

AMERICAN BAPTIST

POLICY STATEMENT ON HEALTH CARE

As American Baptists we affirm and support programs, legislation, research and other formulations which help develop a new comprehensive health care delivery system which provides quality services for all people.

Health is the harmonious integration of body, mind and spirit illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Health is experienced in holistic ways including individual and communal dimensions. It is seen in a perspective of totality and comprehensiveness which provides each person with the opportunity and the strength for self-expression and fulfillment.

Therefore, we support programs which:

1. Make health care resources, private and public, available in keeping with the total needs of people, rather than on the basis of economic, geographic or racial factors;
2. Direct health care resources toward the prevention of disease and the maintenance of health as well as toward the treatment of illness;
3. Provide equitable health care for all residents of the U.S.A. by eliminating financial barriers;
4. Provide professional education and training for medical, paraprofessional and ancillary specialties without regard to economic resources, race, gender, social class or marital status, provided that the students qualify in accordance with public standards and in numbers that meet the needs of the people of the United States;
5. Secure consumer control over medical health services through appropriate representation on boards, committees and agencies.

Adopted by the General Board of the American Baptist Churches - November 1975
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