Clergy Discipline Measure 2003
In the Clergy Discipline Tribunal – Diocese of Winchester
Re the Reverend Dr Stephen Robert Sizer

WITNESS STATEMENT OF
REV'D CANON JOHN FRANK
SALTER

I, **JOHN SALTER**, of 7 Aldershot Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 8AE, **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I make this statement on behalf of the Reverend Dr Stephen Sizer ("**Stephen**") in support of his Answer to a Complaint made against him by the Board of Deputies of British Jews ("**the Board of Deputies**").

Biography

2. I am President of the Garden Tomb Association, a UK charity which maintains the Garden Tomb site in Jerusalem and is comprised of people from many different denominational and national backgrounds, united by the glorious message of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The site is maintained by volunteers that come from around the globe and join a team of local Palestinians and Israelis.

3. I was vicar of Emmanuel Church, Guildford for 32 years and conjointly from 1999 an Hon. Canon of Guildford Cathedral before becoming Canon Emeritus on retirement at the end of 2002.

4. I am a clergy colleague who has known Stephen for well over 30 years, read all of his published writings, heard him speak on matters relating to the Middle East and supported him in his commitment to fostering peace, justice and reconciliation around the world. I have also been a regular visitor to Israel for over fifty years.

Peacemaker Trust

5. I am a director and trustee of the Peacemaker Trust. In this capacity, I have observed first hand Stephen's drive, as our Executive Director, to do everything he possibly can to support its aim to be a catalyst for peace-making, especially where minorities are persecuted, where justice is denied, human rights are suppressed or reconciliation is needed. To that end he is currently engaged in a worldwide ministry on behalf of the Trust and is a wholehearted advocate of reconciliation and peace.

6. Stephen has never to my knowledge and in my experience shown anything but complete and wholehearted support for the Jewish people and this is constantly reiterated in his published writings and his contributions to social media. His commitment to a peaceful solution in the Middle East and to the equal value and human dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians is well documented.

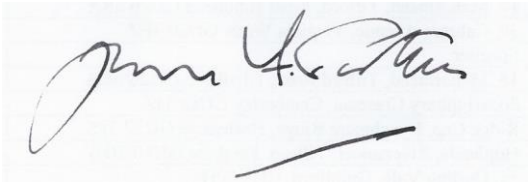
7. Stephen is an acknowledged authority on and critic of Zionism in all of its forms, whether Jewish, secular or Christian but I have always found him to be supportive of Jewish people and of the right of Israelis and Palestinians to exist peacefully alongside each other. At no point have I ever heard him speak in a way which conveyed or implied any hostility towards Jewish people.

8. I am fully aware that the Board of Deputies of British Jews have perceived Stephen to be anti-semitic and have pursued a systematic campaign against him, but they do not represent the whole of British Jewry and are, in my view, confusing perfectly legitimate criticism of some of Israel's policies with anti-semitism. There are many Jewish people, both religious and secular, who are similarly critical of their government over certain issues e.g. building separation walls, planting settlements and demolishing houses as a form of punishment. Stephen undoubtedly has strong views on these issues and always argues his case vigorously, but I have never glimpsed even a hint of anti-semitism in his attitude or conversation, whether in public or in private and believe him to be motivated simply by a deep desire for peace and justice. I have often heard him argue

for solutions in the Middle East which express love and support equally for Jews and Arabs.

Statement of truth

I believe the facts and matters in this statement to be true.



REV'D CANON JOHN SALTER

Date: 16th October, 2020