

Steps for Starting a Partnership with a Church in Palestine

1. Ways to create interest and gain buy-in for a partnership

- get buy-in from pastors and church leaders; without leadership support a partnership will be difficult to initiate and sustain
- educate the congregation about Israel-Palestine, Palestinian Christians and/or Palestinian non-violent civil society organizations; this can be done through classes, guest speakers, book studies, etc.

2. Gather information needed to develop a partnership

- form a committee that will be tasked with managing the partnership and keeping it in front of the congregation
- identify the goal of the partnership
- consider what costs might be involved and the church's ability to meet those costs
- explore avenues for additional funding if the church is unable to supply adequate resources
- contact a denominational office to explore possibilities and get direction

3. Share this information with the church leadership and congregation

4. connect with recommended potential partner and discuss possibilities and what each group would like from the partnership

- While financial support will be an inevitable part of the partnership, the focus needs to be on ways to create relationships

5. craft and sign an agreement that is mutually acceptable

6. Begin to develop opportunities for virtual exchanges and in-person visits

- we began by providing funds for a group of Palestinians to visit our congregation and be hosted in people's homes
- we also planned a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, with a stop in the city where our partners live
- Later we began helping the youth of our partner's congregation travel to the US to participate in mission work with our own youth. This provided many great opportunities for fellowship and connection.
- Other ways to connect with partners
 - Video greetings emailed at Christmas and Easter
 - Prayers for partners said weekly in worship
 - Connections made and maintained on Facebook
 - Letters and cards of support by members of the congregation scanned and emailed to the main contact person to share with the congregation