



Brussels, October 2014

Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS
President/CEO
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear President Rabie,

Pax Christi International is happy to support the 16th International Conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation to be held October 17-18, 2014 at the Washington Marriott in Washington DC. Your theme, "Together in Faith for the Common Good," is most appropriate at a time in history when the common good in the Holy Land is so tragically neglected.

Pax Christi International members around the world have been deeply saddened by the violence engulfing the daily lives of Israelis and Palestinians. With Pope Francis we believe that peacemaking "calls for the courage to say yes to encounter and no to conflict: yes to dialogue and no to violence; yes to negotiations and no to hostilities; yes to respect for agreements and no to acts of provocation; yes to sincerity and no to duplicity. All of this takes courage, it takes strength and tenacity."

We offer our sincere condolences to all those in mourning and pray that the violence in the Holy Land, including structural violence, will end. We stand in solidarity with our Member Organisations in Palestine and with peace and human rights activists in Israel and Palestine. We are convinced that the many voices for a just peace in the region will not be silenced.

Through local actions in Israel and Palestine, members of Pax Christi International express their solidarity with the victims of injustice and work to bring people from different cultures and faiths together. Through national and international advocacy and campaigning, our movement supports the urgent need for a negotiated and just peace in the Holy Land.

We hope that your conference will be successful in every respect. Warm congratulations to the outstanding recipients of your awards.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. P. Dowling".

Bishop Kevin Dowling, C.S.S.R.
Co-President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie Dennis".

Marie Dennis
Co-President