

**AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION
ON
PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING**

We see on all sides worldwide tensions and threats of open conflict, which could lead to total destruction. The peace we seek is more than the absence of war and requires a Christian offering of positive, unselfish service for those things that build for peace. Therefore, the American Baptist Churches USA:

1. Supports a U. S. policy based on partnership with other nations, with full recognition of the equality of people and nations in the building of peace with justice and freedom.
2. Asks that in determining U. S. policy allowance be made for a variety of political, social and economic systems that recognize the freedom of nations to set their own policies that befit their own cultural patterns.
3. Affirms the desirability of a strong United Nations with sufficient authority to keep the peace, and urges that the United States support the creation, within the framework of the United Nations charter, of
 - a. an international police force to stop armed conflict;
 - b. machinery for compulsory arbitration and negotiation; and
 - c. a system of finances to adequately support effective peacekeeping machinery.

And since the local church and its members are a major force

1. We recommend to the local churches that their international affairs programs include:
 - a. information concerning the kind of world in which we live;
 - b. direction toward developing attitudes which support international cooperation, which appreciate the contribution made by other people, and which recognize the urgency for revising a nationalistic view of the world of which we are a part; and
 - c. the study of the proposals for world peace through world law.
2. We suggest that local churches, through communications to legislators, appointed officials, and by other appropriate means urge that U. S. policy and practice be consistent with stated goals, and speed significant social change with justice.
3. We ask churches to:
 - a. study relationships of observance of human rights to the imperatives of our Christian faith, relative to the Christian understanding of personhood;

- b. work for the implementation of the U. N. Declaration on Human Rights, Rights of the Child, Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Elimination of Discrimination Against Women;
- c. urge the ratification by the U. S. Senate of The Human Rights Conventions pending on slavery;
- d. study the United National Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic Social and Cultural Rights adopted by the General Assembly, December 1966.

Adopted by the American Baptist Convention - 1967
 Affirmed by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1985
 Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1989
 Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1998
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POLICY BASE

American Baptist Policy Statement on Military and Foreign Policy

Nonmilitary means to resolve international conflict must be sought and practiced on an intentional and continual basis.

Global understanding and cooperation are essential to the pursuit of peace. Our welfare is fundamentally linked to that of all people. National actions and priorities continually need to be reassessed in light of this global interdependence. The needs and rights of all peoples must be respected if there is to be a solid foundation for peace.

Social and economic justice as well as concern for human welfare and potential are essential elements in national security. Social, economic and political structures that do not respond constructively to the needs of people contribute to the causes of war and global instability.

American Baptist Policy Statement on Human Rights

- 3. The right to develop family structures, to build mutually satisfying human relationships and to nurture, train and educate children;
- 5. The right to grow in mind and self-fulfillment, to secure an education, to develop knowledge, to exchange ideas; and to receive, impart and have access to information;
- 9. The right to human dignity, to be respected and treated as a person, and to be protected against discrimination without regard to age, sex, race, class, marital status, income, national origin, legal status, culture or condition in society;

American Baptist Policy Statement on Peace

SUPPORTING POSITION

American Baptist Resolution on the Role of the United States in World Affairs

3. The United States should reaffirm its faith in the rule of international law and in international organizations. Since the United Nations is the most important organ for peace and dialogue in the world community, the United States should give stronger support to United Nations initiatives in settling international disputes; strengthen its contributions to the United Nations peacekeeping and economic development efforts; and urge the inclusion of all national governments of the world community in the United Nations.