



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAINLINE PROTESTANT LEADERS TRAVEL TO ISRAEL WITH PROJECT INTERCHANGE

February 24—Washington D.C.—The week that a study guide produced by the United Methodist Church on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was criticized by several Jewish organizations, Project Interchange is hosting an educational seminar in Israel for Protestant leaders from across the U.S. Participants represent congregations in Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.

Focusing on the challenges to interfaith relations in Israel, the group will meet with leading Christian, Muslim, and Jewish clergy and discuss the protection of holy sites in Jerusalem. The seminar will also investigate the condition and status of Christians, Jews, and Muslims in Israel and in areas under the Palestinian Authority.

The program will also include a meeting with the CEO of Augusta Victoria and a representative from Hadassah hospital to discuss issues of medical cooperation in wartime. Rabbi Marc Dworkin, director of American Jewish Committee's Orange County Chapter, will lead the group.

This seminar will offer a first-hand experience of Israel, enhancing the knowledge of historical and modern Israel, as well as the Palestinian territories. This knowledge will better enable them to effectively promote informed discussion on issues relating to Israel and the Middle East conflict.

Now in its twenty-fifth year, **Project Interchange**, an educational organization, is dedicated to first-hand introductions of Israel to current and future American and international leaders. Project Interchange has brought over 4,000 prominent figures to Israel on week-long seminars, which include meetings with a variety of leaders throughout Israel. Each seminar is tailored to address the interests of its delegation (e.g., immigrant absorption, education, counter-terrorism, politics, and environment), while exposing participants to differing viewpoints on controversial issues in Israel and the Middle East. Project Interchange is an institute of the American Jewish Committee, the oldest human relations agency in the United States.

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