

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 1, 2016

The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation
Eighteenth International Conference
c/o President Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS
6935 Wisconsin Ave. Suite 518
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Friends of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation:

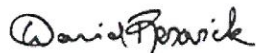
As you gather for the eighteenth annual HCEF Conference and Awards Banquet, you have no need to be reminded that these are difficult and troubled days for many in our world, as well as for the church of Jesus Christ. Challenges to justice and peace are everywhere, often robbing people of the opportunities, liberties and comforts of life that we in the United States take for granted. Challenges to the unity and effectiveness of the church of Jesus Christ are also everywhere, all too often emptying the church of its power and witness.

HCEF has served God faithfully in the Holy Land in the midst of all these challenges, successfully bringing together the various parts of the body of Christ to strengthen and sustain their vital witness to Jesus Christ in the land of his birth and ministry.

In the past three years, I have been able to visit the Holy Land twice – once by myself and once with a group of over 30 members of The National Presbyterian Church. I remain greatly impressed by the leadership and vision of HCEF President, Rateb Rabie, and Regional Director, Anthony Habash. I have been able to see firsthand their love for God, their faithfulness to Jesus Christ, and their passion to build bridges between Christians and others, that support and enhance the life and witness of the Christian Community in the Holy Land.

I trust that these days together will enhance Christ's mission, even as He seeks to work through HCEF as his hands and feet.

Blessings in Christ,



Rev. Dr. David A. Renwick
Senior Pastor
The National Presbyterian Church