



Working Together:  
Justice Can Prevail.  
Peace Is Possible

## September 2018

Fall is here and we are excited to share upcoming exciting news and the latest developments over the last month.

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



***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](#)

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

### 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!](#)

### 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 have meetings or communities or churches with whom you'd like for us to meet!

[Learn More](#)

### 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](#)

### Watch: "What's Next for Palestine Refugees and UNRWA "

Kyle Cristofalo, CMEP's Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, hosts a webinar interview with Elizabeth Campbell, the U.S. Director of UNRWA. Elizabeth provides an introduction to UNRWA services and an update on the funding crisis after the U.S. announced it would freeze U.S. aid to the agency by 83%. Kyle and Elizabeth also discuss what's next for Palestinian refugees and UNRWA.



*Thank you, Summer Interns!* Churches for Middle East Peace was blessed with an amazing class of summer interns. Their help was invaluable to our small team and we would not have been able to accomplish half of what we did without them. We are so grateful to you and we will miss you! Best wishes on your future endeavors.

[Know someone who'd be a great intern? Learn more about our program](#)

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

### **Nation-State Bill Raises Concerns**

On Thursday, July 19, Israel's parliament, the Knesset, passed the "Israel as a Nation-State of the Jewish People" bill, one of many Basic Laws that collectively serve as Israel's constitution. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), while reiterating its support for Israel as a democratic state, expresses its gravest concern over the harm that this new Basic Law will inflict upon Israel's cultural, ethnic, and religious minorities, which account for 20% of Israel's population. This law will have devastating effects on the rights of Palestinians with Israeli citizenship and Palestinians with resident status living in Jerusalem.

[Read More](#)



**Demand Child Justice: Document Detention in the occupied Palestinian territories:** Our summer 2018 campaign is coming to an end this month. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to support CMEP and Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCI-P). Your help gives DCI-P the ability to document individual cases of mistreatment experienced by Palestinian youth and will help our team raise awareness for HR 4391 on Capitol Hill.

[Learn More](#)

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

### Um El Kheir: Bedouins Being Displaced



Amidst the daily realities of living under occupation, as the threat of demolition of homes and property hangs in the air, there are inspiring individuals and communities committed to peace. One example of such is peacemaker Tariq Hathaleen (24 years old), a Palestinian student who is working to finish his degree in English Education at a university in Hebron.

[Read More](#)

### In It Together

Early one morning last month, I was sitting at breakfast with Israeli and Palestinian women...as one does in Washington D.C. I was jetlagged and struggling to be alert; we all were for that matter. Somehow the topic of visiting all of them in Israel/Palestine came up. They knew I had been banned by Israel, which means I cannot enter Palestine, but they were formulating a plan. Both of the Israelis at the table told me to give their names as contacts, and said that I could stay with them. And a Palestinian chimed in, "and once you're in...you'll be with us." Gesturing, "come on." Meaning, you'll be well taken care of by us Palestinians, but she knew I knew that. R...Fadel was stopped by three Palestinian officers stationed at their usual spot. The officers took Fadel's slingshot, which he carries for hunting birds, and began to play with it. Suddenly, Fadel saw two Israeli military jeeps speeding toward them from the other side of the border. "I started running so fast because I was scared of them and thought they would shoot us. I ran for about 100 meters [328 feet], away from the fence." The soldiers opened fire, injuring Fadel in his groin and leg. Fadel was left bleeding on the ground, unable to move, for three hours.



[Read More](#)

### Remembering Ambassador Warren Clark



Warren Clark, 81, a retired foreign service officer and ambassador, who lived in Mystic and Washington, D.C., died of cancer on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 with family by his side. After his retirement from the State Department in 1996 he worked as a consultant on privatization and liberalization of telecommunications in eastern Europe. Between 2008 to 2016 he was executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace, a coalition of national church groups that conducts political advocacy in support of the two-state solution for ending the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.



Learn more about the [Ambassador Warren Clark Fellowship](#) and our current fellows working at CMEP.

[Read More](#)



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](#)



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

[Best Books: 6 Must-Read Books on the Israel-Palestine Conflict](#)



## [US Church Coalition Voices Concern over Israel's Nation-State Bill](#)

Independent Catholic News



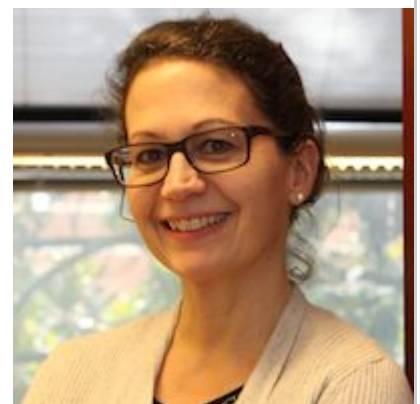
### ***Launching Spring 2019: The Search for Peace & Justice in the Holy Land!***

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.

## **Miscellaneous Updates | Other News from CMEP**

### **CMEP Welcomes Alison Glick as Director of Development**

Alison lived and worked for six years in the Middle East, including three years in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and three years in Yarmouk Camp near Damascus, Syria. In Palestine she taught at the Quaker-run Friends Schools in Ramallah and worked as a human rights researcher for an NGO in Gaza City during the first Palestinian intifada. Alison recently served as Assistant Director of Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Studies and as an international program officer for a whistleblower support and advocacy organization, where she helped build an international network of anti-corruption and transparency advocates. Her development experience includes serving and working with Boards of Directors, managing grants and donor relations, and planning crowdfunding initiatives. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Temple University with a bachelor's degree in Middle East history, and has been working for justice, equality, and dignity for all in Israel/Palestine for many years.



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### **CMEP Welcomes Former Interns on Staff**

We are delighted to announce that two of our summer interns will be joining us on staff this year.

Michelle Guzman served as a 2018 summer Research Intern and will serve as a Research Coordinator. Maya Ungar served as a 2018 summer Research and Government Affairs Intern and will serve as our Bulletin Coordinator. To stay up-to-date on the team at CMEP, visit our [Staff Page](#).

#### Connect with Us



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