

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East

2020–2021 Annual Report

by Mark Jagner

Description

[*Ann Arbor Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East*](#) (AA-UUJME) is one of 26 chapters across the county that are part of the 50-year-old [*UUs for Justice in the Middle East*](#) (UUJME) organization. We advocate for freedom, justice and equality for all people living in the Middle East with a particular focus on Palestine/Israel. Lasting peace requires an end to Israeli military rule, colonization and occupation of Palestinian territories; the right of refugees to return; and equal rights for Israel's Palestinian citizens.

Activities

- 2020 UUA General Assembly business resolution, [*Embodying Human Rights in Our Investment Decisions*](#), sponsored by *Black Lives UU*, *UU Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education*, *UUs for Justice in the Middle East*, *UU Ministry for Earth and UU Peace Ministry Network* and developed in association with the *UUA Investment Committee* and the *UUA Socially Responsible Investing Committee*, was adopted by a vote of 95%.
- AA-UUJME enthusiastically supported the UUA Board of Trustees decision to move our congregation's investments into the UUA Common Endowment Fund.
- We sent a letter sponsored by several social justice groups and signed by members of UUA to Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA president, thanking her for signing [*Churches for Middle East Peace*](#) letters [to Congress](#) and [President Biden](#).
- UUJME sponsored the [*Voices from the Holy Land*](#) film series showcasing independent films by Palestinian and Jewish film makers on the theme of Palestine/Israel.

Goals

A process to consider a congregational resolution supporting the global [*Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement \(BDS\)*](#) for Palestinian rights is being planned that will include opportunities to learn about BDS as a nonviolent strategy against oppression, engage in respectful discussion and provide input on the resolution's content.