



WORKING TOGETHER:
Justice Can Prevail. Peace Is
Possible.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Announces the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as New Board Member Organization

Washington, DC – Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is pleased to announce that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) has joined as CMEP’s newest member communion, further strengthening the broad ecumenical witness for peace and justice in the Middle East.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is a network of churches and individuals across the United States and globally, committed to historic Baptist principles of freedom, local church autonomy, and global missions engagement. CBF advocates for justice, fosters vibrant congregational life, and equips leaders for faithful Christian witness in a complex world.

In joining the CMEP board, CBF brings a deep commitment to peacemaking, global partnership, and advocacy rooted in the Gospel’s call to reconciliation and justice.

Rev. Jennifer Hawks, Director of Advocacy at CBF, states, “As the denominational home of former president Jimmy Carter, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship looks forward to this opportunity to unite with our Christian siblings and join in the work for a lasting peace in the Middle East. We will continue to learn from Palestinian Christians and lift up their stories as we pursue justice for Israelis, Palestinians and all who call the Middle East home. We are grateful that CMEP will not only maximize our advocacy efforts for a secure Middle East but also help our churches deepen their theological reflections on peacemaking in the land where Jesus walked.”

CMEP welcomes CBF’s partnership and leadership at this critical moment. Together, CMEP’s member communions represent a diverse and expansive Christian constituency committed to advocating for policies that advance human rights, dignity, security, and a just and lasting peace for all people of the Middle East.

A complete list of CMEP Board Member organizations can be found on the [CMEP website](#).

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Formed in 1984, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a coalition of more than 30 national church communions and organizations, including Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Evangelical traditions that works to encourage US policies that actively promote a comprehensive resolution to conflicts in the Middle East with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. CMEP works 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.

Recent CMEP Statements and Press Releases:

Feb 13, 2026: [CMEP issues a statement of support for HLCC Trip to the Holy Land](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is grateful to have participated in this year's Holy Land Coordination pilgrimage and to stand alongside the bishops who have issued this powerful and timely statement. As an organization committed to amplifying the voices of those most directly impacted by conflict, we were honored to bear witness to the realities described: communities living under threat, families yearning for safety and dignity, and courageous leaders working tirelessly for justice and reconciliation.

Feb 11, 2026: [A Time for Peace](#)

"Today the human family is ensnared in armed conflicts that engender despair, anxiety, and the unending slaughter of innocents. We are a group of religious leaders from the United States and Iran. With profound sympathy for all victims of war and oppression, we together implore our governmental leaders and those of other countries to take concrete steps towards reconciliation before even greater catastrophes befall us."

Jan 17, 2026: [A Statement From The Patriarchs And Heads Of The Churches In Jerusalem On Unity And Representation Of The Christian Communities In The Holy Land](#)

The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in the Holy Land affirm before the faithful and before the world that the flock of Christ in this land is entrusted to the Apostolic Churches, which have borne their sacred ministry across centuries with steadfast devotion. Recent activities undertaken by local individuals who advance damaging ideologies, such as Christian Zionism, mislead the public, sow confusion, and harm the unity of our flock. These undertakings have found favor among certain political actors in Israel and beyond who seek to push a political agenda which may harm the Christian presence in the Holy Land and the wider Middle East.

Jan 5, 2026: [Churches for Middle East Peace joins 53 International NGOs in warning that Israel's recent registration measures will impede critical humanitarian action](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace join international humanitarian organizations in warning that Israel's recent registration measures threaten to shut down life-saving aid operations across Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. If allowed to proceed, these measures would force dozens of INGOs to cease operations, cutting off food, healthcare, shelter, and nutrition assistance to millions of civilians facing extreme need. Humanitarian access is not political or optional; it is a legal obligation under international humanitarian law that must be protected.

Dec 18, 2025: [Public Statement: CMEP Supports the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches' Appeal for Children with Cancer in Gaza](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) elevates and stands in solidarity with the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem in their statement of Support for the Work of Augusta Victoria Hospital in Treating Children with Cancer from Gaza. We echo their urgent humanitarian appeal to the relevant Israeli authorities to grant permits allowing children in Gaza diagnosed with leukemia to travel to Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives for life-saving, specialized treatment that is unavailable in Gaza. These are young and vulnerable patients whose survival depends on timely access to care. Delays in treatment for childhood cancer can mean the difference between life and death.

Dec 17, 2025: [Press Release: UNRWA USA Leads 104 Organizations Urging Trump Administration to Include UNRWA in Gaza's Recovery](#)

UNRWA USA National Committee (UNRWA USA) led a national coalition of 104 civil society organizations, including Churches for Middle East Peace, to urge the Trump Administration to include the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in its plans for Gaza's recovery. In a joint letter to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, refugee, human rights, and humanitarian organizations called on the Trump Administration "to re-open lines of communication with UNRWA and allow the Agency to continue fulfilling its mandate in accordance with international humanitarian principles, until a just and lasting solution to the plight of Palestine refugees is secured."

See all of our [public statements](#) and [press releases](#).

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