

8167:9/87

**HISTORIC
AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION ON
REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS**

Whereas, the world is full of destitution, suffering and starvation, and the nations are overwhelmed with debt, and the leading world powers are expending vast sums of money in maintaining and increasing large armies and navies; and

Whereas, competition in armaments is a prolific cause of war, of international suspicion, distrust and irritation, as well as an unnecessary drain upon the resources of the nations involved; therefore

Resolved,

1. That the American Baptist Churches, USA urge upon the President of the United States and the members of his Cabinet and upon Congress the duty of exercising their influence to the utmost to secure an international agreement for the reduction of armaments as a necessary step toward world peace; and
2. That we petition the President of the United States to enlist the cooperation of other world powers to call a conference of the nations of the world in the interests of disarmaments.

Adopted by the Northern Baptist Convention - 1921

Affirmed by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1987

Affirmed by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1995

(General Board Reference - #8167:9/87)

POLICY BASE

American Baptist Policy Statement on Military and Foreign Policy

Christians are called to be peacemakers and this call includes the responsibility to work for peace among nations.

The United States should work to remove injustice and lack of equal opportunity and seek allies to promote justice

throughout the world.

Military funding should be examined in light of the total needs of a nation and with the recognition that human needs must be met if a nation is to be secure.

Arms control and disarmament are essential for the welfare and survival of humanity. These goals must be pursued multilaterally and bilaterally where possible...

Global understanding and cooperation are essential to the pursuit of peace. Our welfare is fundamentally linked to that of all people.