

RESOLUTION #8 - CONSIDER INVESTING IN WESPETH'S "SOCIAL VALUES CHOICE" SUITE OF FUNDS

1 **RATIONALE:** Boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) are constitutionally protected forms of free speech and protest
 2 that have been used by people of conscience to effect positive social and political change. In 2016, the United Methodist
 3 General Conference passed strong measures calling for an end to Israel's unjust practices towards Palestinians (UMKR
 4 web site press release) and in 2017, the Great Plains Annual Conference passed a resolution addressing the "Right to
 5 Peacefully Address Injustice."
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7 **WHEREAS,** Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath) offers a Social Values Choice suite of funds that includes Social
 8 Values Choice Equity Fund (SVCEF, formerly known as Equity Social Values Plus Fund), Social Values Choice Bond Fund
 9 (SVCBF) and U.S. Treasury Inflation Protection Fund (USTIPF), and
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11 **WHEREAS,** The Social Values Choice suite of funds is available for participant defined contribution accounts and conference
 12 deposit accounts with Wespath, and
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14 **WHEREAS,** Wespath has developed a policy that may remove from these three funds companies named in divestment
 15 resolutions by 7 to 10 annual conferences in at least 3 different jurisdictional conferences, and
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17 **WHEREAS,** Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard, being the subject of such divestment resolutions, have
 18 been removed from these three funds per Wespath's policy, and
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20 **WHEREAS,** while Wespath as a financial institution does not take a stand on the reasons conferences have voted to divest
 21 from these three companies, they have responded to serve those clients by providing these three funds, and
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23 **WHEREAS,** Caterpillar Inc. provides military bulldozers and earth-moving equipment which are used to uproot olive groves,
 24 demolish Palestinian homes, construct illegal settlements, and build segregated roads and the separation barrier on
 25 occupied land; Motorola Solutions provides surveillance systems for illegal settlements, military bases and the separation
 26 wall as well as communication devices for the Israeli military; and Hewlett Packard companies provide servers to the
 27 State of Israel for its population registry that discriminates against non-Jewish citizens of Israel, is the exclusive provider
 28 of computers to the Israeli military that carries out the 50-year illegal occupation of Palestine, and provides servers and
 29 technology used in Israeli prisons where Palestinians, including children, are tortured and detained without charge, in all
 30 these examples violating international law, and
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32 **WHEREAS,** for up to 11 years many religious investors and ecumenical groups have asked these companies to stop selling
 33 their products to the Israeli government for use in sustaining and maintaining the military occupation and settlement
 34 building and they have refused, and
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36 **WHEREAS,** the Palestinian Christian community, through the Kairos Palestine Document, has requested the support of
 37 the wider church in their struggle (Kairos Palestine "A Moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope and Love from the Heart
 38 of Palestinian Suffering" December 2009).
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40 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Great Plains Conference of the United Methodist Church and its clergy and lay
 41 employee participants consider the Social Values Choice suite of funds for the portion of their accounts invested in equities
 42 and fixed income funds.
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44 **Implemented by:** Members of the Great Plains Annual Conference, its clergy, and lay employee participants