A Statement on Clean Power  
Alliance of Baptists – Annual Meeting – April 8-9, 2016

To keep faith with our covenant, Alliance of Baptist members pledge to not only “pursue justice with and for those who are oppressed” but to “care for the earth,” on which all beings depend. These concerns are intertwined and are reflected in the health of our climate.

As Christians, we are acutely aware of the threats posed by climate change which is harming the vulnerable: people living in poverty, older adults, and people living in countries least responsible for contributing to climate change. In order to reduce continued suffering, humanity must limit a major contributor to climate change: carbon pollution.

In December 2015, at the UN Climate Summit in Paris (COP 21), 195 countries reached an agreement to stave off the worst effects of climate change; outlining commitments and actions that could lead to significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, and investment in clean energy. Over 2 million people of faith were instrumental in petitioning negotiators to commit to a fair, ambitious, and binding climate action agreement, rooted in strong moral imperatives of their various faith traditions. Now we must stand in solidarity with the global community of faith to ensure this plan is implemented and to continue seeking climate justice.

The challenge is truly immense, but so is our faith in humanity’s God-given capacity to innovate and organize for a more just and sustainable future. God’s creation is sacred. Communities of economic privilege must practice restraint in consumption and output of carbon emissions, and must stand in awareness and about the effects of their lifestyle. All people are called to responsibly steward the gifts of creation and to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable, affirming all creation’s right to flourish. A clean energy future is vital in the living out of our faith commitments to stewardship, justice and love of neighbor.

To slow the dangerous rate of climate warming, the acts of individual people and communities of faith must extend to larger human systems, especially systems of energy production. The diversity of energy landscapes in the United States as well as local economies and eco-systems requires carbon reduction targets to be customized accordingly. Many organizations in the electricity sector have already begun shifting towards a safer, cleaner energy future. We call on them to courageously continue this work and urge all local, state and national policymakers to join in the moral imperative to reduce dangerous carbon pollution.
and protect the health and wellbeing of all creation. It is our fervent prayer that all states around the nation will continue their efforts to implement a clean energy future, for the well-being of present and future generations.

We – the Alliance of Baptists - urge every state to create a strong and effective state implementation plan that successfully meets carbon reduction targets --- without shifting costs to economically vulnerable communities. In particular, we encourage renewable energy projects to meet state carbon reduction goals and to generate new jobs for working families.