



Brussels, October 2016

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 18th International Conference of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation to be held October 14-15, 2015 at the Washington Marriott in Washington DC. Your theme, "Forging a New Bond of Solidarity for Equality, Prosperity and Peace," will again inspire participants to work for 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. But our partners in the region consistently give us hope that justice and peace are yet possible.

In April of this year, with participants from the Holy Land and many others, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and Pax Christi International hosted a conference on nonviolence and just peace. During the opening session, Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council, delivered a message from the Holy Father which called "on all people of good will to recognize what Christians profess as a consequence of faith: that it is only by considering our peers as brothers and sisters that humanity can overcome wars and conflicts."

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 continue to 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