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**NATIONAL MINISTRIES
RESOLUTION ON BECOMING A RECONCILING PEOPLE**

The Scriptures call us to reconciliation. As hostile and alienated people we are restored to a relationship with God, self, each other and the rest of creation through Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:19-23; I Corinthians 1: 30-31; Romans 8:18-23). As new creations in Christ we, too, are called to be agents of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:15-21).

People, personal relationships, religious groups and nations are being shattered through hatred and prejudice. These attitudes and behaviors divide and destroy, threatening even the survival of the globe. We want an end to strife and destruction. Everywhere there are yearnings for shalom. Too often we are locked up in despair and denial. Therefore, we develop elaborate and sometimes harmful methods of escape from reality.

We recognize and rejoice in the gift of diversity already within the American Baptist Churches. We need to explore what enables persons and groups who are different from each other to live together in harmony. Drawing on Romans 12, we must desire, learn and practice reconciliation. We call all who believe in Christ to join together in seeking to become agents of reconciliation by...

- Confessing to God the broken relationships of our lives, praying to hear what God is calling each of us to do, and initiating the rebuilding of broken relationships.
- Creating a process of reasoned dialogue between conflicting parties at staff, board, region and church levels.
- Modeling reconciliation through actions and attitudes which set an example within and between national boards, general board, region and congregations.
- Encouraging local efforts to become involved in ministries crossing cultural, religious, economic, racial and other boundaries.
- Developing resources through partnerships of local churches, boards, regions and staffs realizing the gifts which God has entrusted to our American Baptist family.

>Adopted by the Board of National Ministries - December 6, 1992

POLICY BASE

Policy Statement on Evangelism

Policy Statement on Health, Healing and Wholeness
