FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 7 2014
Contact: sabeel.pdx.2014@mideastpeace.net
Rev. Richard Toll (503) 201-7158   Mark Eichinger-Wiese (206) 922-9026

What: Friends of Sabeel - North America to host regional conference on Palestine / Israel
   titled "*Seeds of Justice and Hope for Palestinians and Israelis: What is required of US."*
When: April 4th and 5th, 2014
Where: First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland, OR
Who: Local, national and international speakers / authors on the subject of the Israel /
   Palestine conflict, non-violent resistance and the current peace negotiations.

The Portland action group of Friends of Sabeel--North America in collaboration with over 20
regional church mission groups, non-profit organizations and educational groups will host an
important conference on the subject of the Israel / Palestine conflict. The conference titled
"Seeds of Justice and Hope for Palestinians and Israelis: What is required of US" will be held at
the First United Methodist Church in Portland, April 4th and 5th.

A stellar list of international, national and local speakers will talk on topics including:
*   *Bethlehem - Surrounded City*
*   *The prophets and the gospels: Christian responsibility for Palestinian justice*
*   *Nonviolent Resistance in the Palestinian justice movement*
*   *Biblical sources of justice and hope for peace*

Speakers at the conference include: Rev. Naim Ateek, founder and director of Sabeel-Jerusalem
and author of *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*; Mazin Qumsiyeh from Bethlehem,
media activist, public educator, and author of *Sharing the Land of Canaan: Human Rights and
the Israeli/Palestinian Struggle*; Rev. Brian McLaren, leading Christian pastor in the emerging
church movement and author of *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the
Road?*.

Claire Anastas, a Palestinian Christian from Bethlehem, will also speak. Anastas and her family
have spent fourteen years trapped between Israeli politics and Palestinian infighting,
experiencing the worst of the intifadas and consequential building of the security/separation wall
around her house, close to checkpoint 300.

Additional confirmed speakers include Max Blumenthal, Josh Ruebner, Mads Gilbert, Hatem
Bazian, Pamela Olson, Phyllis Bennis, Mark Braverman, Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, Rev. Don
Wagner, Shakeel Syed , Ned Rosch, Zaha Hassan, Chris McGreal, Steve Niva, Cindy and Craig
Corrie, Janet Lahr Lewis, Donna Boyd, Kelly Lynn, Peter Miller and more

Rev. Richard Toll, co-chair of the event, says "I've helped organize 34 conferences on the subject
of Israel and Palestine during the past 12 years across the US. Never before has there been a
gathering of such high caliber speakers as this in one place at the same time." Toll continues,
"The education that takes place at theses conferences has greatly influenced the churches and
concerned people of all faiths. The ongoing military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is
hurting Israel as well as Palestinians and must come to an end."

FOSNA is a non-profit, tax-exempt Christian ecumenical organization seeking justice and peace in the Holy Land through non-violence and education. FOSNA works in the U.S. and Canada to support the vision of Sabeel, cultivating the support of American churches through co-sponsored regional educational conference, alternative pilgrimage, witness trips, and international gatherings in the Holy Land.

Sabeel is an international peace movement initiated by Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land, who seek a just peace based on two states—Palestine and Israel—as defined by international law and existing United Nations resolutions.

Press packets available on request.

Additional Information at: http://tinyurl.com/FOSNA-PDX or http://tinyurl.com/Mideast-PDX

Pre-conference interviews can be arranged with many of the speakers. Contact sabeel.pdx.2014@mideastpeace.net for more information.

Friends of Sabeel—North America (dba) is a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization—EIN 38-3419440—incorporated as Friends of Peace and Justice in the Holy Land.

###