

Introduction:

The 5th Annual Young Adult Conference, titled “From the Belly of the Whale: A Palestinian Christian Cry for Justice,” is inspired by the Book of Jonah. In the story, the nationalist prophet Jonah travels against his will to preach repentance to his Assyrian enemies in the city of Nineveh. A story of mercy, compassion, perception and responsibility, the tale of Jonah and the Assyrians will serve as a springboard for this year’s conference, giving new perspective to the Palestinian struggle by providing a humanizing lens for seeing reality that is grounded in both Jewish and Christian Religious traditions.

This year’s conference, beginning July 21st, will last for twelve days and will include panel discussions and lectures, volunteer and advocacy opportunities, cultural activities, bible study and worship, contextual tours of holy sites and villages, and much more. We hope to bring together a strong group of Palestinian and International participants, including but not limited to seminarians, university students, social workers, journalists, clergy members and social activists.

If you are interested, take a look at our flyer and fill out an application! We have also attached a link to a chapter from Reverend Naim Ateek’s recent book, *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*, interpreting the Jonah story from the perspective of a Palestinian Liberation Theologian.