



### **Minute Concerning the War in Israel-Palestine**

We recognize the war now being fought between Israel and Hamas is rooted in tragic complexity that has resulted in more and more suffering since October 7. We recognize brilliant minds and compassionate hearts have sought since 1948 to bring peace to the region of Israel and Palestine, yet war or the threat of war has remained a constant in that region for 76 years. We recognize there are no words we can say, even if expressed with soaring eloquence and impeccable logic, that would cause people at war in Israel and Palestine, upon hearing them, to lay down their weapons and live in peace.

At the same time, we know that to be silent is to be complicit in the suffering war brings to everyone involved. If people of peace and goodwill do not speak out, then we contribute, no matter how little, to delaying when peace finally arrives. Such a delay, even if it is for a day, is too long for anyone threatened by violence.

And so we now reaffirm our faith that the Inner Light is to be found in every heart. With this as our guide and our support, we believe that all war is an abomination and contrary to the will of God as we understand it. We also believe that peace is still possible in this region of the world. Peace, however, is not a gift, no matter how fervently it may be desired. Peace is gained by engaging in a process that requires skill, resources, courage and commitment. As part of this process, we call upon the leaders of Hamas and their allies to:

- return all hostages taken on October 7, both living and dead, to Israel
- recognize Israel as a sovereign nation with an unambiguous right to exist

upon the leaders of Israel to:

- cease the bombing that has resulted in massive civilian casualties in Gaza
- move toward the creation of a two-state solution

upon the leaders of the world to:

- provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza in whatever quantity is needed as expeditiously as possible

- create a multi-national peace-keeping force in Gaza for as many years as needed
  - work in unison with Israelis and Palestinians on facilitating a two-state solution
- upon the Congress of the United States to:

- restructure US Foreign Aid policy whereby nations receiving US military equipment are obligated to seek international arbitration to end conflicts, especially those leading to the merciless destruction and death of civilian communities.

upon the people of the United States to:

- refrain from antisemitic and Islamophobic words and actions and to denounce them whenever they are expressed

Approved at Westerly Monthly Meeting on June 9, 2024

Revised during a Called Meeting, June 13, 2024

Ann Watkins, Westerly Month Meeting, clerk