

8114:9/88

**AMERICAN BAPTIST
RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

The rapidly increasing pressure of world population, coupled with massive technological capabilities, constitute an unprecedented threat to the survival of life and beauty on this planet. The quality of our air and water is visibly deteriorating. Indiscriminate use of pesticides threatens to annihilate whole species of animal life and to jeopardize vital links in the food chain. The freedom to enjoy wilderness areas and uncluttered landscapes is rapidly becoming a memory.

It is increasingly evident that the apparent limitlessness of our natural resources is an illusion and the concept of unending economic expansion is now being questioned. The total creation is wondrously interrelated, and annihilation of any link threatens the existence of the whole.

In furtherance of our Christian commitment we call upon the American Baptist churches and denominational units to implement the spirit and intent of this resolution by immediately undertaking to:

- 1. Take individual corrective measures to eliminate and reduce pollution in the environment in our homes, streets, parks and public places.**
- 2. Support strong legislation and administrative action, both state and federal, to clean up pollution of air, land and water; to establish strict controls to prevent pollution; and insist that adequate funding be provided and that action take place now.**

Originally part of American Baptist Convention Resolution - "National Priorities"

Adopted - 1970

Affirmed as an American Baptist Churches Resolution by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 1983

Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1988

Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 1995

(General Board Reference # - 8114:9/88)

POLICY BASE

American Baptist Policy Statement on Human Rights

As American Baptists we declare the following rights to be basic human rights and we will support programs and measures to assure these rights:

4. The right to a secure and healthy environment, clean air, pure water and an earth that can nurture and support present and future generations;
