

8144:9/85

**AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION ON
LAND REFORM**

WHEREAS, over much of the world there is a growing protest among the masses of rural dwellers against absentee landlords, high rents, and the concentration of the land in the hands of a few; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the members of our churches work for the preservation and multiplication of the family-owned, family-managed, family-lived-on and family-worked farm; that our rural churches adopt policies of helping young church couples to secure ownership of land so that they may remain within the community and build it and the church; that they encourage church members who must dispose of their estates to put them into hands of people who have the church and community welfare at heart; and that our official boards which have money to invest consider seriously their opportunities to strengthen our rural churches and communities by the careful provisions of long-term credit for the above stated purposes. Furthermore be it

RESOLVED, that our church members support such policies as will further private ownership of lands and homes among all peoples; increase the quantity and quality of agricultural production where needed and facilitate the equitable distribution and use of temporary surpluses.

Adopted by the American Baptist Convention - 1952
Affirmed by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September - 1985
(General Board Reference # - 8144:9/85)

POLICY BASE

American Baptist Policy Statement on Agricultural Labor
we urge American Baptists...to

7. Remain aware and attentive to the needs of the small farmer within our society and stand ready to give economic and spiritual help if and when they feel it is necessary to organize in order to change in a nonviolent way those institutions which misuse and dehumanize them.

American Baptist Policy Statement on Hunger

As American Baptists we shall support domestic programs which encourage maximum, efficient food production within the limits of good uses of energy and ecological practice. We shall also support programs which provide the incentives and security that promote full economic production. In principle we support government programs which unleash, not constrain, the energies of the American farmer.
