



# **END THE SILENCE: VOICES FROM THE HOLY LAND**

## **Sabeel Conference - October 20-21, 2006**



The **Kansas City Sabeel Conference** is a two-day educational and advocacy conference on the conflict in Palestine-Israel and how it impacts our Christian sisters and brothers living in the land of Jesus' birth. The regional conference at Village Presbyterian Church will be the next-best thing to a trip to the Holy Land. It will provide an unparalleled opportunity for American Christians and others to learn first-hand how we can help bring peace to Palestine—and assistance to the “forgotten faithful” of the church.

The conference will provide workshops for those who want basic history and information as well as workshops for seasoned activists to network and learn ways to work towards a just peace. The conference will include: Major presentations from invited speakers; workshop sessions on history, theology, politics and advocacy; and a Middle East banquet and more! **REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON BACK**

### **Speakers and Topics**

**Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel**, moderator of the 214th General Assembly, Presbyterian Church U.S.A., is a Palestinian-American who serves the church in Atlanta, where he directs Christmas International House, a program that matches international students with U.S. families for the Christmas holidays. **Plenary Address: The Role of the Church in Working for Peace and Justice in the Holy Land**

**Dr. Mubarak Awad**, a psychologist in Washington, D.C., is the founder of Nonviolence International, advocating peaceful solutions to the Palestine-Israel conflict. **Topic: The Way to Peace Through NonViolence**

**Anna Baltzer**, Jewish-American and volunteer with the International Women's Peace Service and author of *Witness in Palestine: Journal of a Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories*.

**Phyllis Bennis**, a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, helped found the U.S. Campaign to End the Occupation and wrote the widely-distributed booklet *Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Primer*. Her most recent book is *Challenging Empire: How People, Governments and the UN Defy U.S. Power*. **Topic: US Middle East Policy—What it is has been and what it needs to be**

**Cindy and Craig Corrie** are parents of Rachel Corrie, a young American woman who was killed by an Israeli bulldozer in the Gaza Strip on March 16, 2003. The Corries continue their daughter's work through the Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice. **Topic: Working for Change—What to Do Next**

**Dr. Jeff Halper** is Coordinating Director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions and a 2006 nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. He is an Israeli-American peace activist, professor of anthropology and internationally acclaimed speaker. He wrote *Obstacles to Peace: A Reframing of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict* (third edition, released 2005). **Plenary address: Ending the Occupation: What Can We Do?**

**Rev. Sandra Olewine** was appointed as the United Methodist Liaison to Jerusalem in 1996 and served in that capacity for 9 1/2 years. Having returned to the US last spring, she continues to write and speak with authority about life under occupation and its effects on both Palestinians and Israelis. **Topic: United, Women Can Change the World**

**Refuser Solidarity**, a network that supports young people in Israel whose consciences will not allow them to do their obligatory military service in the occupied territories, sends an Israeli soldier to speak about the growing number of Refusers at all levels of the Israeli military, many who have faced imprisonment. **Topic: The Occupation Through the Eyes of the Occupier**

**Rev. Don Wagner**, a cofounder of Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding, is professor of religion and Middle Eastern studies at North Park University, Chicago. His most recent books include *Dying in the Land of Promise: Palestine and Palestinian Christianity from Pentecost 2000*, and *Anxious for Armageddon*—which deals with Christian Zionism. **Topic: Understanding Christian Zionism**

**James M. Wall** is the senior contributing editor for *The Christian Century* magazine. From 1972-1999, he was the editor of the magazine. He writes and speaks frequently on Palestinian and Israeli relations. **Topic: Divestment, Dialogue, and the Tale of Two Lobbies**

**Regional Sabeel Conference October 20-21, 2006**

**Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas**

**Register Online! — [www.kcsabeelconference.org](http://www.kcsabeelconference.org)**

# We welcome all conference participants to the Regional Sabeel Conference—Register online at [www.kcsabeelconference.org](http://www.kcsabeelconference.org)!

## About Sabeel

Sabeel (Arabic word for “the way”) believes justice is served by following the Gospel teachings on compassion and non-violence and by promoting human rights, international law and democratic principles. The Sabeel Center in Jerusalem is an international gathering place where Christian delegations from around the world are hosted for the purpose of learning more about Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

## Conference Schedule

- Friday, October 20: Noon to 9:00 pm
- Sat., October 21: 7:45 am to 6:00 pm

### Contact information:

- Janet Baker, Chair of the Justice, Peace, and Environment Committee, (913) 649-9439
- Andrea Whitmore, Chair of Citizens for Justice in the Middle East, (913) 236-9825

## Conference Hosts

- **Friends of Sabeel—North America**, an ecumenical group of U.S. and Canadian Christians. Web site: [www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org)
- **Justice, Peace, and Environment Committee**, Village Presbyterian Church
- **Citizens for Justice in the Middle East**, a Kansas City-based group who co-sponsored “Voices of New Hope” at Village Presbyterian Church in 2004. Web site: [www.cjme.org](http://www.cjme.org)

**The purpose of the Sabeel Conference is to inform the community about current realities in Palestine and Israel, including the plight of Palestinian Christians.**

*“Blessed are the peacemakers.” - Mt 5:9*

## TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE:

**Register by mail** — print your name and check off the information below. Friends of Sabeel, North America (FOSNA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization. Mail this form to Ginger Kenney, c/o Citizens for Justice in the Middle East, 6100 W 52nd St, Mission KS 66202.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Information -

- Option A** \$ 75 Full Conference Program / BEFORE October 1 (includes Middle East dinner & Sat. lunch)
  - Option B** \$ 45 Friday only (all Friday presentations, workshops, & Middle East Dinner)
  - Option C** \$ 45 Saturday only (all Saturday presentations, workshops, & lunch)
  - Option D** \$ 40 Student/Seminarian (full conference program, Middle East dinner & Sat. lunch)
  - Option E** \$ \_\_\_ Sliding fee, by prior arrangement. Scholarships for clergy, religious, and others by prior arrangement. Email Jim at [GKenney@kcnet.com](mailto:GKenney@kcnet.com) or call (913) 362-8362
  - Late Fee** \$ 5 AFTER October 1 add \$5 for late registration
- TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to “FOSNA-KC Conference.” **VISA and MasterCard accepted.**

**Credit card type:**  VISA  MasterCard **Name on card** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp Date** \_\_\_\_\_

### Hotel Information -

- White Haven Motor Lodge (3.7 miles from conference site)  
8039 Metcalf Ave, Overland Park, KS 66204. Call 913-649-8200, about \$50/night
- Holiday Inn Express (4.4 miles from conference site)  
801 Westport Rd., Kansas City, MO. Call 888-465 4329, about \$85/night.