



Working Together:  
Justice Can Prevail.  
Peace Is Possible

## October 2018

It's strategy season and we at CMEP have been hard at work planning exciting opportunities for you. Below, find the latest on Fall 2018 Pilgrimage to Peace, beginning late this month, Advocacy Summits in 2018 and 2019, and more.

Catch up on the latest news, events, and opportunities with CMEP now.



It may be October, but our Advent Advocacy Summit is quickly approaching!

This Advent season we are offering many exciting opportunities for you to get involved at CMEP.

Join us in Washington, D.C., December 9-10 for an [Advent Advocacy Summit](#).

[Sign up for our Advent devotionals](#) - arriving in your inbox weekly during the season.

More information about other opportunities, like Webinars, coming soon.

[Learn More](#)

**[Take Action](#)** | Action Alerts

**Tell Congress: Pressure the Administration to Immediately Restore Critical Humanitarian Assistance to Palestinians**

The Trump Administration recently announced its intention to withhold more than \$500 million dollars in aid to the Palestinian people through cuts to USAID funded programs in the West Bank and Gaza and a complete end to US funds to UNRWA. These cuts will have a devastating impact on the region, including the most vulnerable Palestinians who rely on the congressionally appropriated funds to receive emergency food assistance, medical services, education, and access to clean water.

[Take Action Today](#)



***CMEP1835 Advocacy Summit:*** We are excited to announce our January CMEP1835 Summit! To begin the New Year in the spirit of advocacy, “Reclaiming Our Voices: Reframing the Narrative for a Shared Justice in Israel and Palestine,” will take place on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, January 12-14. Together, we will learn how to effectively frame our personal stories and recognize the power of our own voices in relevant advocacy work related to the Middle East. Our first two days will honor leading voices within the advocacy movement regarding Israel and Palestine, and utilizing the power of effective storytelling, we will learn to enhance our own voices for advocacy meetings on Capitol Hill.

[Learn More & Register Today](#)

## [Events](#) | Upcoming & Recent

### Take Courage Advocacy Summit



Join CMEP and our co-sponsoring organizations for a gathering on Capitol Hill on Sunday, December 9th (2 to 9 p.m.) and Monday, December 10th (9:30 to 5:00 p.m.). The event will include speakers, time for fellowship, and an opportunity to have advocacy meetings on Capitol Hill.

[Register Today](#)

### The Jerusalem Conference

Join our executive director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, in Houston, Texas, on October 11 for The Jerusalem Conference! As part of the Room for Hope festival, this one-day conference provides an opportunity for people of all faiths to gather and work towards an inclusive Jerusalem and demand a just peace.



[Learn More](#)

## Fall 2018 Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P) Tour

Join CMEP's executive director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, October 25-November 7 as she and Palestinian Christian, Sami Awad, and Israeli Human Rights Activist, Jessica Montell, travel around the country on Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P). Cities and regions confirmed include Delaware; Grand Rapids, MI; Seattle, WA; and Colorado Springs, CO. [Contact us](#) if you are interested in hosting a future P2P event!

[Learn More](#)



### Super Early Bird Registration for CMEP's 2019 Summit Now Open!

Join us June 23-25, 2019, in Washington, D.C. for our annual Advocacy Summit. 2019's topic will be: Persistent Hope: 35 Years of Pursuing Peace and Restorative Justice in the Middle East.

[Register Today!](#)



***Travel with CMEP!*** We are thrilled to be making trips to the Middle East available to all! Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) partners with MEJDI tours to offer custom group travel to Israel, Palestine, and other destinations in the Middle East. Trips to the region offer pilgrimages and advocacy-oriented travel. While traveling in the Holy Land, trips provide the chance to hear multi-narrative perspectives through the use of two local guides, one Israeli and one Palestinian. They offer various perspectives on the history and current realities of the land.

[Learn More](#)

## [Press Releases & Public Statements](#) | **Reactions to Recent Events**

### CMEP Joins Letter to President Regarding Cuts to Humanitarian Aid to Palestinians

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) joined 17 Christian Denominations and Organizations in a letter to President Trump. In the letter, the signatories called upon the President to immediately reverse the



recent decision to cut over \$200 million in bilateral aid to the Palestinians as well as cease all US funding for UNRWA.

[Read More](#)

## CMEP Applauds Senate Letter in Support of U.S. Assistance to Palestinians and UNRWA

CMEP applauds Sens. Chris Van Hollen (MD), Dianne Feinstein (CA), and Chris Coons (DE) for their letter calling the Trump Administration to reverse its decision to cut \$200 million in USAID funded programs in the West Bank and Gaza and a complete end to U.S. funds for UNRWA. CMEP believes the withholding of such funding will only exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and lead to further destabilization in the West Bank and the region as a whole.

[Read More](#)



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## [Prayers for Peace](#) | [Stories from the blog](#)

**This month, both stories highlight the work of our upcoming Pilgrimage to Peace (P2P) tour beginning October 25. [Get details on the dates and locations.](#)**

## Sami Awad: Building Relationships to Heal Historic Wounds

As a child, Bethlehem-born, Christian Palestinian Sami Awad watched as his uncle was arrested and then deported from Israel for participating in nonviolent resistance to the occupation during the First Intifada (uprising). Sami's father, Bishara Awad, had become a refugee at the age of nine when his father was killed, and the family was forced out of their home in West Jerusalem in 1948. Sami grew up knowing these stories, past and present, experiencing historic pain as well as his own oppression. He began to examine the power of nonviolence but wondered whether he could truly love his enemies as his faith, and Jesus, commands in the Bible.



## Jessica Montell: Committed to Raising a Principled Voice in the Land She Loves



"If your son didn't come home from school and you heard he was arrested, who can you call? If your husband is from the West Bank and you have Jerusalem residency, how will you get the permits necessary to live together? If you are on your way to university abroad and are denied exit from the West Bank, how will you get to your studies?" These are examples of the questions asked by thousands of people who turn to the work Jessica Montell does at *HaMoked* each year.

[Read More](#)

CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE PRESENTS

### THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE HOLY LAND

A CURRICULUM FOR CHURCHES

## *Launching Spring 2019: The Search for Peace & Justice in the Holy Land!*

We have been hard at work designing a curriculum to be taught in a small-group environment. Participants will learn about topics such as the Christians of the Holy Land, the ties of Israelis and Palestinians to the Holy Land, and how to be an effective advocate for just peace in Israel and Palestine. More information coming to your inbox in early 2019. Please contact [Sara Burback](#), Director of Outreach, if you are interested in learning more.

## [CMEP in the News](#) | Mentions and Publications

### [35 Senators Send Letter to Trump Opposing Palestinian Aid Cut](#)

Mondoweiss

### [35 U.S. Senators Urge Trump to Restore Palestinian Aid](#)

The Arab Daily News

[How Some American Evangelicals are Challenging Views About Palestine](#)

Jasper Vaughn, Sojourners

[Christ at Checkpoint Conference to Be Held in Oklahoma City](#)

Stan Friedman, Covenant Companion

[The Demand for Urgent Action](#)

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Bright Stars of Bethlehem

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