

**AMERICAN BAPTIST
RESOLUTION ON EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Reliable studies have shown that workers with disabilities, trained and placed appropriately, perform as well as or better than persons without disabilities. Current experience with supported and supportive work approaches is demonstrating the benefits of employment in nonsheltered work places to employers, individuals with disabilities and the community. Further, we are aware that in our society the gainful employment of persons with disabilities not only helps to increase their positive image, but also benefits the national economy. This enables individuals with disabilities to serve God and other persons more fruitfully in accord with their desires. We, therefore, urge our churches to support efforts designed to encourage the employment of persons with disabilities.

At the national level, landmark laws such as the Rehabilitation Acts, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the American Disabilities Act (ADA) seek to assure the rights to persons with disabilities in employment and housing and public access.

Originally part of the 1959 Convention Resolution on Ministry to the Handicapped

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 1994

Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 1998

Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 2002

(General Board Reference #8113:3/83)

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:

8. The right to develop skills and abilities, to utilize these in economic, political, social, intellectual and religious institutions, and to receive a just return for one's labor;