

On Confessing our Complicity in Christian Zionism

Approved by the PCUSA 226th General Assembly (2024), by consensus

Update and expand on the Resolution confronting Christian Zionism approved in 2004. Specifically, we call upon the General Assembly through the Office of Theology, Formation and Evangelism to:

A. Reject Christian Zionism in all its forms

1. See Appendix A - 2004 Resolution on Rejecting Christian Zionism;
2. Acknowledge the expansion of Christian Zionism in all its forms.

B. Issue a study document that addresses the expansion of Christian Zionism since our 2004 policy, including the following:

1. Provides a record of General Assembly resolutions dealing with Israel and Palestine since 2004;
2. Covers the ways the dangers of Christian Zionism have been expanded since our 2004 resolution, notably:
 - a. How Christianity implicitly and sometimes explicitly links the State of Israel to biblical views of Scripture's "promised land;"
 - b. The Global spread and adoption of Christian Zionism, which focuses simply on the State of Israel as the Biblical kingdom; and
 - c. The growing understanding of settler colonialism with reference to the Doctrine of Discovery—rather than a conflict and occupation—showing how mainline Christians and those of other faiths are complicit, though unaware of connections with Christian Zionism.
3. Upholds the ethic of love and respect of neighbor, based on the teachings and example of Jesus, that rejects ideologies that justify taking land and displacing indigenous peoples, and points to a biblical theology based on the Ten Commandments (Decalogue), and is consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Exodus 20:17 makes it clear that you shall "...not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."
4. That the PC(USA) commit to clarifying, in liturgy and through education, a basic distinction between biblical Israel and the modern State of Israel, in order to avoid a conflation of the two, and to reduce such confusion as contributes to the harmful effects of those religious ideologies popularly known as Christian Zionism, distinct from historic Jewish Zionism.

C. Call upon the General Assembly through the office of World Mission to work with our partners across the world, who are also confronting the spread of Christian Zionism in their contexts, and convening spaces where experiences and resources can be shared through networks built to counter the spread of Christian Zionism globally. This would include holding events with partners in the United States, Africa, and Asia where Christian Zionism is spreading.

D. Call upon people of faith to advocate for a just peace with full and equal human rights for all the people in Palestine and Israel.