

**Title:** Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign

**Originating Body:** Church in Action Committee, of PEI Presbytery,  
Maritime Conference

**Intended Court(s) for Action:** The 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council 2015

**Financial Implications if Known:** If current program is continued, financial implications should not significantly increase over current spending

**Staffing Implications if Known:** We recommend this work to be made a priority for staffing.

**Source of Funding if known:** Mission and Service

**Volunteer Implications:** United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel would continue their active animation of this Campaign

**Be it proposed that the General Council provide allocation of adequate General Council Office (GCO) resources for the continued implementation of the UCC Unsettling Goods campaign until the rise of GC43 in 2018.**

**Background:**

- The “Unsettling Goods” Campaign is the UCC’s response to and implementation of the GC resolution on Palestine/Israel which passed with a strong majority at the 41st General Council meeting in August 2012
- We commend the General Council Office staff, elected members, as well as United Church members and friends for the implementation to date of the Unsettling Goods campaign
- To honour the call of our Palestinian Christian partners (as found in the Kairos Palestine document), more time is needed for consciousness raising, education and communication across the United Church on this complex issue. Continuing courageous conversations can help inform our analysis and strengthen our faithfulness.
- The campaign encourages church members and supporters to pray, choose and speak to help end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and includes resources for worship and study, ethical tours of the Holy Land, trust-building programs between Israelis and Palestinians, support for Palestinian livelihoods by purchasing fair trade products such as Zatoun olive oil and planting olive trees, and avoiding purchasing products made in the illegal\* Israeli settlements.
- The economic action part of the “Unsettling Goods” campaign is a non-violent response to the call of United Church of Canada’s global partners in the region and reflects a core biblical value that “peace requires justice”.
- The “Unsettling Goods” economic action campaign is a response focused not at Israel itself, but only against those products made in the illegal Israeli settlements\* on Palestinian land.
- The latest news from the region shows an aggressive increase in both illegal\* settlement construction and demolition of Palestinian houses by the Israeli military.

- There is evidence that global pressure (including economic action) to end the occupation is having an impact. Keeping the pressure on could more quickly lead to just peace. The “Unsettling Goods” campaign encourages modest justice-seeking consumer choices (economic action against products made in the illegal Israeli settlements) that aim to help end the occupation and lay the foundation for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.
- As a non-violent response to the disproportionate violence being experienced daily by Palestinians, the “Unsettling Goods” Campaign should be continued until the illegal occupation ends or until a more effective response is identified.

**Intermediate Court Action:**

Ross Bartlett / Sean Handcock moved that the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference transmit with concurrence Proposals #1 entitled “Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign”, #3 entitled “Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign”, and #7 entitled “Continuation of Unsettling Goods Campaign” to the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council of The United Church of Canada.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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\* The Fourth Geneva Convention is an international law that forbids an occupying power from moving its own people into areas it occupies. On its website the Canadian government policy states clearly that “Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The settlements also constitute a serious obstacle to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.”