

WDC Israel Palestine Task Force Report to WDC Annual Assembly August 2024

Members: Bob Atchison, Katie Mitchell-Koch, Esther Koontz, Michael Poage, Kathy Neufeld Dunn -WDC Rep

Purpose: To facilitate the implementation of *Seeking Peace in Israel Palestine*, the resolution overwhelmingly passed by Mennonite Church USA in July 2017. To promote education and advocacy to bring peace and justice to the on-going crisis in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel.

Activity Highlights

The work of our task force in 2023-2024 has been dominated by the attack of Hamas on Israel October 7th and Israel's response which has been characterized as genocide by some organizations.

- **October 25th Presentation to Grace Hill Mennonite Church** – Several members of our task force provided a Power Point presentation of the Mennonite church's historic involvement to bring peace and justice to Israel/Palestine, the work of MennoPIN and our task force and general background surrounding the current violence.
- **December 19th** – Through Mennonite Action, our task force facilitated and participated in a day of action at Senator Moran's office and other offices, calling for an immediate ceasefire along with Rainbow Mennonite in the KC area, Southern Hills in Topeka and a host of congregations for the Wichita action. These actions included providing statements to staffers, singing hymns, praying, and sharing a variety of gifts from homemade bread to cookies.
- **January 16th** – Bob Atchison, Manhattan Mennonite Church, Marsha Rhoads-Stecker and Rosi Penner Kaufman, Rainbow Mennonite, all participated in Mennonite Action's Day of Action in DC and were arrested singing hymns in the Cannon House of Representatives rotunda. Bob also presented at Hyattsville Mennonite Church providing information about MennoPIN and WDC's work on Israel Palestine.
- **March 25th** – As a part of Holy Week and Mennonite Action's call to action, Manhattan Mennonite Church led an action to visit Senator Moran's office in Manhattan, sharing bread, songs, prayers and a quilt saying "send quilts not bombs".
- **March 27th** – Eva Lapp, Shalom Mennonite and other south central Kansas congregations came together at Senator Moran's Office in Wichita to call for a cease fire as part of Mennonite Action. The event included statements, prayer, hymns and sharing bread.

In addition to chairing the task force, Bob Atchison also chairs MennoPIN and serves on the steering Committee for Mennonite Action.

-Bob Atchison