

No. 9340

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION URGING REOPENING OF EAST JERUSALEM
ADOPTED by the Administrative Committee
Indianapolis, Indiana, February 12-14, 1994

*The Administrative Committee acted on behalf of the General Assembly
which could not act on the resolution due to lack of a quorum on July 20,
1993, in St. Louis, Missouri.*

Preface:

We celebrate the significant progress in the peace process between Israel, the Palestinians, and their Arab neighbors, notably the signing of the Peace Accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. We continue to be concerned about the closure to many Palestinians of East Jerusalem by the Israeli authorities.

Whereas, in response to individual acts of violence against Israelis, the government of Israel, on March 29, 1993, imposed a ban on Palestinians residing in the West Bank and Gaza from entering Israel and East Jerusalem - a ban which, although loosened somewhat, continues to the present; and

Whereas, this ban has prevented many Palestinians from reaching medical facilities in Jerusalem and has kept Christian and Muslim residents of the Occupied Territories from their holy sites in East Jerusalem; and

Whereas, the United States government has advocated a position, which is in accord with the position of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, that East Jerusalem is occupied territory and that no party can unilaterally change that status; and

Whereas, just as Jerusalem is of central importance to the Jewish people, so is East Jerusalem the cultural, economic and religious center of the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim; and

Whereas, the churches of the Middle East have sought the support of churches around the world in ending the closure of East Jerusalem; and

Therefore be it resolved, that the Administrative Committee of the General Board on behalf of the 1993 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Indianapolis, February 12-15, 1994 requests the General Minister and President to call upon the U.S. and Canadian governments to urge Israel to end its ban on travel to East Jerusalem by the residents of the West Bank and Gaza.