

## A Litany of Kairos Questions

By Rev. Diane Dulin

*Note: This litany was first used at a meeting about Palestine-Israel sponsored by the Oregon-Idaho UMC Conference's Methodist Federation for Social Action on Nov. 15, 2014.*

It should not surprise us to notice that Jesus was the first to practice Kairos theology. He was, after all, the one who told us, "The Kairos is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15)

A memorable sermon Jesus preached was the one we call "The Sermon on the Mount." Within the words of that sermon Jesus took traditional holy writings, sayings and teachings ... and then (based upon his own analysis and theological insight), Jesus filled these sayings with new meaning.

Using the same format that Jesus employed, this responsive litany provides some Kairos questions ... modeling our own search for contemporary analysis, theological reflection and decisive action after Jesus' first example.

Leader: You have heard it said, "When Israel was created, Palestine was a land without a people awaiting a people without a land."

**People: But we wonder: how can we fail to notice 750,000 displaced Palestinians, 34 confirmed massacres, and more than 450 depopulated Palestinian villages?**

Leader: You have heard it said, "Israel needs a strong wall between itself and Palestine for the sake of its legitimate security needs."

**People: But we wonder: since the Green Line border is roughly 200 miles long, and the Apartheid Wall is double that length, how can this wall, which snakes deep into the West Bank to steal and ruin the land, truly be about security alone?**

Leader: You have heard it said, "Divestment and boycott campaigns against businesses that sustain the military occupation of Palestine are anti-Semitic."

**People: But we wonder: do non-violent strategies against illegal political and military activity really mean we denounce an entire religion or ethnicity?**

Leader: You have heard it said, “People imprisoned under Israeli military law have been incarcerated because of criminal activity.”

**People: But we wonder: then why are children pulled from their beds at night to be interrogated with neither parents nor attorneys present? How can people be incarcerated for months without being charged or represented by legal counsel?**

Leader: You have heard it said, “We support Israel as the only democracy in the Middle East.”

**People: But we wonder: can it be a democracy when civil, economic and personal rights are not equal and Palestinians lack equal access to schools, water, jobs, homes, and travel?**

Let us pray together.

**Help us, O God, to listen for your powerful Word of truth. There are many things about which we wonder; many questions that remain unanswered. Give us willing spirits to gain new insights regarding old “certainties” no longer worthy of support. Grant us opportunities to read, reflect, pray, travel and take bold action based upon your leading. We ask your blessing upon all the people of all faiths in Palestine Israel. We ask for the ongoing spiritual gifts of faith, hope and love ... and the ability to use this moment in time, this *Kairos* that you have given us. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.**

*Rev. Diane Dulin is United Church of Christ clergy and Kairos USA Director of Church Participation.*