



## **United Methodist General Conference Rejects BDS Resolutions**

*New York*—The United Methodist (UM) quadrennial General Conference, which met [May 10-20](#) in Portland, Oregon, voted to maintain positive investment to advance Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking and to reject resolutions to divest from several companies that sell goods that help Israelis defend themselves. The General Conference operates as the worldwide United Methodist Church’s top policymaking body.

“We applaud the General Conference of the United Methodist Church for supporting positive peacemaking for Israelis and Palestinians and for rejecting discriminatory and divisive measures such as divestment and negative investment screens,” said David Sherman, chair of the Israel Action Network (IAN), an initiative of the Jewish Federations of North America created to counter assaults on Israel’s legitimacy. “When it came to Israeli-Palestinian concerns, the church was united. Liberals and conservatives, domestic and international delegates alike strongly agreed that reconciliation is the better prescription for Israelis and Palestinians, not divestment and division.”

IAN welcomed the recommendation made at the General Conference to withdraw from a group that supports broad anti-Israel boycotts, divestment, and sanctions and opposes U.S. support for Israel. A resolution on peacemaking calls for "a balanced understanding of the concerns and perspectives of both Palestinians and Israelis" and for rejecting oversimplified efforts to simply “blame” one side or the other.

Former Secretary of State, 2016 Democratic presidential candidate and lifelong Methodist Hillary Clinton expressed her strong support for a two-state solution and her powerful opposition to the discriminatory BDS movement in a [letter](#) earlier this month to Jewish Federation of North America vice-chair Susan Stern and Israel Action Network Chair David Sherman.