

**HISTORIC  
AMERICAN BAPTIST  
RESOLUTION ON THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY TO SERVICE PERSONNEL  
AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS IN TIME OF WAR**

The church must be the church - not a recruiting agency for any government. She must build the morale and strengthen the foundations, without which any human structure, however filled with early promise, must fail at last. She must companion her sons and daughters wherever as conscientious Christians they may go; to the battle front, to the ambulance corps, and to the camp for objectors. In no moment, however fraught with destiny for a cause, dare the church forget that she is an institution both human and divine, at once timeless and universal. The church must be the church and wherever the battle joins with evil, wherever the foe is sin, wherever the human soul is enslaved - "fair as the morning" - she must go with the message of Christ.

Adopted by the Northern Baptist Convention - 1944  
Affirmed by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1985  
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1989  
(General Board Reference # - 8138:9/89)

**POLICY BASE**

**Statement of Purpose of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.**

American Baptist Churches in the USA...intends...

-  to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the world and to lead persons to Christ...
-  to guide, unify and assist American Baptists in their witness in the world, in preparing members for the work of ministry, and in serving both those within and outside the fellowship of Christ...

**American Baptist Policy Statement on Evangelism**

...When confronted by changing situations for mission and evangelization, we have struggled to express in relevant ways the nature of God's redemptive work...As a cross-bearing people, we have tried to penetrate every area of personal and public life with the Good News for the whole person and the whole of creation...