



AFEDJ

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

# Bearing Witness

## A Journey with Holy Land Christians

### WHAT IS BEARING WITNESS?



Since 1988, through General Convention resolutions, the Episcopal Church has repeatedly called on its members to learn more about the remarkable Christian witness in the Holy Land and the humanitarian ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

Three years in the making, a dynamic education program called *Bearing Witness: A Journey with Holy Land Christians* is now ready. This new adult curriculum developed by the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) is a free, five-session video-based education program that provides church communities and faith-based organizations with the biblical basis, the inspiration, and the tools to walk together with Christians in the Holy Land.



The Most Rev. Hosam Naoum, the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, recently said, “Bearing Witness is one of the greatest gifts the American Friends will offer our leaders, our churches, and the people of the Episcopal Church and beyond. It speaks to the heart.”

Each of the five program sessions is grounded in a Gospel passage about a theme of Jesus’ ministry (Belonging, Healing, Teaching, Breaking Barriers, and Building Hope), with videos featuring a Palestinian or American priest reflecting on the scripture. Other videos for each session were filmed on location in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, and Israel; they illuminate the challenges of everyday life in the Holy Land and how Diocese of Jerusalem ministries respond to the needs of people of all religions, ethnicities, and economic circumstances. Bearing Witness participants will meet 25 Christian, Jewish, and Muslim leaders as well as students, teachers, and others served by the institutions.

Each of the five sessions explores a theme of Jesus’ ministry:

- Session 1: Belonging
- Session 2: Healing
- Session 3: Teaching
- Session 4: Breaking Barriers
- Session 5: Building Hope



Free, downloadable guides include all churches need to offer this small group program including a “master” Facilitator Program Guide that provides guidance for creating a learning environment for your session, as well as a companion guide for participants, session guides for facilitators and participants, and many additional resources. AFEDJ offers training and ongoing support for facilitators. All materials and video may be found at [www.afedj.org/bearingwitness](http://www.afedj.org/bearingwitness).

“We are entrusted with this mission in the Holy Land - to be a beacon of hope, love, and peace in this world. We do this ministry not only for ourselves, but we do this on behalf of every single Christian.”

— Archbishop Hosam Naoum



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## WHAT MAKES A GOOD FACILITATOR FOR THE *BEARING WITNESS* PROGRAM?

- Interest in the Middle East
- Familiarity with AFEDJ mission
- Passion for learning
- Willingness to listen
- Organized
- Comfortable with technology
- Comfortable talking about scripture and leading a prayer
- Assertive discussion leader (when necessary)
- Hospitable

## WHAT DOES AFEDJ PROVIDE?

- Facilitator Program Guide and Participant Program Guide
- Session Guides for Facilitators and Participants for each of the five sessions
- Professionally-Produced Videos and Resource Materials
- Facilitator Training Sessions
- Opportunities to participate in sample session trainings to have an organic experience with others
- Assistance and Support via email/text/zoom
- Evaluation Tools

Questions about launching the Bearing Witness Program in your diocese or organization? Please contact AFEDJ's Communications Director Diana Branton:

[dbranton@afedj.org](mailto:dbranton@afedj.org) or 985.664.2973

## ABOUT THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM

Founded in 1988 at the time of the first Intifada, American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) is dedicated to raising financial support for the diocese's humanitarian ministries – schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities – in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon and raising awareness about these powerful examples of Christian Witness in the Holy Land. A nonpolitical, nonsectarian 501(c)3 organization,



AFEDJ's mission is to transform the lives of vulnerable and displaced people in the region. The values of equity, justice, and respect for the dignity of all are at the heart of their efforts. Learn more at [www.afedj.org](http://www.afedj.org). To keep up with the stories of the humanitarian institutions that they serve, scan the QR code to join the monthly newsletter. Together we're transforming lives in the Holy Land.

*Bearing Witness was produced in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the Episcopal Church Standing Commission on World Mission, Jerusalem Peacebuilders, and with financial support from the Constable Fund of the Episcopal Church, Carol and David Myers, and anonymous donors.*

[www.afedj.org](http://www.afedj.org)