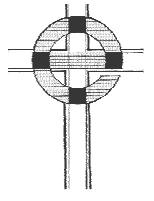




The Presbyterian of The Presbytery of Elizabeth

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News from the 219th GA: Actions on Middle East peace questions and answers

What did the Assembly do?

The General Assembly approved a comprehensive report on the Middle East — its first since 1997. The paper calls for:

- An immediate cessation of all violence, whether perpetrated by Israelis or Palestinians;
- The reaffirmation of Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation within secure and internationally recognized borders;
- The end of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories;
- An immediate freeze on the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and on the Israeli acquisition of Palestinian land and buildings in East Jerusalem; .
- And many other steps toward peace in the region.



The General Assembly also approved the report of the Mission Responsibility through Investment (MRTI) committee, which:

- Provides an update on all corporations that MRTI has engaged as a result of the 2004, 2006 and 2008 General Assemblies;
- Acknowledges that "Caterpillar has in many ways provided positive leadership to its community, its state, and the nation. It has donated considerable resources and equipment in support of local development and disaster relief at home and overseas. It has significantly improved workplace safety, acted aggressively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and pursued environmental conservation within its production processes. In recognition of these accomplishments, Caterpillar has been listed for seven consecutive years in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index"; .
- Strongly denounces Caterpillar's continued profit-making from non-peaceful uses of a number of its products on the basis of Christian principles and as a matter of social witness;
- Calls upon Caterpillar to carefully review its involvement in obstacles to a just and lasting peace in Israel-Palestine, and to take affirmative steps to end its complicity in the violation of human rights.

What does it mean?

Coming into the 219th General Assembly (2010), few thought that agreement on issues relating to the Middle East would be possible. Diverse perspectives divided Presbyterians from each other, and from the Jewish community. However, during the committee deliberations and again in the plenary session, through God's grace, a place of broad consensus was found — common ground for continued peacemaking work in Israel/Palestine.

The General Assembly rejected immediate divestment from Caterpillar in favor of continued corporate engagement with Caterpillar and other companies profiting from the sale and use of their products for non-peaceful purposes and/or the violation of human rights.

What's next?

A Monitoring Group for the Middle East will be formed to assist the appropriate General Assembly Mission Council offices and the Middle East staff team in monitoring progress and guiding actions to ensure adequate implementation of policy directions approved by this General Assembly. MRTI will continue to engage Caterpillar, and other companies, in relation to particular actions whereby the company profits from "non-peaceful action" of their products.

Where can I learn more?

■ <http://www.pcusa.org/middleeastpeace>

■ <http://www.pcusa.org/mrti>

Rev. Macari Welcomes President Obama to Edison

Pastor Kenneth Macari of Community Church in Edison took part in welcoming President Barack Obama to Edison on July 28. Joined by two church leaders, Pastor Ken joined the crowd to cheer the President as he departed the Tastee Sub Shop. After the Edison police took down the yellow tape barricade, Pastor Ken and others went in line to purchase sub sandwiches.



Rev. Macari being interviewed by Fox News

Ainsley Earhardt, national correspondent for the Fox News TV team approached Dr. Macari and asked him point blank "Is the President's Economic Stimulus a reality or rhetoric?" With the sun in his eyes and angelic wisdom in his mind, he replied "It is a reality. It took us many years to get into this mess and it will take many years to bounce back. We must be patient. As a spiritual leader, I try to get folks to be in dialogue and endeavor to mediate those viewpoints."

Ms. Earhardt next queried, "As a pastor, do you have church members out of work?" "Yes, I have church members out of work and Edison has its share of foreclosures and numerous educational and other issues. Nevertheless, Edison is still a model for successful multicultural diversity, neighborhood harmony and great economic potential."

Finally, Ms. Earhardt inquired of Rev. Macari, "What is your sense of the mood of our country?" Pastor Macari replied, "I think it is better than two years ago. It will take time. This is why I am committed to pray daily for the President and his advisors. I regularly encourage my church members during our Sunday worship service to do the same."

With that, the interview ended and Pastor Ken purchased a beef bologna with cheese sub. By the way, the President had a #5 sub---that is an every ingredient sub!

It's a Clicking World



A small matter: I read a friend's e-letter and wanted to congratulate her. I clicked on the e-mail link provided -- and immediately got a bounce back. It was her old address.

It's a "clicking world" out there. As communication moves more and more to the Internet -- from e-mail to Twitter to Facebook to text-messaging -- people expect to click from page to page, from e-mail to web site, from web site to e-mail, from e-letter to e-mail.

Don't expect people to copy down an e-mail address or URL and then enter it from their keyboard. Not going to happen. Many won't even do copy/paste. It isn't that people are lazy. It's just a new protocol: on the Internet, we click, we don't type. If clicking isn't provided, we move on.

Your job, then, is to do the following:

- Verify that every e-mail address and web site reference in your e-letter and e-mails has been turned into a dynamic link. (That is, clickable.)
- Verify that every link in your e-letter and e-mail works. Don't send until you have tested.
- Verify that every page on your web site opens and can be reached from a navigation list or menu.
- Include your e-mail address and web site in everything you send, as well as your phone number.
- If you have made the move to social media -- which I strongly encourage -- be sure that accurate Twitter links and Facebook links appear in everything you send out and on your web site.

As you manage your web site, imagine readers skipping from stone to stone across a stream, not moving page to page in a book-reading manner. Your job is to provide short pages that stir an interest in clicking on another page. Options for next page should appear in a sidebar or at the top or bottom of each page. Don't make readers backtrack. You'll lose them.

Each social medium is a nuanced subculture. Twitter is different from Facebook; each is different from an e-mail exchange. These are tools for you to use, not entertainment media, and so you need to learn how each tool works, just as you once learned to use a hammer for pounding nails, not for sawing wood.

(The above article was written by the Rev. Tom Ehrich, founder of the Church Wellness Project.)

WHAT IS THE SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ?

"Picture a cool club, with soft, dimmed lighting; round tables covered with real table cloths, candles and centerpieces; great, original art and photography on the walls and near the stage; top shelf performers on stage with professional stage lighting and an excellent sound system. Couple all of that with gourmet coffees (Three blends!!) that are always hot and fresh, homemade desserts, snacks, cool beverages and cold water, real coffee mugs and glasses (no plastic!), and a great, warm and friendly audience. The performers are right there in front of you! There are no bad seats. You've just experienced the wonderful, legendary Roadhouse Cafe." (Carrie Jackson, Featured Jazz Performer)



SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE
829 SALEM ROAD, UNION, NJ
PH: (908) 686-1028

Double Bill Show: NEW TRICKS - MICHAEL ZUKO & FRIENDS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 8:00 P.M. (Doors will open at 7:30)

ADMISSION: \$15.00 STUDENTS: \$10.00

admission *includes* hot and cold snacks, beverages, gourmet coffees (three blends!) and desserts

The Roadhouse is air conditioned !

Website: www.roadhousecafe.org