



Brussels, October 2015

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 17th International Conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation to be held October 16-17, 2015 at the Washington Marriott in Washington DC. Your theme, "Our Faith is Commitment to Justice, Peace and Coexistence," will inspire all who participate to imagine a just peace in the Holy Land.

Pax Christi International members around the world have been deeply saddened by the violence of occupation and injustice, repression and hatred that persist in Israel and Palestine. Our own 70th anniversary celebration in May, which brought 160 of our members from around the world to Bethlehem gave us an important opportunity to accompany briefly people on such a hard journey.

Pope Francis, who has attracted widespread attention and respect for his personal integrity and commitment to marginalized people, has used the world stage upon which he stands to call for deep changes in the way we live and organize our societies. A few weeks ago, in Sarajevo, he said, "Crafting peace is a skilled work: it requires passion, patience, experience and tenacity ... Peacemaking is a work to be carried forward each day, step by step, without ever growing tired."

We 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, appearing to read "K. P. Dowling".

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie Dennis".

Marie Dennis
Co-President