

1 **Document 700.13**

2 **Name: A RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE OVERTURNING OF ROE VS. WADE**
3 **AUTHORS: NIC RMN, Alka Lyall, Luis F. Reyes, and Elisa Gatz, co-facilitators; and NIC**
4 **Methodist Federation for Social Action, Luis F. Reyes and Elisa Gatz, co-chairs.**

5

6 **Action:**

7 The Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church expresses outrage
8 with the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and the adverse impacts this
9 decision will have on women, children, and youth throughout the United States.

10 The NIC calls on its congregations to have well-facilitated conversations about abortion care,
11 prioritizing compassion over judgement.

12 The Northern Illinois Annual Conference secretary will send a copy of this resolution to each
13 member of the federal Congressional delegations that represent our annual conference region.

14 **Rationale:**

15 The United Methodist Social Principles (paragraph 161 K) state that "we are equally bound to
16 respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child," and that
17 "we recognize the tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases, we
18 support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical
19 providers." The United Methodist Social Principles (paragraph 161 K) further state "the Church
20 shall encourage ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies such as comprehensive, age-
21 appropriate sexuality education, advocacy in regard to contraception, and support of initiatives
22 that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls around the globe," and "a decision
23 concerning abortion should be made only after thoughtful and prayerful consideration by the
24 parties involved, with medical, family, pastoral, and other appropriate counsel."

25 On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned Roe v. Wade which for
26 fifty years has given pregnant people in the United States the right and power over their own
27 bodies to choose, in consultation with their medical professionals, the best way forward when
28 facing difficult decisions regarding pregnancy.

29 It is a statistical certainty that people in our churches have themselves made the decision to
30 have an abortion or know people who have had abortions. Reduced access to reproductive care
31 disproportionately harms poor people and communities of color. In 1967, 21 clergy, including 6
32 Methodist clergy, published their names in the *New York Times* offering to help women find safe
33 abortions care at a time when abortions were illegal in much of the country, one of the first acts
34 of the Clergy Consultation Service, which eventually became a nationwide network of more
35 than 1000 clergy helping to save the lives of countless American women.

1 **Document 700.15**

2 **Document Name: Identifying and Opposing Apartheid in the Holy Land**

3 **Authors: United Methodists for Kairos Response, Paula Roderick; NIC Church and**
4 **Society, Elisa Gatz, chair; NIC MFSA Luis F. Reyes and Elisa Gatz, co-chairs; NIC**
5 **RMN Alka Lyall, Luis F. Reyes, and Elisa Gatz, co-facilitators**

6 **Action:**

7 The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church affirms that
8 apartheid is antithetical to the Gospel message. We recognize and oppose Israeli
9 apartheid as we strive to "resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they
10 present themselves," and

11

12 The Conference calls on the U.S. government to condition military funding to Israel
13 upon Israel's willingness to dismantle its apartheid system and implement all the rights
14 due to Palestinians under international law, and

15

16 The Conference urges all United Methodist clergy and laity to listen to the voices of
17 Palestinians regarding their situation, meet with them in their homeland, seek
18 opportunities to hear from them at online events. We urge UM clergy and laity to study
19 the Palestinian Christians' landmark 2020 document entitled "Cry for Hope: A Call for
20 Decisive Action," and to educate themselves on apartheid by studying the landmark
21 human rights reports, such as from Amnesty International. Links to these documents
22 may be found in the following rationale.

23

24 **Rationale:**

25 Israel is the sole governing power in most of Israel and the occupied territories. Israel
26 maintains primary control over most Palestinians' lives. Israeli authorities have
27 maintained domination over Palestinians by enacting a system of laws and policies that
28 grant full self-determination exclusively to Jewish Israelis and systematically oppresses
29 Palestinians. This is the essence of apartheid.

30

31 Apartheid is a "crime against humanity" under international law.¹ The primary
32 features of apartheid include:

¹ See, International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (adopted 1973; entered 1976) https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.10_International%20Convention%20on%20the%20Suppression%20and%20Punishment%20of%20the%20Crime%20of%20Apartheid.pdf

- 1 • codifying into law a preferred group of people, giving that group preferential
- 2 access to resources, benefits and services,
- 3 • segregating the population into geographic areas based on identity, and
- 4 • establishing laws and policies designed to suppress opposition to the regime and
- 5 enforcing domination through arbitrary imprisonment, torture, cruel and inhumane
- 6 treatment, and other violations of human rights.

7

8 Israel has seized more than three-quarters of the land of its Palestinian citizens and
9 continues until today; Palestinians in the OPT have lived under Israeli military law for
10 generations without any protected civil rights.

11 If apartheid is to be opposed and abolished, it is essential for the international
12 community to recognize and name apartheid where it exists. The Social Principles of
13 The United Methodist Church state that United Methodists “commend and encourage
14 the self-awareness of all racial and ethnic groups and oppressed people that leads them
15 to demand their just and equal rights as members of society,” and furthermore “call the
16 Church to challenge any hierarchy of cultures or identities.”

17

18 Links to the documents listed in the resolution are provided in the footnotes below.
19 “Cry for Hope: A Call for Decisive Action”²

20 Landmark human rights reports, such as from Amnesty International.³

² A Cry for Hope, <https://www.cryforhope.org/>

³ See, Al Haq, Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism, Nov. 29, 2022, <https://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/20931.html>; Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/> (February 2022); B’tselem, *This is Apartheid*, https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid, Jan. 12, 2021; Global Kairos and Kairos Palestine <https://www.kairopalestine.ps/images/kp-a-dossier-on-israeli-apartheid-main.pdf>; Human Rights Watch, *A Threshold Crossed*, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution> (April 2021).