

As the Council of Bishops, we speak as a body when we meet together several times throughout the quadrennium. When we gather, as a Council, we discern and explore a wide range of issues that affect the spiritual and temporal life of our global United Methodist Church family. As a Council of Bishops, that includes 66 active bishops and 93 retired bishops from around the world, we have never functioned in a manner that allows us to respond weekly to the many situations that arise around the globe.

Residential bishops have spoken to, and will continue to speak to, issues that affect their local areas. Bishops from across the denomination have also spoken to the issues that have been mentioned. For example, in recent weeks, I have added my voice and joined with other ecumenical leaders in the continuing Israel/Palestine conflict.

The Council serves as a worldwide church representing 12 million United Methodists on four continents. We are committed to our role of being prophetic voices for justice in a suffering and conflicted world, proclaiming the gospel, and alleviating human suffering.

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