



**Janet Lahr Lewis** is a missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. Janet had been living in Israel and Palestine since 1994, working as a volunteer prior to her commissioning with GBGM in 2001. During her time as a volunteer she worked as Personal Assistant to H. E. Archbishop Elias Chacour for three years, then as Coordinator of the International Friends of Sabeel in Jerusalem where she continued to serve after her commissioning in 2001.

In 2007 she began serving as the Methodist Liaison in Palestine and Israel. In October 2012 a partnership was formed between Methodist Church of Britain, Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church and the World Methodist Council to expand the work of the liaison to

address the global Methodist Church, and a new joint Methodist Liaison Office was opened. Focusing on advocacy and activism, Janet's responsibilities were varied. She acted as a resource person for information and advocacy initiatives for the Methodist Church worldwide, promoted and assisted local partner organizations, acted as international coordinator for the local Community Development Project in the village of Wadi Foquin. Janet also coordinated Volunteers In Mission teams and organized alternative tours for global Methodist visitors who wished to participate in responsible tourism, spending a significant amount of time with local Christian community, and liaising with partner organizations and Advance Projects. As part of her responsibilities as Liaison she circulated updates about developments in the ongoing crisis and suggested courses of action people can take to address it. She educated visitors about the realities of the situation, organized conferences, developed media campaigns, offered worship opportunities, hosted delegations to the area and oversaw other special events.

Janet returned to the U.S. in the spring of 2014 where she spent several months traveling and speaking in venues across the states. In Feb. 2015, Janet was assigned to be the new Advocacy Coordinator for the Middle East, working in conjunction with the General Board of Church and Society in Washington, D.C.

A native of Cleveland Hts, OH, Janet earned a degree in civil engineering and architectural design from Lakeland College in Mentor, OH. She also studied theater arts at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX. She has three adult children and five grandchildren. Janet was formerly a member of Chardon United Methodist Church in Chardon, OH, and is currently a member of Fredericksburg, UMC in Fredericksburg, VA where she lives with her daughter. Janet has held numerous church offices, including council on ministries chair, youth leader, choir member, mission committee chair, and administrative board member.