

**AMERICAN BAPTIST
RESOLUTION ON THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

Throughout their history American Baptists have stood for freedom and human rights. American Baptist Resolutions consistently supported the rights of oppressed minorities and called for the support of those organizations which seek to voice the concerns of disadvantaged groups and to bring about needed changes in our society. (1967 American Baptist Resolution on "Power".)

The General Board of the American Baptist Churches USA has continued to support the traditional Baptist concern for freedom of conscience, freedom of speech and racial and social justice. At its first meeting as a newly organized Board it designated as policy statements the 1954 "Statement of American Baptists Concerning Freedom" and the 1962 America Baptist "Proclamation of Freedom."

One organization that has represented the highest commitment to human freedom and justice of people of color and other oppressed groups has been the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. African Americans have depended upon the NAACP to do the careful legal work which has insured a greater measure of freedom for them in American Society. Increasingly the NAACP has acknowledged the protection of those kinds of freedoms which Baptists in particular have long stood for -- freedom of expression, equal opportunity, a good education -- must be its central task. The NAACP has also recognized that in order to insure those freedoms for African-Americans they must also be assured for all Americans.

The American Baptist Churches in the USA therefore;

1. Registers its support of the historic purposes of the NAACP.
2. Subscribes to a corporate membership in the NAACP as a visible evidence of that support.
3. Recommends that its National Boards, Regions, local churches and individual members also support the NAACP by taking memberships in and making contributions to the organizations.

Titles of ABC Resolutions Supporting NAACP Resolution

Crisis in the Cities - 1968
Human Values - 1970
Education 1971 - 1972
National Priorities - 1970
Fragmented Society - 1971
Power - 1967
Pursuit of Justice in a Changing Social Order - 1969
Re-registration in Mississippi - 1971

Adopted by the General Board of the American Baptist Churches - December 1976
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 1982
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 1993
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 2001
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 2006
(General Board Reference # - 8012:3/82)

POLICY BASE

American Baptist Policy Statement on Human Rights

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

9. The right to human dignity, to be respected and treated as a person, and to be protected against discrimination without regard to age, sex, race, class, marital status, income, national origin, legal status, culture or condition in society;
12. The right to organize into groups to bargain with structures or powerful persons, to seek redress or grievances or to promote particular concerns;
14. The right to a just process for the redress of a violation of a person's or group's human rights.