

8083:3/81

AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION ON

LABOR

Baptists have historically contended for the freedom of the whole person with full responsibility to God for every facet of life. We have championed the rights of minorities discriminated against on the basis of race, religious beliefs, and conscientious objection.

We reaffirm our position that workers have the right to organize by a free and democratic vote of the workers involved. This right of organization carries the responsibility of union leadership to protect the rights of workers, to guarantee each member an equal voice in the operation of its organization, and to produce just output labors for income received. We assert that the individual who receives benefits from a labor organization has a responsibility to participate in that organization to insure its democratic procedure and responsible decisions. We also affirm that the goals of labor organizations should always take into consideration their affect on the entire community as well as the benefits of their membership. Where union membership is established as one of the conditions of employment, we advocate that adequate provisions be made for those individuals who, for reasons of conscience, cannot participate in all conditions of membership.

In the Christian view, science and technology are seen as gifts from God, the Creator, to be used by all for the life and livelihood of all people. Let us, then, in our varied relationships and responsibilities so study and labor together that these incomparable gifts may be used for personal fulfillment and the welfare of all humankind and for the well-being of the created order itself.

Adopted by the American Baptist Convention - 1966

Affirmed as an American Baptist Churches Resolution - March 1981

Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1990

(General Board Reference # - 8083:3/81)

POLICY BASE

American Baptist Policy Statement on Human Rights - Adopted December 1976

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

12. The right to organize into groups to bargain with structures or powerful persons, to seek redress of grievances or to promote particular concerns;
