



WORKING TOGETHER:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cairo, Egypt - August 26, 2026

President of the Evangelical Church in Egypt and CEOSS Welcomes CMEP Delegation in Cairo, Egypt

August 26, 2026, Cairo, Egypt: The Churches for Middle East Peace delegation, headed by Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon and Christopher Huth, Middle East Partnerships Manager, was received by Rev. Dr. André Zaki, President of the Evangelical Church in Egypt. The meeting was attended by Mr. Momtaz Beshay, Vice President of CEOSS; Ms. Samira Luka, Head of the Dialogue Sector at CEOSS; and Mr. Youssef Edward, Media Director at CEOSS.

Rev. Dr. André Zaki welcomed the delegation, expressing his appreciation for the visit and emphasizing the importance of continued dialogue and joint efforts among churches and partner institutions in ways that contribute to serving society and promoting the values of peace.

Rev. Dr. André Zaki said: “The strength of society lies in its ability to embrace diversity and coexistence. Building peace does not begin merely with agreement on ideas, but through working together to serve people. Egypt will continue to be a steadfast model of national cohesion, and we believe that our responsibility is to translate these values into meaningful action that serves society and supports its future.”

During the meeting, Rev. Dr. André Zaki presented an overview of the key areas of work of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS). He also highlighted the activities of the Evangelical Church in Egypt, which includes more than 1,500 local churches across all governorates of the country, emphasizing its spiritual and community role and its commitment to contributing to the service of Egyptian society.

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon said: “We have seen in the Egyptian experience a genuine ability to bring together faith and to transform dialogue into bridges of cooperation and understanding. We look forward to learning more about this experience and expanding opportunities for cooperation.”

Christopher Huth emphasized the importance of being in touch with Christian institutions in the Middle East and working to serve those in need. Only dialogue and cooperation between

communities and religions, east and west, is the way forward for all who call this region home.

رئيس الطائفة الإنجيلية يستقبل رئيسة منظمة «كنائس من أجل السلام في الشرق الأوسط»

الدكتور القس أندريه زكي: مصر نموذج راسخ للتماسك الوطني

الدكتورة القس ماي كانون: التجربة المصرية تقدم نموذجاً مهماً في تعزيز التعايش وخدمة المجتمعات

استقبل الدكتور القس أندريه زكي، رئيس الطائفة الإنجيلية بمصر، وفداً من منظمة «كنائس من أجل السلام في الشرق الأوسط»، برئاسة الدكتورة القس ماي كانون، بمشاركة كريستوفر هاث، مدير الشراكات للشرق الأوسط، وذلك بحضور الأستاذ ممتاز بشاي نائب رئيس الهيئة الإنجيلية، والأستاذة سميرة لوقا رئيس قطاع الحوار بالهيئة الإنجيلية، والأستاذ يوسف إدوارد مدير الإعلام بالهيئة الإنجيلية.

ورحب الدكتور القس أندريه زكي بالوفد، معرباً عن تقديره لهذه الزيارة، ومؤكداً أهمية استمرار الحوار وتكامل الجهود بين الكنائس والمؤسسات الشريكة، بما يسهم في خدمة المجتمع وتعزيز قيم السلام.

وقال الدكتور القس أندريه زكي: «قوة المجتمع تأتي من قدرته على التنوع والعيش المشترك، وأن بناء السلام لا يبدأ فقط من الاتفاق على الأفكار، بل من العمل معاً لخدمة الإنسان. ومصر ستظل نموذجاً مهماً في ترسيخ التماسك الوطني، ونحن نؤمن بأن مسؤوليتنا هي أن نحول هذه القيم إلى ممارسة حقيقية تخدم المجتمع وتدعم مستقبله».

وخلال اللقاء، استعرض الدكتور القس أندريه زكي أبرز مجالات عمل الهيئة القبطية الإنجيلية للخدمات الاجتماعية، كما أشار إلى نشاط الطائفة الإنجيلية في مصر، التي تضم أكثر من ١٥٠٠ كنيسة محلية منتشرة في جميع محافظات الجمهورية، مؤكداً دورها الروحي والمجتمعي، وحرصها على الإسهام في خدمة المجتمع المصري.

ومن جانبها، قالت الدكتورة القس ماي كانون: «لقد لمسنا في التجربة المصرية قدرة حقيقية على الجمع بين الإيمان والعمل من أجل الإنسان، وعلى تحويل الحوار إلى جسور للتعاون والتفاهم، ونتطلع إلى التعرف على هذه التجربة وتوسيع مجالات التعاون المشترك».

كما أعربت عن احترامها الشديد للتجربة المصرية، مشيدة بدورها في الجمع بين العمل التنموي والحوار المجتمعي وإسهاماتها الإنسانية.

12:50 PM



CEOSS President Rev. Dr. Andrea Zaki (center) with Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon and Christopher Huth on either side of him, along with Mr. Momtaz Beshay, Vice President of CEOSS; Ms. Samira Luka, Head of the Dialogue Sector at CEOSS; and Mr. Youssef Edward, Media Director at CEOSS.

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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:

Aug 24, 2026: [CMEP Elevates the “Jerusalem Voice for Justice” Appeal For Gaza, the West Bank, and the Christian presence in their land](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) elevates and stands in solidarity with the appeal issued today by A Jerusalem Voice for Justice, “For Gaza, the West Bank, and the Christian presence in their land.” We join this ecumenical Christian witness in refusing to allow the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank to become normalized or forgotten. The appeal’s call for the protection of civilians, humanitarian access, an end to violence and displacement, and equality and dignity for all reflects our conviction that a just and lasting peace must include the rights and voices of Palestinians, including the historic Christian community whose presence is an integral part of the land’s past, present, and future.

Aug 11, 2026: [CMEP Expresses Support for the Armenian Apostolic Church](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) affirms the vital role of the Armenian Apostolic Church

in the spiritual, cultural, and historical life of the Armenian people and in the wider Christian family. We are deeply concerned about undue interference in the internal affairs of the Church and urge respect for its independence and sacred mission.

Jul 14, 2026: Churches for Middle East Peace Welcomes The Rev. Dr. Stephen Murray as Chief Development Officer

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is pleased to announce that The Rev. Dr. Stephen Murray has joined the organization as its new Chief Development Officer. Rev. Dr. Murray brings decades of leadership in philanthropy, theological education, ministry, and ecumenical engagement. He joins CMEP from Georgetown University, where he served as Senior Director of Development for Family Philanthropy and taught in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies. Throughout his career, he has held leadership positions at institutions including Ecumenical Theological Seminary, the Congregational Library and Archives, Barrytown College, Harvard University, and Yale University, while also serving congregations across several Christian traditions.

Jul 7, 2026: Religious Leader Overcomes Personal Setbacks to Complete IRONMAN Competitions in Support of Peace in the Middle East

After over a year of determination, setbacks, and perseverance, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon's journey to complete a full IRONMAN has become a powerful testament to the hope that peace is possible. Inspired by CMEP's mission and fueled by a commitment to justice in the Middle East, Rev. Dr. Mae has continued training despite significant health challenges that forced her to postpone her original goal. As she prepares to compete in the Ohio Half IRONMAN in July 2026 and the full IRONMAN Maryland in September 2026, every mile she completes raises awareness and support for CMEP's work to advocate, educate, and elevate voices for peace. Join Mae on the final stretch of this remarkable journey and help turn perseverance into lasting change.

Jun 18, 2026: CMEP Welcomes U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding and Calls for Comprehensive Regional Peace

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) welcomes the recently announced Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Iran as a possible first step toward a broader and more durable peace in the Middle East. For far too long, the peoples of the region have borne the devastating consequences of war, military escalation, displacement, and political instability. This agreement must mark the beginning of a comprehensive diplomatic process that will halt violence across the region and create the conditions necessary for a just and lasting peace.

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