

## Peace

### Ethical Reflection

- *“They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Micah 4:3)*
- *“A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)*
- *Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in a final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. (Dwight D. Eisenhower).*
- The way of peace
  - recognizes the common humanity and dignity of every person
  - promotes the common good
  - opens pathways for mutual understanding.

### Background

- While US troops are being withdrawn from Iraq, larger numbers have been deployed to Afghanistan.
- The Israeli-Palestinian problem continues. The US still is working to get the two sides to the negotiating table.
- Iran continues to refine uranium. The US intelligence community annual threat assessment indicates Iran has not made a decision to build nuclear weapons.

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### Present Situation

- As the US withdraws from Iraq, more troops are sent to Afghanistan where the US has uncertain objectives and lacks focus on political reconciliation among Afghan groups and with their neighbors.
- The status quo in Gaza strengthens Hamas by convincing everyday Gazans there is no reward for moderation. Unilateral actions in East Jerusalem undermine trust and make resuming meaningful negotiations and achieving a two state solution more difficult.
- Iran reformers are open to working with the West while hardliners assert the West is hostile. US decisions regarding Iran's nuclear capabilities can either inflame hardliners or support reformers. Sweeping sanctions strengthen the hardliners' position.
- Funded the first time in 2010 at \$50 million, the Complex Crises Fund (CCF) provides new flexible funding for emerging or unforeseen crises.

### What Would Help

- Sponsor McGovern/Feingold (HR 5015 / S3197) calling for an exit strategy and timetable to withdraw from Afghanistan.
- Support efforts to hold both Israelis and Palestinians accountable for actions that prejudice negotiations.
- Favor US policies on Iran that support reformers, do no harm to the Iranian people and do all possible to undermine hardliners' assertions.
- Fund the The Complex Crises Fund at \$100 million in FY2011.

(5/2010)

### Member Denominations

American Baptist Churches, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friends, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church.

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