ANNUAL REPORT

CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

PROGRAM YEAR: 2025-2026

cmep.org | @ChurchesforMEP

Executive Summary

those who wait upon the Lord shall run and not grow weary

This year marks my tenth anniversary as the Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP). I am profoundly grateful for the CMEP community—our board, our staff, and each of you who form the heart and foundation of this work. Your dedication, partnership, and unwavering commitment inspire me and make all that we do possible. Thank you!

I am writing this letter from Amman, Jordan. I wish we could celebrate all the progress toward peace in the Middle East, but unfortunately, that does not reflect the current reality. The Palestinian people of Gaza suffer today many of the same challenges they have faced over the past several years – restrictions on materials being allowed in and out of Gaza; more than a million people still displaced, the vast majority living in tents and makeshift structures; a rat infestation that carries diseases and other threats; the fear of bombings and other military interventions that still cause death and profound suffering. Palestinians in the West Bank have seen the worst violence in decades, with extremist settler violence, car burnings, village attacks, and other threats on the rise. The U.S. war with Iran (as of this writing) also continues with no end in sight. The consequences are not only economic pressures on Iranian civilians, but the world suffers as fuel prices and other costs rise and reflect the price of war. In some ways, it seems there is no hope for peace.

Many of you have followed my personal journey as I attempt to complete an Ironman triathlon. Like peace, the Ironman has seemed impossible. Over the past two years, I have trained diligently, amid a health diagnosis and other challenges, to complete the 140.6 miles: 2.4 miles swimming, 112 miles biking, and a 26.2-mile marathon run. My second attempt was September 19, 2026. I completed the swim and bike portion of the race (114.4 miles), but a medical emergency kept me from finishing. Nonetheless, we will not give up! I am scheduled to try again next Fall. Similarly, we will not give up in our efforts toward an end to all war, violence, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. We will continue diligently working toward peace and justice for Palestinians and all people of the Middle East.

Working Together:
Justice can Prevail.
Peace is Possible.

While the situation on the ground in the Middle East remains dire, progress, albeit slow, is being made! We have seen shifting perspectives in the United States and around the world where the cries of Palestinians are are no longer being ignored. By October 26, 2026 we saw 83 members of the U.S. House of Representatives support the Block the Bombs Act, which calls for restricting transfers of certain offensive weapons to Israel. 2026 saw an historic vote by the U.S. Senate on S.Res.852 under section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act, proposed by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and joined by Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Tim Kaine (D-VA). Voted on in September 2026, 47 U.S. Senators voted in support of the resolution that would call for accountability for violence against Palestinians and American citizens in the Occupied West Bank. This vote demonstrates unprecedented support by Senate Democrats for Palestinian human rights. CMEP's work and your support make a difference!

This past year, CMEP has continued to provide relevant weekly content and updates about what is happening in the Middle East through our weekly prayer and briefing calls, monthly webinars and in-person events, and our frequent trips in solidarity to Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and other parts of the Middle East. In 2026, we co-hosted the Joint Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C., alongside several dozen other organizations. We'll host again April 2027. Learn more at summitforpeace.org

Looking ahead, we hope you will join us in Egypt for our May 2027 And Still We Rise (ASWR) Women's Summit. In addition, we hope to offer more Middle Eastern pilgrimages to travel in solidarity and visit Christians, peace activists, and CMEP partners throughout the year. CMEP remains committed to giving witness to the lives and stories of Palestinians and all who suffer in the Middle East.

We remember the hope that we profess. *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* (Hebrews 10: 23-25)



May the Lord go before us as we continue our efforts toward peace.

In the name of Christ,

Mae Elise Cannon

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon
Executive Director

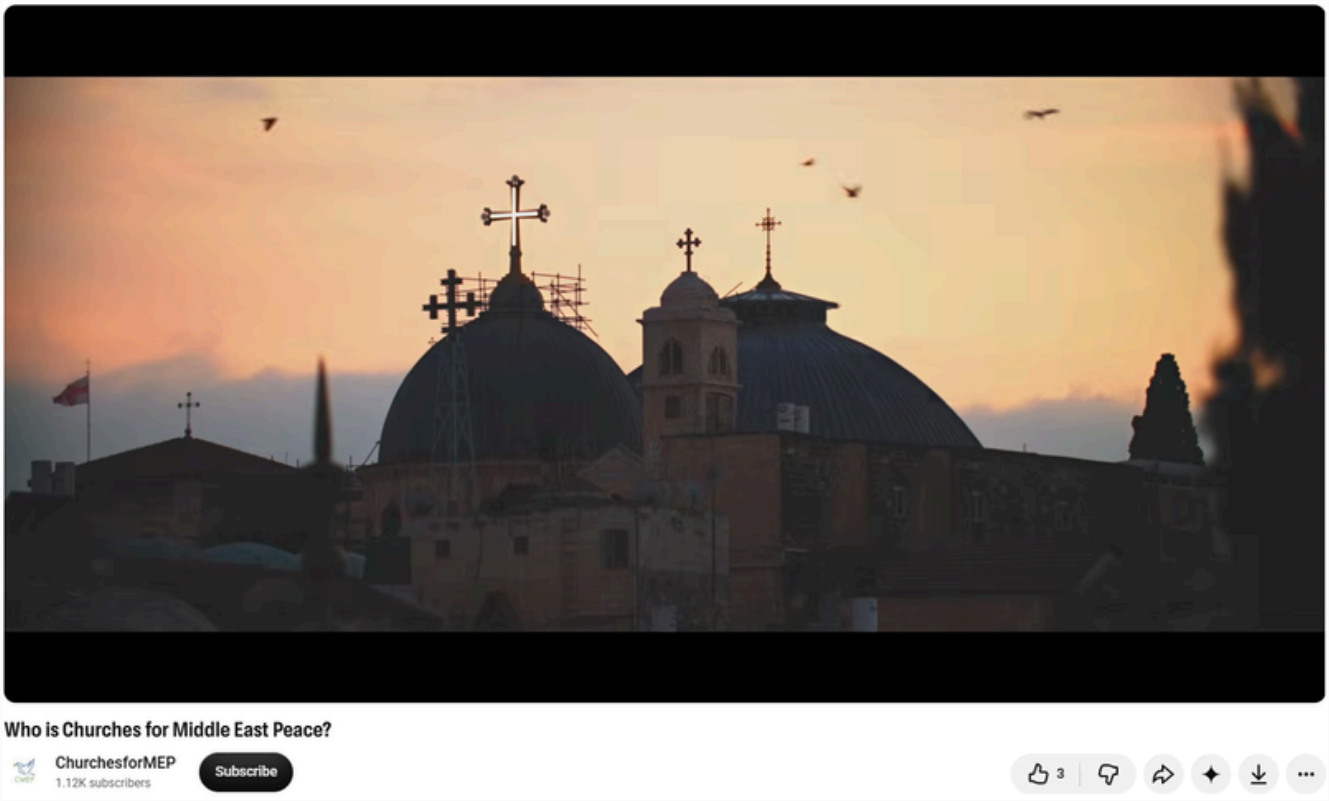
6000+
IN PERSON ENCOUNTERS WITH PEOPLE SEEKING TO ADVOCATE FOR PEACE

11,500+
YOUTTUBE VIEWS

8,000+
WEEKLY NEWS BRIEFING SUBSCRIBERS

NEW VIDEOS

INTRODUCING PEOPLE TO THE WORK OF CMEP



CMEP was proud to launch a new series of videos to introduce people to the work of Churches for Middle East Peace, funded by the generosity of a foundation. who believes in the work and desire to see it grow. Watch the overview video here. Below, watch videos focused on each of our three core strategies.

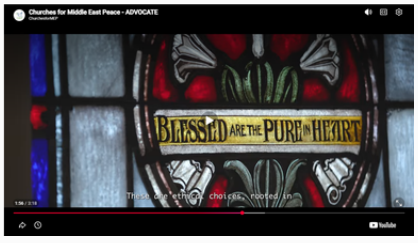
Educate



Elevate



Advocate



Educate

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) provides opportunities to learn about the Middle East with a holistic approach to advocating for peace.



Destiny Magnett

Outreach and Church Engagement Manager

The verse that comes to mind when I think about the accomplishments, growth, and opportunities of our outreach efforts at CMEP in the 2025-26 program year comes from Ecclesiastes 4:9-10:

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.

The fruits of our ministry at Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) are not ours alone. Rather, they are possible because of the teams, coalitions, and communities that work alongside us in pursuit of just peace. As I look at the achievements our outreach team has built over the past year, I know none of it would be possible without tremendous labor, faithfulness, and steadfastness of our community. Thank you for being a part of it.

47
CONGREGATIONS GAVE TO CMEP

+9%
INCREASE IN GIVING FROM CHURCH PARTNERS

13
FIRST TIME GIFTS FROM CHURCHES

23
STATES WITH CHURCH PARTNERS

Church Partners

CMEP helps churches, organizations, leaders, and individuals advocate for justice and peace for all peoples in knowledgeable, timely, holistic, and effective ways. We rely on partnerships to promote a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

CMEP Church and Organizational Partners



Sustaining Partnerships

We are grateful to longtime partners like Westminster Pres in Wilmington, DE for their sustained commitment to bringing conversations about faith, theology, and the Holy Land to their communities. Westminster's support, prayers, and willingness to engage in these conversations is a model for communities seeking to grow their consciousness and witness as it relates to Israel, Palestine, and the broader region.

Honoring Leadership

On May 20, 2026, Kyle Cristofalo represented CMEP at a retirement celebration for Rev. Greg and Camilla Jones. Greg Jones recently retired as Senior Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian in Wilmington, DC, after over two decades of service. Kyle offered remarks, thanking Greg and Camilla for their steadfast support of peace in Israel/Palestine and their commitment to engaging and growing the relationship with CMEP.

Learn more about becoming a church partner at cmep.org/partners.

Peace by Piece Tour 2025

Communities hosted events centered around peacebuilding, economic justice, and advocacy related to Israel-Palestine. In collaboration with Bethlehem Free Trade Artisans (BFTA), this program offered a unique opportunity to support Christian-led Palestinian craftspeople while fostering dialogue about paths toward peace and justice in the Holy Land. Our tour featured both CMEP representatives and a BFTA leader from Bethlehem who shared firsthand experiences about daily life, creative resilience, and hopes for peace.

This initiative was particularly timely as communities in the region continued to recover from recent violence and conflict. Our presentations incorporated the most current insights from our team's recent visits to the region, including perspectives from diverse communities affected by ongoing tensions.

Events included faith-based discussions on just peacemaking, educational forums on current realities in the Middle East, and Fair trade marketplaces featuring artisan-made products.

The P2P Speaking Tour served as the bridge between direct experience and local action in CMEP's peace initiative framework. This tour brought these experiences to communities across the United States through the voices and stories of those living through the conflict daily. By featuring Palestinian artisans and their handcrafted products, the tour created tangible connections between American audiences and Holy Land communities, transforming awareness into economic support and advocacy.

Looking for another way to support our artisans? Explore SERRV's CMEP shop to purchase handcrafts, olive oil, and more from these artisans!

Shop Now - Click Here. Use Code CMEP26







Build peace in the Middle East and support fair trade

When you shop this incredible collection of handcrafted Middle Eastern decorations and foods, you'll be directly supporting the Churches for Middle East Peace's mission 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."

Use Promo Code CMEP26 to donate 20% to CMEP!

CMEP will earn 20% of every purchase placed using the exclusive Promo Code.

Plus, you'll get 10% off your order!



14 days

7 states

15 events

$25,000
artisan goods sold

2,900+
People Reached

Artisan Connection

We partnered with Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans (BFTA) for this tour. BFTA is a non-profit NGO established in 2009. It works to spread the fair trade message in Palestine and links Palestinian producers to global fair trade markets. In 2015, BFTA became the first guaranteed member of World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) in the Middle East. WFTO is the largest global network advocating Fair Trade principles. BFTA's mission to empower the most vulnerable producers in Palestine, support them to become active agents in their own livelihoods, and develop their social rights and their communities.

BFTA's Handicrafts Showcase



Ceramic Bowl



Olive Wood Heart



Olive Wood Musical Nativity

Online Educational Opportunities



This year, CMEP sought to make our online offerings accessible, relevant, and responsive to rapidly changing conditions in the regions to empower our communities to be both informed and engaged. In 2025-26 we hosted 22 webinars (averaging just under two each month).

Our Thursday news briefings and Wednesday prayer times continued weekly, with many regular attendees and new faces.

Some of the most impactful online offerings of the year included

"**Faith, Resistance, and the Politics of Solidarity,**" a three-part mini-series during summer 2026 brought together South African and Palestinian religious leaders, theologians, activists, and public intellectuals to explore the urgent intersections between apartheid, genocide, theology, and global solidarity.

"**Faithful Advocacy, Urgent Times**," with DC policy-experts Josh Paul & Sasha Ghosh Siminoff, held in July 2026 just hours before the historic vote on the Massie Amendment which facilitated nearly 100 calls to congressional offices.

"**Let Children Live Vigil**" held on World Children's Day 2025, gathering Christians to pray for Palestinian children in Gaza and the West Bank. Participants received the name and age of a living child, wrote that name and a blessing on a card, and lifted those names together in a communal moment of prayer. The vigil featured live reflections from leaders such as Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Rania Maayeh of Ramallah Friends School, Humberto Tinsman, Bill Forbes of World Vision, and Shane Claiborne, alongside messages from Archbishop Elpidophoros, Rev. Eddie Aleman, and children from Ramallah Friends School.

NC MORAVIAN SOUTHERN PROVINCE SYNOD

June 2026: Their resolution Expanding and Developing the Moravian Church Southern Province's Relationship with Churches for Middle East Peace passed nearly unanimously



KY PCUSA CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT CHRISTIAN ZIONISM CONFERENCE

August 2026: Destiny Magnett, delivered a guest sermon focused on the ways Christian communities are called to bear witness to the suffering of our siblings in the Holy Land, and especially in Gaza.

DC RESHAPING JEWISH-CHRISTIAN ENGAGEMENT

May 2026: Rev. Dr. Mae Cannon and Rabbi Jill Jacobs reflected on how communities of faith can navigate the complex intersections of religion, politics, and justice in the Middle East, while remaining committed to our shared values of human dignity and peace.



Regional Events

In the 2025-26 Program Year, CMEP staff covered a lot of ground a we traveled across the country to meet communities to educate and equip churches to be voices for just peace in Palestine, Israel, and across the Middle East.

45	15	6,000+	17	12+
IN PERSON EVENTS	STATES	PEOPLE REACHED	ADULT EDUCATION SESSIONS	SUNDAY MORNING SERMONS

Supporting Our Communions & Coalition Partners Across the U.S.

In addition to the CMEP-led events, we also spent time on the road showing up to support our coalitions and member communions over the course of the program year. Some highlights in this realm:

Church at the Crossroads (CATX) conference - Wheaton

In September 2025, CMEP was one of the partners who helped to make the inaugural Church at the Crossroads (CATX) conference a resounding success. Under the leadership of the Bethlehem Institute for Peace and Justice (BIPJ), CATX is a place to hear the voices and testimonies of the Palestinian church, wrestle honestly with the biblical questions many evangelicals are asking about Israel, the Church, the land, justice, peace, and faithful discipleship, and seek to faithfully respond. Our executive director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, was a keynote speaker and delivered remarks on "The Violence of Love: A Radical Revival of Peace, Justice, and Enemy Love," which embraced the language of Oscar Romero to call for a return to seeing the humanity of the other, practicing enemy love, and embracing the costly, sacrificial love that Jesus embodied—a love that is strong enough to heal hatred and transform enemies into friends.

Board Member Organization Annual Gatherings

CMEP outreach manager, Destiny Magnett, joined CMEP member communions for several gatherings, including the 2026 Moravian Southern Province Synod in Winston-Salem, NC and the PCUSA's 2026 "Christianity Without Christian Zionism" conference in Louisville, KY.

Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Award

Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, was an honored guest and panelist at the Birzeit Society 17th National Convention in Florida in July 2026, spoke at the 11th Annual Palestine Diaspora Conference in September 2025, and also accepted the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Award on behalf of CMEP at the Global Religious Freedom Conference at Dallas Baptist University in October 2025.



Presbyterian Advisory Council

The Presbyterian Advisory Council actively promotes CMEP's organizational goals by deepening and expanding CMEP engagement with PCUSA related academic institutions, with special focus on theological seminaries and pastors-in-training, through strategic outreach, on-campus engagement and education, support and facilitation of dialogue among faculty and student activists, curriculum and travel-seminary support, and other programs.

Formation & Growth of the Council

Through open discussion and networking, and the tireless efforts of Ron Shive, the group has taken shape with the goal of including two participants (faculty or staff) from each of the PCUSA-related seminaries. At close of year, the group is composed of 14 individuals representing 7 different seminaries. Through near monthly Zoom meetings and two in-person consultations of available members - vision, mission, and strategies for the group were shaped. The group additionally provided support and advice to each other as members continued to advocate for the Middle East in their respective seminaries. Among several large goals (including travel seminar sponsorship, curriculum development, curricular support to seminary faculty, etc.), the initial strategy of hosting "residencies" at PCUSA-related seminaries came into focus and began to take specific form.

Events

As part of outreach to seminarians, the advisory council co-sponsored a webinar with young Palestinian theologians advertised to seminaries across the U.S. Topics included Kairos II, advocacy for justice and peace in U.S. seminaries, and theologies of liberation in a Palestinian context.

The advisory council added value to an invitation offered to CMEP by Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, NJ, to offer an adult education program on Israel/Palestine on Sunday, May 3, 2026, by taking the weekend as the first advisory council "residency" at a PCUSA seminary. Six members of the group, including its two representatives from Princeton Theological Seminary (Emeritus Professor, Mark Lewis Taylor, and Field Education Director, Shannon Smyth) spent three days in Princeton offering sponsored and co-sponsored programs. These included two events at the seminary: student-sponsored screening and discussion of the film, "The Voice of Hind Rajab" and a Sunday lunch conversation for interested students about CMEP and seminary-based activism.

These also included two events at Nassau Presbyterian Church: Sunday morning adult forum with panel discussion on Israel/Palestine and a Saturday morning conversation with local presbytery leadership. CMEP was represented by Wes Avram, Destiny Magnett, and Ron Shive who serves as the council chair.



Panel at Nassau Presbyterian Church (Princeton, NJ): PresAV members (left to right) Rev. Dr. Shannon Smyth, Rev. Dr. Safwat Marzouk, Rev. Dr. Wes Avram, Dr. Mark Taylor, Rev. Dr. Ron Shive and CMEP's Destiny Magnett

2026-2027 Program Year Plans

- additional seminary "residencies"
- continuing work on curriculum
- advocacy for stronger seminary attention to the theological, biblical, institutional, and missional significance of the Middle East
- expansion of membership, clarification of vision, & increased participation

Catholic Advisory Council

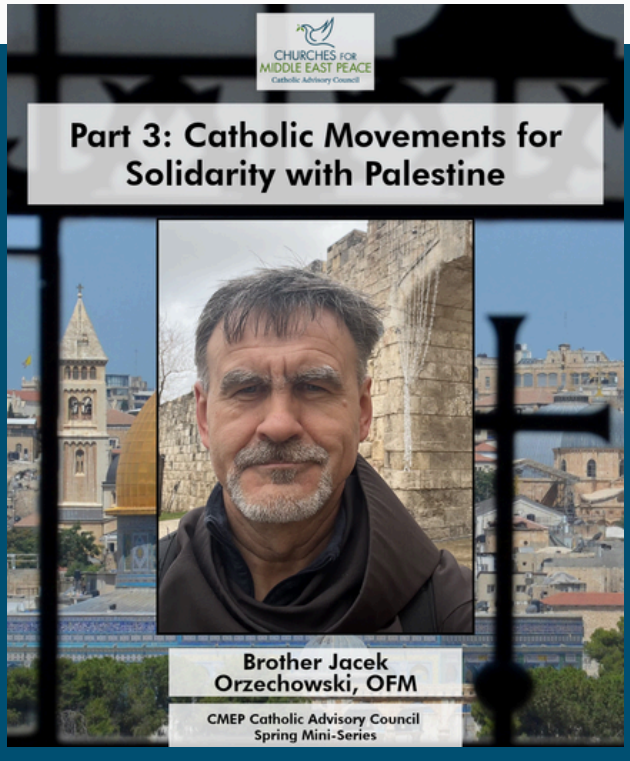
CMEP's Catholic Advisory Council aims to work in support of political and socio-economic conditions that favor the permanence of Christians in the Holy Land and engage in advocacy and education among American Catholics to promote U.S. policies toward a just and lasting peace.

Annual Fr. Drew Lectures

The 2025 Fr. Drew Christiansen lecture, delivered by Rev. David Neuhaus, S.J., focused on elements in the position of the Catholic Church regarding the Holy Land and its promotion of equality, justice, and peace in Israel and Palestine. Topics included the welfare of the Christian community and the protection of the Holy Places; the interpretation of the Scriptures as a resource for promoting equality, justice, and peace; the dialogue with Jews and Muslims; and the commitment to a social teaching that insists on equality, justice, and peace. The lecture laid out these elements, tracing the history of the Holy Land since 1917. This year's lecture was virtual and jointly sponsored by Churches for Middle East Peace, the Bethlehem University Foundation, the Ansari Institute at the University of Notre Dame, and Georgetown's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, & World Affairs. Watch the recording.

Spring 2026 Webinar Series

- On April 15, CMEP's Catholic Advisory Council (CAC) hosted the first in their three-part Spring mini-series "Learning from Palestinian Theology Amid Gaza" with John and Sam Munayer. The conversation, co-moderated by CAC members Jordan Denari Duffner and Julie Schumacher Cohen, discussed the Munayers recent book T*he Cross and the Olive Tree*, as well as recent updates from the ground to frame a conversation about how theology can be a driving force both for resilience and solidarity. The recording can be found here.
- On April 22, CMEP's Catholic Advisory Council (CAC) hosted the second webinar in their three-part Spring mini-series, "Updates from the Ground with Caritas- Jerusalem." Featuring executive director Anton Asfar, the webinar provided deep insights into the current humanitarian landscape across Gaza, Jerusalem, and the West Bank, highlighting the dire level of humanitarian need across the occupied Palestinian territory. In turn, Asfar also described the hope that Palestinians have when supported and met both physically and spiritually by the international community. Watch the recording.
- On April 29th, Br. Jacek Orzechowski joined CMEP's Catholic Advisory Council for the third installment of the CAC Spring Mini-Series. In this session, Br. Orzechowski shared insights from his organizing and solidarity work with Priest Against Genocide, and invited participants to take up solidarity in their own spheres. The recording can be found here.



Elevate

CMEP serves to elevate diverse voices who are advocating for equality, security, & human rights for all people in the Middle East.

In 2026, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) re-established a presence in the Middle East with the appointment of Christopher Huth as Middle East Partnerships Manager. After serving for two years on CMEP's Washington, DC staff, Christopher transitioned to the region to represent CMEP on the ground and strengthen relationships with churches, faith leaders, humanitarian organizations, civil society partners, and government officials. His presence enables CMEP to listen more closely to communities across the region, deepen existing partnerships, and connect the experiences and priorities of Middle Eastern partners directly to CMEP's advocacy and education efforts in the United States.



Christopher Huth

Manager of Communications and Middle East Partnerships

3

GROUPS TRAVELLED TO THE MIDDLE EAST

54

MIDDLE EAST CONNECTIONS

12+

WEBINARS ELEVATING PEACEBUILDERS

Elevating the work

CMEP serves to elevate diverse voices who are advocating for equality, security, & human rights for all people in the Middle East. We do this through hosting webinars, bringing speakers to the United States, and traveling to the MIddle East to listen and learn. Below are a couple highlights of the activities we did this past program year.

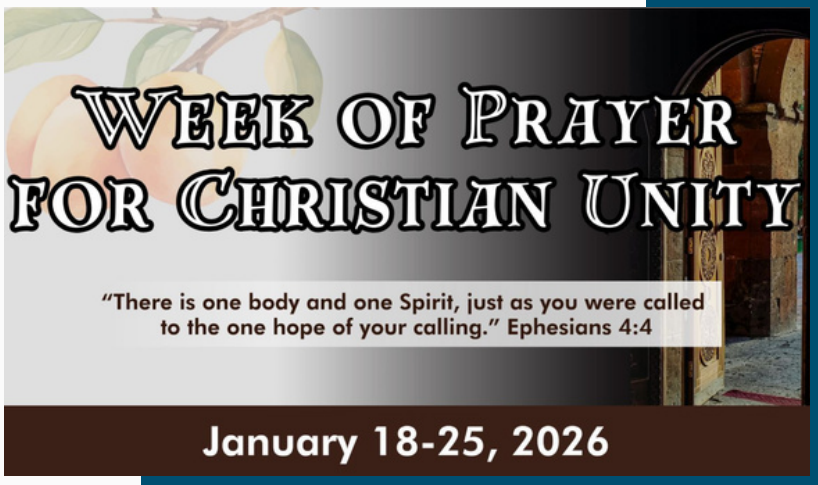
Fall 2025 Trip

In November 2025 Executive Director Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon traveled to Israel/Palestine to attend a number of high level meetings with faith leaders of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths to advance interfaith projects aimed at advancing peace in the Holy Land. Rev. Dr. Mae also met with officials of the US representatives in the region and high-level members of the Palestinian Authority.

Highlights: Webinars elevating peacemakers

On January 20th, 2026 CMEP held its first event for the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" together with Save the ArQ co-founder Hagop Djernazian. This event focused on the Armenian Community in the Holy Land and included a deep dive into the community's history as well as the issues facing them today, including the ongoing court cases surrounding the "Cows Garden" land lease.

During the 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Rev. Julie Hoplamazian joined CMEP's weekly prayer time to share an embodied reflection about the beauty of ecumenism and how it can help bring Christ's vision of peace to the world. Watch the recording.





On April 3, 2026 CMEP was happy to have Palestinian lawyer Dalia Qumsieh on a webinar titled "Freedom of Movement and Checkpoints in the Occupied West Bank". This webinar explored the system of checkpoints in the OPT and their devastating effects on the Palestinian population. Discussions centered around law, abuse, and gendered violence experienced at these checkpoints and the ramifications they have on daily Palestinian lives.

From Lebanon to the Holy Land: Strengthening Relationships Across the Region

During the 2025-2026 Program Year, CMEP has traveled to five Middle Eastern countries—Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel—to deepen partnerships and better understand the realities facing communities across the region. Meetings addressed humanitarian needs in Gaza, violence and displacement in the West Bank, the sustainability of Christian communities, the protection of religious and cultural heritage, and opportunities to strengthen relationships among Christian, Muslim, and Jewish leaders working toward peace.

October 2025

In October 2025, CMEP traveled to Lebanon to strengthen relationships with local partners responding to the war in southern Lebanon and to listen to Christian leaders about the sustainability and future of the country's Christian community.

November 2025



In November 2025 Executive Director Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon traveled to Israel/Palestine to attend a number of high level meetings with faith leaders of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths to advance interfaith projects aimed at advancing peace in the Holy Land. Rev. Dr. Mae also met with officials of the US representatives in the region and high-level members of the Palestinian Authority. This trip included the And Still We Rise (ASWR) Palestine leadership team hosting a night of spiritual renewal and connection led by Eilda Zaigmout and Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon. We prayed and read through some of the Pslams about the presence and comfort of God.

January 2026



In January 2026, Kyle Cristofalo, Senior Director of Advocacy and Government Relations for Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), traveled to Jerusalem to attend the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) honorary services for Bishop Emeritus Azar and the consecration of the new Bishop, Imad Haddad. Representatives from around the world gathered for this significant celebration, and CMEP was honored to strengthen existing partnerships and build new connections.

August 2026

In August 2026, CMEP returned to the region for an extensive delegation to Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, engaging government officials, humanitarian organizations, religious leaders, peacebuilders, and local communities. The delegation explored opportunities for religious diplomacy, interfaith cooperation, humanitarian partnership, and Christian advocacy, while listening to communities navigating the ongoing crises in the Holy Land. Read the press release here.

Learn more about our trips on the next pages.

In April 2026 CMEP hosted a trip to South Africa between RCA in the U.S. and reformed congregations in South Africa (DRC and URCSA)



RCA, CMEP, and URCSA leadership in Johannesburg

Why go to South Africa when CMEP is focused on the Middle East?

South Africa is a global leader in advocating for peace and justice in the Middle East, especially in regards to Palestine and Gaza. In, December 2023, South Africa took Israel to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the question of genocide, evidence of the historic solidarity between Palestine and South Africa. We have much to learn from those who stood against South African apartheid and are still working to ensure equality in their land. In addition, CMEP has relationships with several Christian leaders in South Africa and we are working together to mobilize global religious leaders towards an end to the violence in the Middle East.

We travel to South Africa because we are all connected and the legacy and witness of South African peace leaders is one that offers a path to peace in the Middle East.

Outcome: Joint Freedom Day Statement Calls for Global Solidarity, Truth-Telling, Unity, and Justice Across Continents

"Central to our discussions this past week, were the enduring significance of the Belhar Confession, born out of the struggle against apartheid. We confess racism, superiority, and privilege that are identified as sins of the church in the Belhar Confession. The Confession rejects any ideology that legitimizes separation, inequality, or oppression. Its message remains profoundly relevant today, as we confront systems that divide and dehumanize. The Belhar Confession serves as a roadmap for today by which the church may embody principles of the Good News of the Gospel in pursuit of unity, reconciliation, and justice."

An excerpt from the Joint Freedom Day Statement Cape Town, South Africa - April 27, 2026

Read the Press Release about the statement here.

September 2026 Trip

Delegation Travels to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine for Regional Peace, Interfaith, and Christian Community Engagement

CMEP took a regional delegation to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel/Palestine, bringing together senior CMEP leadership and Christian partners for a series of meetings with government officials, religious leaders, humanitarian organizations, civil society partners, and communities directly affected by the ongoing crises in the Holy Land. The delegation included Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of CMEP, and Christopher Huth, Middle East Partnerships Manager. In Jerusalem, they were joined by His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian of the Armenian Apostolic Church and Her Excellency Vicki Downey of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Objectives

- To listen and hear from the Christian community
- Create Interfaith Collaboration and Meetings, especially in regards to a Vatican initative with the South African Council of Churches
- Seek out opportunities for Religious Diplomacy

Read the Press Release here.

Highlights & Results

- Identified concrete opportunities for CMEP to engage around the issues of settler violence/accountability, U.S. security coordination, religious freedom, Palestinian Christian concerns, Augusta Victoria Hospital funding, and the role of religious leaders in the peace process
- Meetings in Egypt focused on Christian Sustainability, Interfaith Engagement, and Regional Peace
- Meetings in Jordan focused on U.S. Engagement and Local Peacebuilding
- Meetings in Israel and Palestine focused on Listening to Communities and Strengthening Advocacy
- Continued engagement with the US Embassy

Looking Ahead

CMEP will continue to strengthen and deepen the partnerships developed through our travel, maintaining close relationships with faith leaders, humanitarian organizations, civil society partners, and other contacts on the ground. We will continue our work in interfaith diplomacy, supporting dialogue and cooperation among Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities as a means of promoting peace and understanding across the region. CMEP will also continue to elevate the concerns and experiences of Christian communities, including listening directly to the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem and other regional church leaders. We will bring these firsthand perspectives back to our constituents in the United States, using what we have learned to educate and equip the American Christian community with a deeper understanding of the realities facing the region. This continued engagement will also inform CMEP's advocacy priorities, helping us elevate the most pressing concerns and perspectives in our ongoing engagement with policymakers on Capitol Hill.

Travels in Armenia

Delegation Visits Armenia in Solidarity with Armenian Church and People

In September 2026, CMEP led a delegation of Christian executive leaders to Armenia for a solidarity visit focused on the country's Christian heritage, current geopolitical challenges, the situation of displaced Armenians from Artsakh, and the vital role of the Armenian Apostolic Church in the spiritual and cultural life of the Armenian people. The delegation included representatives of CMEP, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), and the World Council of Churches. The visit provided an opportunity for Christian leaders from across the global Church to listen to Armenian communities, engage with civil society, and deepen relationships with the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Objectives

- A solidarity visit focused on the country's Christian heritage, current geopolitical challenges, the situation of displaced Armenians from Artsakh, and the vital role of the Armenian Apostolic Church in the spiritual and cultural life of the Armenian people.

Highlights

- Meeting with His Holiness Garekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians to discuss concerns about recent government actions affecting the Armenian Apostolic Church
- Visit with communities in southern Armenia displaced following the September 2023 Azerbaijani military operation and the subsequent exodus of the region's ethnic Armenian population
- Visits to significant Christian sites, encountering firsthand a living Christian heritage that stretches back to the earliest centuries of the Church

Read the Press Release here.

Looking Ahead

CMEP will deepen its relationships with the Armenian Church and with human rights experts, civil society leaders, and other partners in Armenia and throughout the region. Building on this engagement, CMEP will continue to advocate for the sovereignty of Armenia, the protection and flourishing of Christianity in the world's oldest Christian country, and the preservation of Armenian cultural and historical heritage in Armenia and surrounding countries. CMEP will also continue to support the independence and integrity of the Armenian Church and elevate concerns related to its ability to carry out its mission freely. CMEP will work to educate the American public, Christian communities, and U.S. policymakers about the challenges facing Armenia and Armenians throughout the region, bringing greater attention to issues of sovereignty, religious freedom, and cultural heritage. Through public education and continued engagement with policymakers on Capitol Hill, CMEP seeks to encourage U.S. policies that support Armenia's sovereignty, the protection of Armenian communities, and the preservation of their religious and cultural heritage. As CMEP expands its engagement on these issues, we look forward to deepening our relationships with Armenian communities both in Armenia and across the broader Middle East, working alongside partners to promote a future in which Armenians can live with security, dignity, and freedom from violence and persecution wherever they call home.

SOLIDARITY WITH MIDDLE EAST CHIRSTIANS

1 Patriarchs and Heads of Churches Meeting with CMEP Delegation
2 -Delegation in Taybeh
3 - Rev. Dr. Cannon with His Beatitude Theophilos III
4 - On a tour of the Grand Mosque of Egypt
5 -CMEP meets with CEOSS staff, including Andrea Zaki (center)
6 - At Tatev Monastery in Southern Armenia
7 -Delegation with local faith leaders at Lake Sevan in Armenia















Armenian Advisory Council

September 2025: Launch of Armenian Advisory Council in New York City

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) hosted an unforgettable evening at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York City to celebrate the launch of CMEP's Armenian Advisory Council. This new initiative strengthens engagement with Armenian communities, advocates for human rights, and supports the Christian presence across the Middle East. The evening featured remarks from His Grace Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, and Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, honoring a legacy of resilience and faith that extends from Ararat to the world while shaping a new chapter of Armenian advocacy.

Armenia Solidarity Sunday (April 26, 2026)

On April 26th, CMEP invited congregations across the U.S. to join in remembering the lives lost during the Armenian Genocide, when approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed beginning in 1915. This solemn day of remembrance offered an opportunity for the Church to honor those who suffered persecution because of their identity and Christian faith. We encouraged churches to include a dedicated prayer or moment of silence in their Sunday service, standing in solidarity with the memory and reaffirming our shared commitment to faith, justice, and human dignity.

Summer 2026 Travel

Members of the CMEP Armenian Advisory Council joined an Executive Leaders Trip to Armenia in September 2026. The purpose of the trip was to learn more about how CMEP can serve in elevating the voice of the Armenian People and Church, of which the Armenian Advisory Council will play a central part.



Members of the CMEP Armenian Advisory Council and other Executive Leaders together with His Holiness Catholicos of All Armenians Garegin II. September 2026.

Building Partnerships for Peace and Humanitarian Action

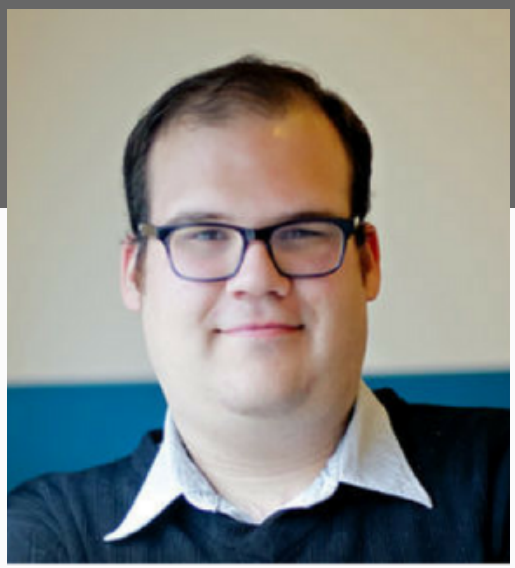
CMEP continues to strengthen its partnerships with humanitarian, faith-based, and civil society organizations working throughout the Middle East. This includes CMEP's ongoing engagement with the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA), a coalition bringing together dozens of organizations working directly on the ground in Palestine. Through these relationships, CMEP helps amplify the expertise and experiences of organizations responding to humanitarian needs and advocating for peace and justice. Collaboration includes joint statements and press releases, advocacy initiatives, briefings for U.S. government officials, information sharing, and coordinated engagement on emerging humanitarian and political crises.

For more info on all our connections, please visit cmep.org/connections



Advocate

Advocate for just U.S. policies in the Middle East by contacting members of Congress, participating in Government meetings, & attending Advocacy Summits.



Kyle Cristofalo

Sr. Director of Advocacy and Government Engagement

Reflecting on the past program year I am encouraged by the continued commitment of CMEP's network. Despite the challenging realities, so many of you joined us in advocating for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. You sent messages to your Congressional members, participated in advocacy meetings with your elected officials in Washington, DC, and encouraged others to join you. We are beginning to see real progress in Congress and it is a direct result of the persistent advocacy of so many of you.

13	5	45
ADVOCACY EVENTS	ACTION ALERTS	STATES WITH CONSTITUENTS ADVOCATING FOR PEACE

2026 Joint Christian Advocacy Summit

On May 5-7 2026 Churches for Middle East Peace co-hosted the Joint Christian Advocacy Summit, where hundreds of constituents gathered in Washington, D.C. to urge Congress to do right, seek justice, and defend the oppressed in the Middle East.

- 300+ attendees
- 71 Congressional Offices
- 42 Co-Sponsors
- 15 Exhibitors



CMEP Staff, May 2026

join us in 2027

www.summitforepace.org

CHRISTIAN ADVOCACY SUMMIT
FOR JUST PEACE IN PALESTINE
2027

On May 7, 2026, attendees gathered for a prayer breakfast and heard virtual remarks from Senator Chris Van Hollen and Congresswoman Delia Ramirez, the recipient of the 2026 CMEP congressional award. Constituents then took to Capitol Hill where Summit participants asked asked **71 congressional offices across 29 states** to

- cosponsor the Block the Bombs Act [H.R.3565]
- restore funding to UNRWA [H.R.2411; S.898]
- reopen the humanitarian corridor between Gaza and the East Jerusalem Hospital Network









Advocacy Events



In October 2025, CMEP participated in the Gaza Families Project with AAI and AFSC.

On Tuesday, Oct 14 the delegation spent the afternoon briefing civil society and local church leaders on how Israel's actions in Gaza have directly impacted their families. They shared stories of family members and friends being killed--either directly in the bombings or indirectly as a result of lack of medical attention. One of the delegates was visiting Gaza on Oct 7th, 2023 and elected to stay in Gaza for nearly two years, only returning due to the unexpected passing of his wife back in the U.S. One family who intended to split their time between Gaza and the U.S. in their retirement shared the story of their home being destroyed. The day concluded with a prayer vigil on the steps of the United Methodist Building with words from Rev. Mira Sawlani-Joyner (Riverside Church, NYC) Imam Yahya Hendi (Georgetown University Muslim Chaplain) among others.

Highlights

01. Interfaith Iftar on Palestine

On March 18, 2026, CMEP's Senior Director of Advocacy & Government Relations, Kyle Cristofalo, spoke at the Jerusalem Fund's "Interfaith Iftar on Palestine" that also featured remarks from Imam Yahya Hendi of Georgetown University. The night was an educational gathering in solidarity with Palestinian families who observed Ramadan under siege, occupation, and displacement. This convening also included an art auction featuring beautiful pieces by Zahi Khamis, a Palestinian Christian artist from Nazareth.

02. International Religious Freedom Summit

On Monday, Feb 2, 2026, Kyle Cristofalo, CMEP's Senior Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, moderated a panel discussion as part of the 2026 International Religious Freedom Summit. The session, Justice Beyond Borders: Protection of Victims of Religious Persecution in Exile, featured a number of distinguished speakers, including Dr. Asif Mahmood, the Vice Chair of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom and Dr. Nazila Ghanea, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Advocacy Highlight: Block the Bombs

Kyle Cristofalo, CMEP's Senior Director of Advocacy and Government Relations participated in events marking the year anniversary of the introduction of HR 3565 the Block the Bombs bill by Rep. Delia Ramirez (IL). The events included a press conference near the steps of the Capitol as well as an evening reception where several members of Congress who co-sponsor the bill spoke in support of the bill. CMEP was one of the co-sponsors of the evening reception.



On Thursday, June 4, 2026, CMEP joined a press conference on Capitol Hill marking the year anniversary of the introduction of HR 3565, the Block the Bombs bill. Now with bipartisan support and 74 cosponsors, the bill continues to gain support in Congress. (CMEP Summer 2026 Advocacy Intern Tyler Stermasi stands far right with a "block the bombs" sign.) If you haven't already, please complete our action alert and ask your member of congress to cosponsor HR 3565 today.

ACTION ALERTS

We encourage our constituents to raise their voice and let their members of Congress what's important to them. These are the few of the topics they contacted their representatives about this past program year.

LETTERS FOR GAZA

May 2025 - "Letters for Gaza" is a U.S. coalition-led campaign mobilizing thousands of citizens nationwide to urge their members of Congress to support full, unrestricted humanitarian access to Gaza and an immediate halt to the bombardment of civilians. Members of Congress have the power to pressure the Trump Administration to use all diplomatic tools to lift the blockade and push for a permanent ceasefire.

GAZA HUMANITARIAN AID

June 2025 - House Resolution 473 was introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives calling for the delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip.

IRAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

March 2026 - At a moment when military strikes have been launched without congressional authorization, it's more important than ever that our representatives uphold the Constitution and resist unchecked executive war powers.

FUND EAST JERUSALEM HOSPITAL NETWORK

July 2026 -As displacement grows and shortages of medicine, fuel, and essential supplies worsen, the East Jerusalem Hospital Network remains a critical lifeline, providing specialized treatment that is unavailable anywhere else for patients in Gaza and the West Bank.

END SETTLER VIOLENCE

Aug 2026 - Settler violence and illegal settlement expansion are driving Palestinian families from their homes and threatening Christian and Muslim communities across the occupied West Bank.

Action Alerts

Stats on our August 2026 Action Alert on Ending Settler violence

45	831	1054	223
STATES	RETURNING CONSTITUENTS	MESSAGES	NEW SUPPORTERS

Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators are vital members of CMEP's work with essential roles in providing American Christians opportunities to support balanced and pertinent positions for U.S. policymakers that support peace in the Holy Land.

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 of grassroots network so as to better equip them to be better advocates for peace in the Holy land.

We were grateful to be able to join so many coordinators in their communities this past program year. The below photos are during a Pilgrimage Peace Tour with Suzan Sahori in November 2025.



With Regional Coordnator Mary Mobley & local leader Carol Hylkema (Michigan)



With Regional Coordinators Mark & Carol Mosher (Wilmington, DE)



With Regional Coordinators John & Marilyn Paarlberg (Albany, NY)

CMEP is proud to have 25 Regional Coordinators from 18 States.

Visit cmep.org/team to look up the one near you!

Communications

Social Media, Blogs, News, Public Statements & Press Releases



Fayelle Ewuakye

Digital Media Manager

We are grateful for the opportunity to connect with other organizations like Red Candle Palestine who not only encourage our work but also share it widely. Throughout the program year we have met with other organizations in solidarity to plan fresh ways to engage the public and keep focus strong even as so many people are overwhelmed with the daily realities of so many hard things at home and in the Middle East. We have found encouragement in those who continue to show up and engage with this work for peace and justice. It's been our high priority to listen to the questions of the people in weekly briefings, in webinars, on social media. We've been honored to see people are thinking critically and including the Middle East when thinking holistically about their own lives and lives of Christians here and abroad.

39	54	41	14	24
PRAYERS 4 PEACE BLOGS	TIMES THE MEDIA CITED CMEP	PUBLIC STATEMENTS	PRESS RELEASES	ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

965,751	55,628	15,920	4,048
Total Reach	tiktok views	Followers	Minutes of Video

PLATFORM BREAKDOWN

TIKTOK

Followers: 1802
Growth: 3%
Views: 55,628

FACEBOOK

Followers: 8870
Growth: 15%
Views: 680,906

INSTAGRAM

Followers: 4131
Growth: 21%
Views: 217,517

YOUTUBE

Followers: 1117
Growth: 4%
Views: 1k hours

TOP PERFORMING CONTENT





JOIN US @CHURCHESFORMEP

Media, Statements, & Press Releases

55 Statements & Press Releases: Elevating Voices and Issues Across the Region

Between September 1, 2025 and August 30, 2026, Churches for Middle East Peace issued 55 public statements and press releases addressing a wide array of issues across the Middle East. Through this public advocacy, CMEP has worked to elevate voices, bring attention to critical issues, and amplify the perspectives of churches, humanitarian organizations, and communities directly impacted by conflict.

CMEP's communications have elevated the voices of churches and Christian leaders in the Holy Land, called attention to injustice and the suffering of Palestinians, and spoken out against U.S. government actions that contributed to the escalation of regional conflict. CMEP has also stood alongside NGO and humanitarian partners working on the ground, supported efforts to protect humanitarian access, and helped bring interfaith voices together through a joint interfaith letter calling for peace.

From Palestine and Israel to Lebanon, Iran, Armenia, and Egypt, CMEP's statements reflect a commitment to engaging the interconnected realities of the region while ensuring that the voices of local churches, faith communities, civil society, and humanitarian partners are heard in the United States and beyond.

highlights

- Nov 4, 2025: 2025 Multi-Faith Global Letter. We, leaders representing Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, come together united by the profound belief that all human beings are created in the image of God. In this conviction, we affirm the inherent dignity, equality, and worth of every person, regardless of religion, nationality, or ethnicity. This belief calls us to speak with urgency, compassion, and moral clarity in response to the ongoing devastation in Gaza and the broader Middle East.
- Oct 20, 2025: Palestinian Americans Share Their Stories with Congress, Urge Them to Promote Lasting Peace and an End to the Occupation. A delegation of Palestinian Americans from across the country met with Members of Congress on Capitol Hill this week to highlight the terrible suffering and loss that their families, friends and colleagues have suffered during the unfolding genocide in Gaza. As the fate of the ceasefire agreement in Gaza remains tenuous and uncertain, these Palestinian American families called on Congress and the Administration to ensure that the ceasefire does not just temporarily halt the fighting, but brings the occupation and destruction to a lasting end.
- Mar 17, 2026: 60+ National Ecumenical Organizations Urge Congress To Oppose Iran War Funding. CMEP is proud to have joined dozens of other faith-based organizations in signing a letter to Congress urging opposition to additional funding for the war on Iran. Grounded in our commitment to peace, we reject further investment in a dangerous and unauthorized conflict that puts countless lives at risk. Instead, we call on Congress to prioritize diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, and policies that uphold human dignity and pursue a just and lasting peace.

Read all of our press releases and public statements at cmep.org/press-news.

CMEP in the News: Bringing Regional Voices to a Wider Audience

Between September 1, 2025 and August 30, 2026, Churches for Middle East Peace was mentioned in the news 54 times, reflecting the growing visibility of CMEP's advocacy and engagement across the region. These media appearances highlighted CMEP's public statements and letters, high-profile meetings with religious and political leaders, efforts to advance peace, and commitment to challenging narratives that too often overlook the experiences of people living in the region.

CMEP's presence in the news has helped lift up Palestinian voices, amplify the witness of churches and Christian leaders in the Holy Land, stand alongside humanitarian and civil society partners, and call attention to the human consequences of conflict and injustice. Coverage has also highlighted CMEP's calls for peace and de-escalation amid regional conflict, as well as its efforts to bring faith communities together in prayer and action for peace.

Through these 54 media mentions, CMEP has helped bring the perspectives of local churches, Palestinians, humanitarian organizations, and faith leaders to wider audiences while keeping the call for peace, justice, dignity, and the protection of human life at the center of the public conversation.

Prayers for Peace

Between September 2025 and August 2026, CMEP published 39 Prayers4Peace (P4P) blogs, providing a meaningful space to elevate the voices of church leaders and regional partners, share personal stories and reflections, and invite Christians into prayer for peace. During sacred seasons such as Advent and Lent, P4P has also served as an important spiritual resource, helping people across the CMEP community remain connected to the people and places of the Middle East through reflection, prayer, and hope.

Weekly News Bulletin

CMEP continued our decades long tradition of sending out a bulletin every single week for the entire year; keeping our constituents informed on what is going on in the region and with CMEP. We seek to grow this platform so that more US Christians are informed about how they can learn and advocate in their communities.

Giving



Rev. Dr. Stephem Murray

Chief Development Officer

Our overall expectation to cover our budget each year is $1.2 million annually, which we currently raise through four primary sources.

Individuals – We reach out to individuals in several different ways. Recently, we have introduced an intentional outreach to prospective major donors. In addition to that, we have both monthly e-appeals and quarterly written, mailed appeals. These appeals often focus either on current events in the Middle East, programs being run by CMEP, or on individual stories, such as our Executive Director competing in IRONMAN challenges as a fundraising tool for Middle East Peace. We also are initiating some regional events, galas and salon parties, to build a larger community of people who know and support CMEP.

Grants and Foundations – We are applying to approximately 20 different foundations per year, both large foundations and smaller family foundations. We have had a lot of success and by mid-year 2026 had already met the $350K that we budget to receive from grants. Among our strongest current supporters are the Open Society Foundations, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, El-Hindi Foundation, and Sparacio Foundation.

Church Partnerships - Destiny Magnett, CMEP's primary connective tissue with individual churches, and Stephen Murray, Chief Development Officer, partner together on identifying churches that have strong financial capacity and funding. This results in grants from churches and their mission boards. In addition, in October 2027 we started a new initiative whereby we asked on large scale for churches to dedicate a Sunday where all of the weekly collection on October 25th is given to CMEP and its mission. This is not just fundraising, but expanding consciousness of CMEP and its mission.

Board Dues– Our Board is constituted by representatives from over thirty denominations, and membership on our Board comes with the duty and responsibility to contribute to the work of CMEP.

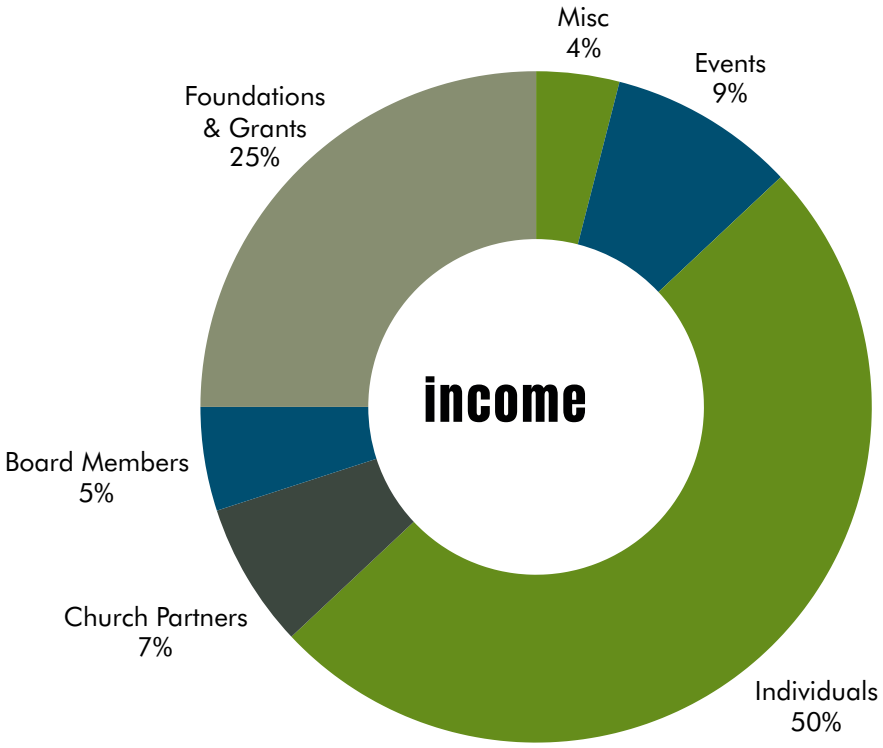
Looking toward 2027, we look forward to developing stronger programs in donor advised funds, legacy giving, and corporate philanthropy.

$982k
GENERAL FUND BUDGET

$350k
GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2026

200+
FIRST TIME DONORS

Funding & Expenses



$350k+ in Grants Received in 2026

$125,000	Open Society Foundations
$96,650	Ahmad and Elizabeth El-Hindi Foundation
$75,000	Rockefeller Brothers Fund
$45,000	John J. and Frank Sparacio Foundation
$5,000	Jerusalem Fund
$3,500	Rock Spring UCC SAM Grant

Some of the awarded grants are multi-year and come with the promise of an additional $225k over the next two years.

Platinum Transparency 2026

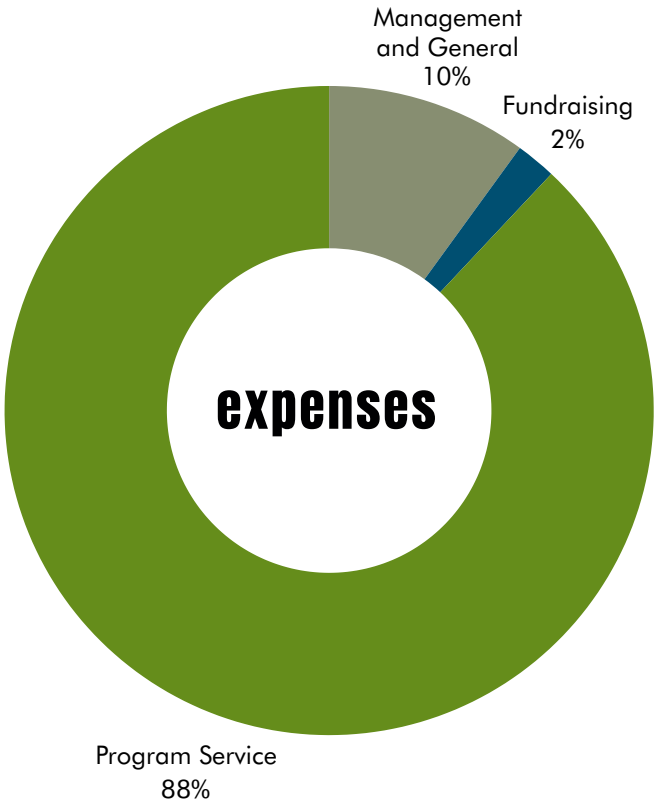
Candid.

2025 Fiscal Year

Income: $815,042

Expenses: $920,460

Note: Additional information can be found on CMEP's Form 990.



Be a part of this work for peace:

cmep.org/donate

BOARD MEMBERS & REPRESENTATIVES

CMEP is a coalition of more than 35 national Church communions and organizations in Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, and Evangelical traditions. Each of these communions and organizations is represented on the CMEP Board of Directors, which sets CMEP's mission, positions, and policy. Decisions are made by consensus of this group.

Alliance of Baptists
Representative:
Rev. William T. Young IV

American Friends Service Committee
Representative:
Jennifer Bing

American Baptist Churches USA
Representative:
Juliana Herrera

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Representative:
Fr. Thomas Zain

Armenian Orthodox Church
Representative:
Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Representative:
Dr. Peter Makari Ph.D.

Christian Reformed Church
Representative:
Rev. Naji Umran

Church of the Brethren
Representative: Rev. Dr. Andrew S. Hamilton

Church World Service
Representative:
George Devendorf

Community of Christ
Representative:
Steve Kellogg

NEW THIS YEAR

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Representative:
Rev. Dr. Robert Wallace

The Episcopal Church
Representative:
Christina Bouri

Evangelicals 4 justice
Representative: Dr. Andrea Smith

Evangelical Covenant Church
Representative:
Erikka Hedberg

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Representative:
Sasha Ghosh-Siminoff

Franciscan Friars (OFM)
Representative:
Russell Testa

Friends Committee on National Legislation
Representative:
Hassan El-Tayyab

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Representative:
Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou

Lott Carey Foreign Missionary Society Representative:
The Rev. Emmett Dunn

Maryknoll Office for Global Concern
Representative:
Susan Gunn

Mennonite Central Committee US
Representative:
Zachary Murray

continued on next page

Moravian Church in America
Representative:
Rev. Sue Koenig

National Council of Churches
Representative:
Keith Swartzendruber

Pax Christi USA
Representative:
Judy Coode

Presbyterian Church, USA
Representative:
Catherine Gordon

Progressive National Baptist Convention
Representative:
Rev. Dr. Tyrone Pitts

Reformed Church in America
Representative:
Rev. Laura Osborne

United Church of Christ
Representative:
Dr. Peter Makari Ph.D.

United Methodist Church, General Board of Global Ministries
Representative:
Rev. Jin Yang Kim

United Methodist Church, General Board of Church & Society
Representative:
Colleen Moore

Unitarian Universalist Association
Representative:
Dana Fisher Ashrawi

United Women in Faith
Representative:
Tatiana Dwyer



Independent Member:
H.E. Vicki Downey, DGCHS, Lieutenant

Observer Organizations

Catholic Relief Services
Representative:
vacant

US Conference of Catholic Bishops
Representative:
Christopher S.Ljungquist

Christians for Social Action
Representative:
Nikki Toyama-Szetzo

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Inc
Representative:
Jean Stokan

New Board Member joins February 2026: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

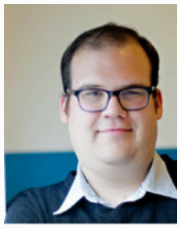
Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is pleased to announce that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) has joined as CMEP's newest member communion, further strengthening the broad ecumenical witness for peace and justice in the Middle East. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is a network of churches 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.

CMEP TEAM

STAFF



Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon
Executive Director



Kyle Cristofalo
Sr. Director of Advocacy and Government Engagement



Nicole Parker
Sr. Director of Operations



Rev. Dr. Stephen Murray
Chief Development Officer



Rev. Dr. Wes Avram
Academic Engagement Director (Volunteer)



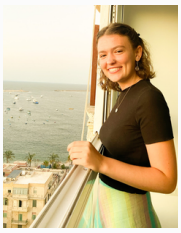
Destiny Magnett
Programs and Outreach Manager



Christopher Huth
Middle East Partnerships Manager



Fayelle Ewuakye
Digital Media Manager



Niamaya King
Executive Assistant to the Executive Director



Raven Diaz-Smith
Administration and Development Coordinator



Ayoub Waddod
Event Coodinator



Andrew Wickersham
Ambassador Warren Clark Fellow



Joe Kurian
Staff Development Strategist and Operations Advisor (Volunteer)

CMEP keeps growing! We were grateful to welcome both Stephen Murray and Ayoub Wadood to the team this year along with several Ambassador Warren Clark Fellows, interns, and volunteers. We've met our 2027 goal of 10 Full Time Equivalent staff with at least two people working from D.C. We hope to add new positions in the coming year to expand our efforts towards peace.

Learn more about all the people who do the work of peace and justice at **cmep.org/team**. Opportunities available at **cmep.org/work**.

CHURCHES FOR
MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Working Together: Justice can prevail. Peace is possible.

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Washington, D.C. 20002

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