

Statement on “Justice for All”

Given the past days in our state capitol and the prospect of growing challenges in the days ahead, I call all Wisconsin American Baptists to join with sisters and brothers of faith around the state in a season of reflection, humility and mutual respect.

American Baptists have historically affirmed the freedom of the whole person with full responsibility to God for every facet of life. We have stood for workers to have the right to organize by a free and democratic vote of the workers involved in order to protect worker rights and to receive income and benefits which are just.*

During this time of difficult budget decisions at the state and federal level we call on our governmental leaders to fully recognize the needs of those with the greatest of life's challenges: the homeless, the hungry, the underemployed, the unemployed, those with no health care and those caught in the cycle of poverty. Governmental fiscal needs ought not add to the burdens of the most vulnerable among us.

May we pray for humility and mutual respect as we interact with one another in this polarizing time. May we resist the temptation to divide, instead let us do the hard work of finding unity in the midst of difference. This will seem like the “mission impossible” but our faith calls us to step up and find common ground so that we might look to the future with “liberty and justice for all”.

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*American Baptist Resolutions on Labor 1966, 1976, 1981, 1990, 1992