



The United Methodist Church
San Francisco Area California-Nevada Conference

Warner H. Brown, Jr
Resident Bishop

Laura Smith
Executive Assistant to the Bishop

August 14, 2009

Skip Rosenbloom, M.D.
Barry Broad, J.D.
Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region
2014 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Dr. Rosenbloom and Dr. Broad:

I was saddened to receive your letter dated August 5 (received on August 10), which raised concerns about the July 23, 2009 meeting of the Annual Conference's Israel-Palestine Task Force. I have looked into this matter and discovered that this disconcerting misunderstanding is the direct result of miscommunications.

I have learned from the chair of the Task Force that the July 23 meeting was a specially called meeting for the sole purpose of implementing the decisions made by the Annual Conference, and not a public meeting or listening session on issues related to the conflict in the Middle East.

However the miscommunication occurred, I regret that Dr. Feldman apparently received inaccurate information from whomever extended the invitation. The chairperson indicates that any invitation to the meeting did not come from the Task Force.

The result of this miscommunication is upsetting to all of us. The Task Force has expressed that Dr. Feldman's version of the events recounted in your letter are not completely accurate at several points. Nevertheless, this misunderstanding is unfortunate as we are committed to maintaining good interfaith relationships. Our desire is to promote mutual respect and understanding among people of all faiths, though we may have differing viewpoints.

The Annual Conference, and the Task Force on its behalf, is open to dialogue that can find common ground for agreement with anyone who is working for a just peace in the Middle East. We would welcome such conversations with JCRC. Please advise us on ways you feel we can achieve this end.

Sincerely,

Warner H. Brown, Jr.

cc: Bishop Ann B. Sherer, President, UMC Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns
Board of Rabbis of the Sacramento Region
JCRC of San Francisco
JCRC of Los Angeles
Anti-Defamation League
Bishop Jaime Soto, Catholic Diocese of Sacramento