

AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION ON RECONCILIATION

It is through God's love that we can become a reconciling people. The oneness given to us in creation, "in the image of God,"; has been fractured by human sinfulness which debases human life. The human family is divided into tribes, clans and nations. Fear of differences and greed lead to aggression, oppression and subjugation of peoples. What God has made "very good" becomes increasingly bad as hostility, hatred and retaliation lead to alienation. Alienation distorts God's original intention for human relationships.

Sin was destined to meet its match in God's continuing work of creation and redemption. In the fullness of time, God sent Jesus, made in our likeness, to redeem and reconcile the world. The differences that separate us were bridged by God's redeeming love made manifest in Christ. "He is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility,...that he might create in himself one in place of two." (Ephesians 2:14 NRSV).

As we are reconciled to God through Christ our alienation meets God's forgiving and reconciling grace. We are made free to become all God wants us to be as recipients of God's love. This freedom beckons us to bestow the same love on others whose differences we once saw as threatening.

Alienation among God's people makes it very difficult for others to see God's reconciling love. Our call and our continuing challenge is to become disciples of Christ who will mirror clearly God's reconciling action in our personal and corporate lives.

Therefore, we call on American Baptists to:

- **Pray for an openness to the guidance of the living God;**
- **Confess to God our dependence on Christ for His reconciling intervention in the broken places of our lives;**
- **Create an atmosphere of reconciliation that allows people to let go of views and attitudes that perpetuate barriers;**
- **Model God's love by receiving God's grace and being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive and love others;**
- **Seek to move institutional policy and practice toward justice, mercy and humble walking with God;**
- **Encourage and develop ministries that cross cultural, religious, economic, racial and other boundaries.**

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164 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions
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Policy Base

Policy Statement on Evangelism
Policy Statement on Health, Healing and Wholeness
Policy Statement on Christian Unity
