

Sharing Jerusalem Workshop Participant Profiles

Profile of Senior Minister

Your Senior Minister is a pragmatic moderate and has been very involved in interfaith dialogue in your community. He/she really enjoys this interaction and is very wary of bringing up a subject like what is happening in Israel/Palestine, for fear that it might affect his/her relationships with the community, particularly with the Jewish community. He/she is sensitive to the fact that he/she can often speak privately to Jews about Israel/Palestine issues and has expressed to them his/her concerns about the plight of Palestinian Christians, but he/she is afraid that publicly taking a stand on such an issue may create some ill-will, a schism, and/or being labeled anti-Semitic. He/she is wary of hanging a Sharing Jerusalem banner in front of the church or having your church openly advocate because of these reasons. However, he/she has no theological concerns about Israel's "right to exist" and supports a two-state solution.

Profile of Influential Church Committee Members

Conservative Member

He/she doesn't know anything about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or Jerusalem other than what he/she has seen or read in the media. He/she is sympathetic to Israel for biblical reasons, believing that this was their land 2000 years ago, that God promised it to them, and that they have a right to return to it. He/she is also reluctant to hang a banner that may anger the local synagogue, with which the church has good relations. Additionally, he/she has a fundamentalist theological philosophy, especially on the "right" of the Jews to return to their homeland, granted to them by God.

Liberal Member

He/she is very idealistic and strongly believes in the "social gospel", especially the scene where Jesus threw out the money changers from the temple in Jerusalem. In his/her mind, Jerusalem represents the pinnacle of social justice from a Christian theological viewpoint. He/she believes that Jesus was a social radical who always spoke out for the oppressed, and he/she thinks that Jesus would want his followers to advocate for the Palestinians. He/she is aware of the fact that the local synagogue has had a "Support Israel" banner on its front lawn for several months and believes that this is ample justification for hanging a "Sharing Jerusalem" banner in front of your church.

Moderate Member

He/she has sympathy for both sides and greatly dislikes violence of any kind, but especially suicide bombers. He/she has visited Jerusalem long ago and has fond memories of that visit. He/she has no particular theological "bent".