

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### *Pray for...*

- *ecumenical relationships between Global Ministries and both the Middle East Council of Churches and the Council of European Churches, and among their member communions.*
- *efforts for interfaith dialogue in these lands of the three Abrahamic faiths.*
- *all those who are the victims of policies and conflicts over which they have no control, especially countless scattered refugees and the people of Palestine and Israel, Iraq, the Sudan, Bosnia, and Northern Ireland.*
- *missionaries throughout the two regions, including those in Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Lithuania, Hungary, France, Switzerland, and Germany.*
- *church partners throughout Europe, including the reformed churches of England, France, Germany, Italy, Hungary, and of the Armenians.*
- *the pupils of Rawdat El-Zahur school in East Jerusalem, supported through Global Ministries'*



## Middle East and Europe Office

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### *To Make a Gift Online:*

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## Middle East and Europe



## **GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

A common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ

## VISION/MISSION PRIORITIES

The Middle East and Europe – the lands of Christ’s life and ministry; the lands of the Reformation – hold special meaning in the life and history of the Church. Many people have had deeply spiritual experiences as they visit historical sites in these countries. This is where Christian mission began two millennia ago!

Today, Eastern Europe and the republics of the former Soviet Union are struggling to overcome economic hardship as they undertake courageous political reforms. Western European nations look to expand the European Union and their ties with their eastern neighbors, recognizing the daunting task such an opening will mean. Consideration of new members to NATO involves negotiation with the United States and a sensitivity to the sweeping cultural and social changes occurring within Europe. The conflict in Northern Ireland continues to simmer, even as peace efforts continue, and the Balkans remain unstable with the future unclear.

In the Middle East, peace negotiations for a just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict wax and wane, as does the violence. Sanctions, refugees, and interfaith conflict are some of the pressing difficulties people of the region know intimately. The interplay of U.S. policy with programs and priorities of Middle Eastern states will have a profound impact on the region's future.



### Partnerships

It is in this context that Global Ministries seeks to walk in solidarity with the people and churches of the two regions.

Our relationships are ecumenical in nature, embracing God’s community. In mission, we seek to engage with our partners locally, who often give to us in significant ways.

Highlighted on the map are countries in which we have active partnerships.

### Advocacy Priorities

#### The Arab-Israeli Peace Process

Lasting peace negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians, which would secure Palestinian sovereignty, a shared Jerusalem, and the rights of Palestinian refugees, is a high priority. These are issues whose deliberation and just outcome affect the adherents of the three faiths present in the land called “holy.”

### Iraq

U.S. policy against Iraq, more than a decade since the Gulf War, must be reconsidered. Regardless of international attitudes toward the Iraqi government, the devastating impact of sanctions on the Iraqi people require the churches to give attention to this as a human rights issue.

### Democracy and Human Rights

Partners and their communities endure tests of basic civil and human rights in many Middle Eastern states. In Lebanon and Palestine, an emerging sense of national self-determination demands new civil structures to prevent abuses, while in Egypt and Turkey, institutions work to prevent religious or social exclusion and intimidation.

### Resurgent Nationalism and Ethnic Intolerance

Of particular concern to Europe, violence and discrimination often have been directed against immigrants and minorities by neo-Nazi or other extremist groups, but also increasingly by mainstream political parties. European churches, striving to maintain their voices in society, are acting to oppose these trends. The struggles for peace in the former Yugoslavia highlight the need to resist future conflicts which might exploit historic national or ethnic distinctions.