



## JRC Israel Palestine Working Group Purpose and Guiding Principles Created 10/25/23 Amended 2/21/24

### **Purpose:**

At the request of Senior Leadership, JRC's President has established a working group of individuals with diverse opinions about Israel-Palestine, with the Immediate Past President and Rabbi currently serving as conveners. The group's purpose is to:

1. **Principles:** Create, implement, and update our [guiding principles](#) for JRC's response to the current crisis in Israel-Palestine.
2. **Communications:** Create content and provide feedback, counsel, editorial assistance, and connections to lay and staff content creators and marketing/communications leaders for **internal and external communications**.
3. **Leadership Support: Support and make recommendations to clergy, senior leadership, and the Board** about responding to the continuing crisis and its impact both internally and externally.
4. **Learning and engagement:**
  - a. Develop and maintain **shared resources** for the JRC community.
  - b. Collaborate with JRC Clergy and members to develop and lead opportunities for JRC members to engage **over time** in a variety of ways such as grieving together, engaging in dialogue, and ongoing learning.
  - c. Recommend structures for JRC to ensure continuity of learning and respectful dialogue about Israel-Palestine in the future.

### **Guiding Principles:**

The following principles guide our decision-making, communications, programming, and action. We will continually review these principles as the situation changes and may agree to amend them from time to time.

**Wide tent:** United in our belief in Tikkun Olam, JRC offers a wide tent for members with different beliefs, experiences, and positions about Israel-Palestine. We encourage learning, respectful dialogue, and working for Tikkun Olam through the organizations and actions that are the best fit for each member. As an institution, we emphasize our broad values of human rights, peace, justice, and dialogue.

**Connection:** As Jews, we have a connection to Israel perhaps as Zionists, non-Zionists, anti-Zionists, or a relationship in flux. It may be positive or negative, and is likely complex. We have a responsibility for navigating our personal and collective relationships with Israel, especially in this time of crisis.

**Human rights:** we uphold and prioritize the human rights of all, including both Israelis and Palestinians.

**Tikkun Olam and Shalom:** as Jews, we work to repair the world, centering the value of peace and justice.

**Responsibility for dialogue:** as Jews, we have a responsibility to be in dialogue about Israel-Palestine. To ensure that our members have a brave space for respectful conversation, we will incorporate facilitated dialogue into all educational programming.

**“And:”** we acknowledge that we all hold more than one thing at a time: grief and joy, anger and acceptance, self-care and care for others, attachment to the Jewish people, and recognition that we are all made in God’s image. We are part of a Jewish community, and we have overlapping identities, affiliations, and realms in which we operate - personal, professional, racial, ethnic, gender, political, spiritual, community, activism, and more. We prioritize care for each other while recognizing and respecting our many differences.

**We seek to speak together.** We celebrate our diverse opinions and work together to find areas of agreement where we can speak with moral clarity, such as [the statement passed by the JRC Board of Directors November 11, 2023](#).

### ***Operating Principles***

**Kavod Sicha:** As a working group, and as a congregation, we are guided by our [JRC Covenant of Speech](#).

**Consensus:** We operate by consensus to determine major issues such as the statement passed by the Board of Directors on November 8, 2023.

**Collaboration:** We recognize that Israel-Palestine issues touch on many of JRCs areas of work and values. We work to collaborate across the congregation.