

8111:3/83

**AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION ON
INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING**

Believing that nongovernmental person to person contacts are necessary to bridge the gulfs between the people of all nations and recognizing the important role that communications and dialogue play in diplomacy, we urge American Baptists to encourage wider freedom to travel and communicate and to support programs that will build international understanding and good will such as student exchanges and the opening of our homes to such students, people-to-people projects, and world relief programs. We urge our youth and adults to become personally involved through participation in such activities as both long and short term missionary vocations, American Baptist Volunteer Services, short term service with institutions abroad, the foreign service and other opportunities for international service.

Combination of two American Baptist Convention Resolutions on Reconciliation, adopted 1964 and International Understanding, adopted 1958.

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 - March 1993

(General Board Reference # - 8111:3/83)

POLICY BASE

American Baptist Policy Statement on Military and Foreign Policy

Christians are called to be peacemakers and this call includes the responsibility to work for peace among nations.

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.

As American Baptists, we commit ourselves to seek peace and pursue it, to emphasize peace education, to examine our lives so that we may be a better witness for peace and justice, and to work together with others pursuing these goals.

Statement of Purpose of the American Baptist Churches/USA

American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. acknowledges that it shares a common faith in Christ with churches which may be quite different from it in history, polity and practice. Consequently, it seeks to share with them a concern ministry and to express it faithfully.

American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. acknowledges that God's will is also manifested in movements outside the formal structures of Christ's church, and that, therefore, it must respond faithfully to such disclosures.

_ to guide, unify, and assist American Baptists in their witness in the world, preparing members for the work of ministry, and in serving both those within and outside the fellowship of Christ;
