

Fall Creek Monthly Meeting
Minute concerning the Ongoing Violence in Israel and Palestine
Approved 2/4/2024

Our hearts are heavy with grief for all the suffering caused by the ongoing violence in Israel and Gaza, and with fear of the lasting consequences each wave of violence and counterviolence will bring. Every day that the violence continues makes a stable, peaceful resolution more difficult.

The devastation in Gaza, resulting from the blockade and bombardment, is causing starvation, spread of disease, and the widespread death and injury of civilians. There is currently no safe place in Gaza. The destruction of hospitals and other vital infrastructure means the humanitarian toll will continue to mount.

To stop the killing and prevent further loss of life, we call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. We also call for immediate action to provide the basic necessities of life: water, food, shelter, and medical care. We must ensure continuous and unimpeded humanitarian aid and reinstate full funding of UNRWA. We call for the release of all the hostages being held by Hamas and the Palestinian political prisoners held by the Israelis.

We call on U.S. leaders to end the transfer of military assistance to Israel, to work diplomatically to support regional de-escalation across the Middle East, and to urge all parties to fully respect international humanitarian law.

We believe peace is more than the absence of war. There is no true peace without justice, and history shows us that people who are oppressed will continue to find ways to resist their oppression. The human costs of continuing along the current path are far too great. We pray that the violence will be quickly ended, and that people of all nations will work to make peace, healing, and reconciliation possible.