



# HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION

## 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference

### 2013 Program

Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

8:00 – 8:45am

8:45 – 9:00am

#### Registration, Refreshments, and Open Exhibits

#### Opening Prayer

#### Introduction to the Conference

**Dr. Saliba Sarsar**, *Secretary, HCEF Board of Directors; Associate Vice President, Global Initiatives, Monmouth University*

**Dr. Jad Daniel**, *Management Consulting Executive*

9:00 – 10:00am

#### Arab Christians Under Hard Times in the Holy Land

Many Arab Christians in the Holy Land are caught between the rock of Israeli security policies and Israeli Jewish extremism and the hard place of Islamic radicalism. This session will discuss the difficulties under which Arab Christians live and explain what is being done to secure their presence and future. A special focus will be placed on religious leaders and institutions as they cooperate to restore dignity, justice, and prosperity in the Holy Land.

#### Moderator:

**Jeff Abood**, *KCHS, HCEF Advocacy and Outreach Director*

#### Speakers:

**Fr. Michael McDonagh**, *International Advisor to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem*

**Sami El Yousef**, *Regional Director, Pontifical Mission for Palestine*

10:00 – 11:00am

#### Sustaining Economic Viability through Holy Land Support Programs

The Israeli occupation adversely affects the economic development in Palestine. The lack of infrastructure, jobs, tourism, regional assistance, and international support are creating a desperate situation for Palestinians. Regardless, non-governmental agencies, and others have sustained their commitments and programs, creating jobs, giving Palestinians a glimmer of hope, and generating self and national worth. This workshop will explain existing programs of training, job creation, business development, and investment, all essential for basic living, peace building, and a better future. Positive Investments and Business Opportunities in Palestine.

#### Moderator:

**Dr. Jad Daniel**, *Management Consulting Executive*

#### Speakers:

**Sami El Yousef**, *Regional Director, Pontifical Mission for Palestine*

**William Corcoran**, *President/CEO, American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA)*

**Anthony Habash**, *HCEF Regional Director*

11:00 – 11:30am **Break**

11:30 – 12:45am **Visual Presentation and Discussion**

12:45 – 1:45pm **Lunch**

1:45pm – 2:45pm **Interfaith Dialogue**

Interfaith dialogue is a key catalyst for justice, conflict resolution, and peace. Our voice and touch are essential for promoting and sustaining it. This panel will emphasize the development of lasting commitments to interfaith dialogue, strong national harmony, and personal dedication to building a healthy network of friends and fellow Palestinians.

**Speakers:**

**Imam Yahya Hendi**, *Founder & President, Clergy Beyond Borders; Muslim Chaplain, Georgetown University*

**Bishop Richard H. Graham**, *Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*

**Fr. Drew Christiansen, SJ**, *Visiting Scholar, Theology Department, Boston College; Member, HCEF Advisory Board*

**Rabbi Gerald Serotta**, *Congregation Shirat HaNefesh, Executive Director of Clergy Beyond Borders*

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**CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

2:45 – 4:15pm

**Religious Tourism**

The Holy Land is one of the most sacred spots on earth, which has deep meaning for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. By taking a pilgrimage, followers of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, whether fully observant or not, fulfill important spiritual and personal needs. This workshop will explain the meaning and importance of religious tourism to the Holy Land as well as the business environment that promotes or distracts from pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

**Speakers:**

**Sami Abu-Dayyeh**, *President, Holy Land Incoming Tour Operators Association (HILTOA); CEO, Near East Tourist Agency (NET); Owner, Ambassador and Ritz Hotels, Jerusalem*

**Sami Khoury**, *Tourism Consultant, "Visit Palestine;" Co-founder & General Manager, Alternative Business Solutions*

**Fr. Michael McDonagh**, *International Advisor to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem*  
**Bishop Richard H. Graham**, *Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*

2:45 – 4:15pm

**The Nation-Building Role of Palestinian Youth in Diaspora**

Young women and men play a significant role in nation-building. They are important today and tomorrow, because they are the future. This panel will elucidate the goals of the “Know Thy Heritage” Leadership Program and the role the youth can play in Palestine and the Diaspora. Testimonies of youth who have visited or returned to Palestine will be shared, mainly the motivation for their participation and the impact of their homecoming. A documentary film will be shown.

**Moderator:**

**Mohammed Iftaiha**, *Financial Advisor, Know Thy Heritage Delegation Leader*

**Speakers:** *Alumni of the Know Thy Heritage Leadership Program*

**Sohad Murrar**, *PhD Candidate in Social Psychology, University of Wisconsin Madison*

**Lina Barkawi**, *Consulting Analyst, Accenture*

**Naya Aldias**, *Marketing Events Manager, BVLGARI*

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4:15 – 5:30pm

**Will Palestinian-Israeli Peace Be Given a Chance?**

The ongoing peace talks between Palestinian and Israeli officials will be long and hard. This session will examine the obstacles ahead and the prospects for a successful conclusion to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. A special focus will be placed on the public peace process and the role that peace groups, like the One Voice Movement, play in influencing the desired outcome of peace.

**Speakers:**

**Dr. James Zogby**, *President, Arab American Institute (AAI); Member, U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom*

**Samer Makhoulf**, *Executive Director, OneVoice Palestine (OVP)*

**Joel Braunold**, *Strategic Partnership Officer, OneVoice Movement*

5:30pm

**Closing Prayer**