

## **PALESTINIAN ANGLICAN PRIEST NAIM ATEEK TO RECEIVE EPISCOPAL PEACE FELLOWSHIP'S 2006 JOHN NEVIN SAYRE AWARD**

The Rev. Canon Naim Ateek, a Palestinian Anglican priest and the founder and director of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem, will receive the 2006 John Nevin Sayre Award from the Episcopal Peace Fellow of the Episcopal Church in the United States. The award is named after a founding member of the U.S. branch of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Sabeel is a movement of Palestinian Christians working with mainstream churches in North America and Europe to host regional and international conferences, witness trips to the Holy Land, and theological education.

The EPF statement of award noted, "Canon Naim Ateek's voice is heard around the world as a strong voice of faith and nonviolence. His message of nonviolence states, 'as a Christian, I know that the way of Christ is the way of nonviolence and, therefore, I condemn all forms of violence and terrorism whether coming from the government (of Israel) or from militant (Palestinian) groups.'" Ateek is author of *Justice and Only Justice: a Palestinian Theology of Liberation*. He has edited *Holy Land Common Ground* and *Challenging Christian Zionism: Theology, Politics, and the Israel-Palestine Conflict*, compilations of papers from two major international Sabeel conferences held in Jerusalem in 1998 and 2004. Ateek also publishes a quarterly theological journal, *Cornerstone*, circulated in many countries.

Canon Ateek will be present at the 75th Annual General Convention of the Episcopal Church, June 12-21st in Columbus, Ohio where he, along with a second recipient, Madeline Trichel, will receive their awards at a reception on Saturday, June 17th at Trinity Episcopal Church (corner of Broad and 3rd on Capitol Square) in Columbus. Tickets can be purchased from Episcopal Peace Fellowship for \$25.00.

Canon Ateek has directed the work of Sabeel for 14 years and in that time the support for his work has grown, with Friends of Sabeel centers established in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., The Netherlands, Ireland, Australia, and elsewhere. In the U.S. fifteen major regional conferences have attracted thousands to hear words of witness by Palestinians and Israelis living at the center of the conflict. International conferences in Jerusalem bring Christians from around the world for pilgrimage and witness to the lives of Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation. Over 600 people participated in the 2004 conference, *Challenging Christian Zionism*. The 6th international Sabeel conference will be November 2-9, 2006, in Jerusalem: "The Forgotten Faithful: A Window into the Life and Witness of Christians of the Holy Land" will focus on the heritage and witness of Palestinian Christians. Details of that event are posted at [www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org).

*Canon Ateek is a graduate of Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley and Doctor of Ministry, San Francisco Theological Seminary with honorary D. Min. degrees from CDSP (1995) and EDS (2001) and Distinguished Alumni Award from San Francisco Seminary (2002).*