

THE ROCHESTER SUMMIT
February 18-19, 2005

We are a diverse group of 158 American Baptist men and women, ages from our 20's to our 80's, gathering from 14 states, 49 Associations and 11 Regions or State Conventions. We represent clergy and laity; local, regional, and national leaders; and members of the General Board and Program Boards.

We reaffirm that the Old and New Testaments are the sufficient ground of our faith and practice and, under the experience of the Holy Spirit, we need no creed or confession.

We rededicate ourselves to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and call our entire denomination to the common task of sharing the whole gospel with the whole world. We call upon all American Baptist Churches to be welcoming communities of faith where every child of God is included. Individually we espouse soul freedom, endeavoring to live by the moral and ethical principles taught by Christ and revealed in scripture, realizing that God is the ultimate and sole judge of our thoughts and actions. As worshipping communities, we celebrate being worthy trustees of all of God's creation. We uphold freedom of religious expression, expect no conformity to any creed or binding confession, and strive for justice within all human relationships.

We affirm the denominational leadership that God has imparted to us who support our Baptist principles of soul freedom and local church autonomy and commit ourselves to be the "Bridge-Builders" that our General Secretary has called us to be.