



American Jewish Congress

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The Rev. John H. Thomas
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

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Dear Rev. Thomas:

On June 29, prior to the recent United Church of Christ General Synod, I wrote you to ask that you lead in the rejection of the divestment and Tear Down the Wall resolutions being proposed. Sadly—for Jews, Christians and all concerned with peace in the Middle East—the UCC passed a resolution approving divestment as a means of economic leverage as well as the Tear Down the Wall resolution, which is deeply flawed by historical, legal and moral inaccuracies. These resolutions are destructive and do nothing to help settle the conflict in Middle East, which is a moral, religious and human tragedy for all affected. On political and humanitarian levels they will do nothing whatsoever to help relieve the suffering of Israelis and Palestinians, but they have already created much justified frustration and anger throughout the Jewish community.

I cannot overstate the negative consequences of these resolutions within the Jewish community, and the need for repair and healing.

The Jewish community's cooperative work with the United Church of Christ on the important issues of peace and justice have been compromised by these resolutions. We also understand that within the polity of the UCC you are empowered to accept or reject resolutions of the General Synod. In the interest of maintaining the cooperative relationship that our two communities have enjoyed and in the interest of bringing our communities closer together to promote a practical and meaningful resolution to the crisis in the Middle East, we vigorously urge you to personally distance yourself and the leadership of the denomination from these harmful resolutions.

You have the institutional and moral ability to repair the damage done to Jewish-Christian relations, and we recommend that you to do so publicly and unequivocally.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With prayers for peace,

Neil B. Goldstein
Executive Director

cc: Rabbi Dr. Eugene Korn, AJCongress