**ORUCC Palestine Justice Mission Team – Activity Report 2024**

**Members:** Rev. Diane Dulin and Tom Beilman (co-chairs), Jack Schairer, Mary Landeck, Ginny Moore Kruse, Sara Hagen, Peter Hoff, Paul Patenaude, Ruth Ann Berkholtz, David Myers, Joyce Pohl, Joyce Binder, Meg Stevens.

**Mission:** The ORUCC Palestine Justice Mission Team works within the congregation and in cooperation with partners beyond the congregation to provide educational and advocacy resources in support of justice for Palestinians. Ecumenical, interfaith and United Church of Christ allies help to guide and supplement the Team’s efforts. As advocates for a just peace in Palestine-Israel, we affirm the right to self-determination for all people.

**Accomplishments in 2024:**

* **Addressed the urgent humanitarian crisis in Gaza.** Raised fundsto benefit men, women and children of that devastated strip of land, including a grant to Global Ministries *Urgent Appeal for Gaza*, and a generously supported Monthly Compassion Offering for Middle East Children’s Alliance. Participated in the Quilts for Gaza aid project. Highlighted the World Council of Churches *Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel*. Co-sponsored a Madison-area Vigil for Gaza.
* **Provided education** to ORUCC members and Madison-area communities, via moving, informative guest speakers at ORUCC, and sponsorship of leading Palestine Justice presenters at Madison-area churches. Reported to the congregation following our co-chair’s travel to Palestine. Identified recommended curriculum materials for ORUCC youth education in 2025. Kept ORUCC members informed of Palestine Justice educational and advocacy opportunities via electronic newsletters, website postings, “mission moments” during worship service, and bulletin inserts.
* **Advocated for policy changes** in our government via petitions sent to President Joe Biden and State of Wisconsin congressional representatives, and by in-person visits. Participated in a UW campus protest against the genocide in Gaza.
* **Established productive working partnerships** with other peace and justice organizations, including Mennonite Action-Madison, Jewish Voice for Peace-Madison, Madison Interfaith Working Group for Peace, and the Palestine Justice Working Group of the UCC Wisconsin Conference.

**Where do we find meaning?** Our team members are personally dedicated to bringing tangible relief to Palestinian families afflicted by land dispossession, military occupation, violent repression and war. We find meaning in raising funds that go directly to humanitarian aid for Palestinian families. Also, knowing that US aid to Israel must cease if the 75+ years of land confiscation and expulsion is to end, we work to shift the tide of American opinion to one that favors denying military aid to Israel.

**Looking ahead to 2025:** For 2025, team members will continue providing educational offerings while at the same time identifying one or more advocacy efforts in support of Palestine justice. We’ll also create a social justice bookshelf for the youth of our congregation. Come join us in pursuing these meaningful, rewarding efforts. Consult meeting times as published in the ORUCC on-line newsletters and [website](https://orucc.org/justice/palestine/) (https://orucc.org/justice/palestine/), or contact Tom (503-779-9171) or any member of our team.