A Statement on Food Justice
The Gathering of the Alliance of Baptists in Greenville, S.C., April 6, 2013

In our Alliance of Baptists Covenant and Mission Statement, we commit ourselves to:
- foster relationships . . . with other people of faith; side with those who are poor; pursue justice with and for those who are oppressed; care for the earth; and work for peace.

The Alliance works with people of other faith to advocate on issues of justice, particularly through Ecumenical Advocacy Days. EAD is a movement of the ecumenical Christian community and its recognized partners and allies that is grounded in biblical witness and our shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. EAD’s goal — through worship, theological reflection, learning and witness — is to strengthen our Christian voice and to mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues.

The theme for EAD this year is: At God’s Table, Food Justice for a Healthy World. This theme is based on Luke 14:13-14: “When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Despite the wealth of resources in the United States, 48.8 million Americans are at risk of hunger — one in six adults and one in five children. The majority of those receiving federal nutrition assistance programs are children, the elderly, or people living with a disability. These recipients also include military families and individuals with low-wage, full-time jobs.

As Alliance of Baptists members and congregations, we join other ecumenical partners in petitioning our members of U.S. House of Representative and U.S. Senate to enact a farm bill that alleviates hunger and malnutrition, supports vibrant farms and healthy communities, and protects God’s creation.

We, the Alliance of Baptists, commit today to advocate with the U.S. Congress for the following:

**To alleviate hunger and malnutrition**
1. Protect and strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the federal school lunch program, all of which reduce hunger and improve nutrition in the United States;
2. In view of the ongoing threat of high food prices, provide robust emergency international food aid and improve the nutritional quality of food aid;

**To support vibrant farms and strong communities**
3. Support new farmers by funding programs such as the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program and the Outreach and Technical Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers program that are critical in bolstering women and minority farmers;
4. Support the Farmers Market Promotion Program which provides new markets for small and mid-sized farmers in suburbs and cities, offering consumers the opportunity to support local producers and giving people in vulnerable communities greater access to fresh food;
5. Reform international food aid by purchasing more of the food in the areas where it is consumed helping hungry people while supporting rural development in low-income countries and increasing global food security; and,

**To Protect God’s creation**
6. Protect funding for preservation programs particularly those for working lands such as the Conservation Stewardship program.