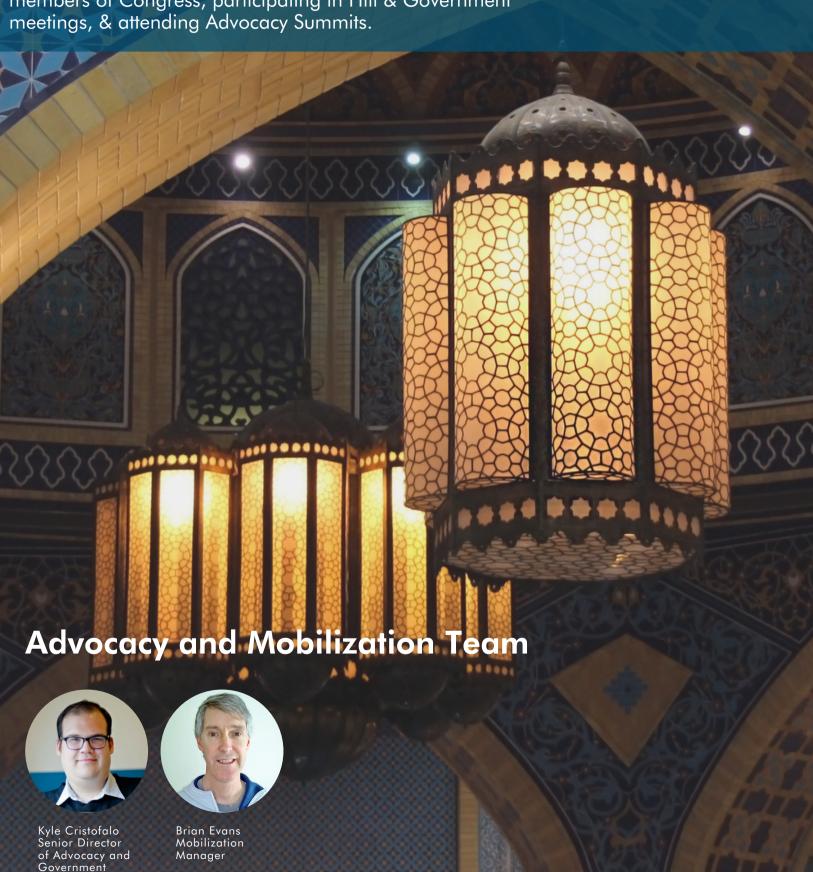
WomenWagePeace



ADVOCATE

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.

Relations



REGIONAL COORDINATORS

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.





ACTION ALERTS

10.176 **MESSAGES TO CONGRESS & WHITE HOUSE**

NSOR HR 259

ANNED DEMOLITIONS IN EAST JERUSALEM CON-**GRESSIONAL OFFICES** ATTEND BRIEFING ON HR 2590

BIDEN UP FOR PEACE & JUSTICE DURING HIS TO

SHIREEN ABU



WE SENT A TOTAL OF SEVEN ACTION ALERTS TO CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION





ADVOCACY PRIORITY

HR 2590

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.

GOAL PROGRESS 3 new members of congress joined as co-sponsors









"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.





Accountability Matters: Advocate for Palestinian
Children & Families

AUGUST IN-DISTRICT ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN









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

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

CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON, D.C.

GEORGIA INDIANA ILLINOIS HAWAII

MICHIGAN MINNESOTA MISSOURI MONTANA NEBRASKA

TEXAS NEW HAMPSHIRE

OKLAHOMA

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)





2022

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

March 2, 2020

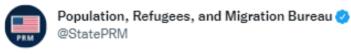
Dear Members of Congress:

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



Aune Carlson Director of Operations

Nicole Morgan Executive Administrator Harold Cromartie Financial Manager Emily Courter Supporter Engagement Specialist

ANEW BOARD ORGANIZATION



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.



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 Communions.



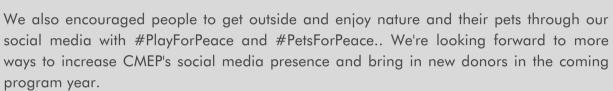
Maidrand also had the opportunity to participate in the Partnership and Collaboration Committee, where she was invited to give a short presentation on CMEP's work and write a memorandum suggesting ways the province can better engage with Churches for Middle East Peace.

THE FINANCIAL REPORT

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.





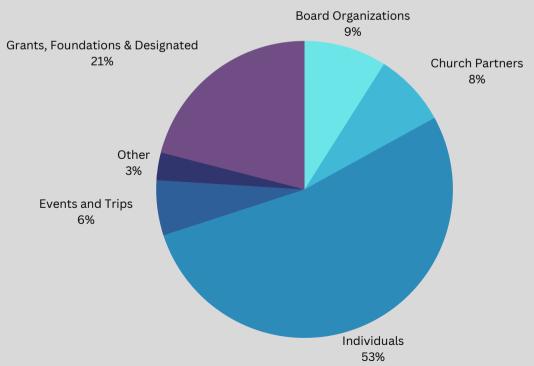
DATABASE UPDATES



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://cmep.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 cmep.org/donate





Working Together: Justice can prevail. Peace is possible.

Churches for Middle East Peace 110 Maryland Ave NE #311 Washington, D.C. 20002 cmep.org 202-543-1222 info@cmep.org