

TOP EVANGELICAL PASTORS AND LEADERS FROM ALL 50 STATES URGE VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS, GOVERNOR WALZ, FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP AND SENATOR VANCE TO REFLECT BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ON IMMIGRATION.

Dear Vice President Harris, Governor Walz, former President Trump and Senator Vance,

There's no single evangelical perspective on U.S. immigration policy — but, as evangelical pastors and leaders, we're concerned that some of the media caricatures you may have heard about how evangelicals think about immigrants and immigration policies are dramatically inaccurate.

The vast majority of American evangelicals are neither anti-immigrant nor advocates for open borders. Here are three core principles that guide us:

Evangelical Christians believe that immigrants, like all human beings, are made in the image of God and have innate dignity (Genesis 1:27)

- 91 percent of evangelicals want policies that “respect the God-given dignity of every person.”
- Dehumanizing language is offensive to evangelicals, especially because many of us are immigrants, are descendants of immigrants or have personal relationships with the immigrants who make up a growing share of our movement.
- This belief in the dignity of each person is also why we believe that the United States should continue to offer refuge to those fleeing a well-founded fear of persecution, including many who are persecuted for their Christian faith.
 - 71 percent of evangelicals believe that the United States has a moral responsibility to accept refugees.

Evangelicals want secure and orderly borders

- 91 percent of evangelicals support policies that “guarantee secure national borders”
- Evangelicals affirm the biblical teaching that God has ordained government (Romans 13:1) and given it responsibility to ensure order and safety.
- In recent years, there has been a record number of apprehensions of individuals who have unlawfully crossed the U.S.-Mexico border, as well as an increased number

Regardless of the outcome of this or any election, American evangelicals remain committed to the biblical call to love our neighbors — including our immigrant neighbors. We commit to pray for you, that God would grant you wisdom and courage as you lead.

Sincerely,

Myal Greene, World Relief

Walter Kim, National Association of Evangelicals

Timothy R. Head, Faith & Freedom Coalition

Daniel Darling, Land Center for Cultural Engagement at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

David Hoag, Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Gabriel & Jeanette Salguero, National Latino Evangelical Coalition

John Wentz, Alpha USA

Greg Baker, THE FAMILY LEADER & Church Ambassadors Network

Carl Nelson, Transform Minnesota

Alan Robinson, Brethren in Christ U.S.

Bob Roberts, Multifaith Neighbors Network / Glocalnet / Institute for Global Engagement

Bri Stensrud, Women of Welcome

Colin Watson, Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA)

Daniel Montañez, Migration Crisis Initiative, The Church of God (Cleveland, TN)

Eugene Cho, author & speaker

Greg Williams, Grace Communion International

Jen Pollock Michel, author & speaker

Jo Anne Lyon, The Wesleyan Church

John Jenkins, Converge & First Baptist of Glenarden, Maryland

Kaitlyn Schiess, author & speaker

Kimberly Reisman, World Methodist Evangelism

Micah Fries, GlocalNet

Napp Nazworth, American Values Coalition

Phil Vischer, Holy Post Media

Raymond Chang, Asian American Christian Collaborative

Rocky Rocholl, Fellowship of Evangelical Churches

Skye Jethani, Holy Post Media

Steven Cole, The Brethren Church

Steven Eng, National Association of Evangelicals

Todd Hunter, The Diocese of Churches for the Sake of Others, Anglican Church in North America

Alan Yawn, Banner Elk Christian Fellowship (NC)

Allen Slaughter, Canyon Ridge Christian Church (NV)

Benjamin Marsh, First Alliance Church Winston-Salem (NC)

Bob Lenz, Lifest (WI)

Brian Marston, Connection Valley Church (NC)

Bryan Carter, Concord Church (TX)

Caleb Campbell, Disarming Leviathan Ministries/ Desert Springs Bible Church (AZ)

Carroll Conley, Jr., Christian Civic League of Maine

who have entered unlawfully without being apprehended, amplifying the risk of entry of those intent on harming the United States and its citizens.

- We believe our government can and must both maintain a secure, orderly border and protect those fleeing persecution.

Evangelical Christians oppose immigration policies that separate families

- 91 percent of evangelicals believe that U.S. immigration policy should “protect the unity of the immediate family.”
- God established the family unit in Creation as the fundamental building block of society (Matthew 19:4-6), the institution he designed for mutual support (1 Timothy 5:8) and the protection and nurturing of children, each of whom he values (Matthew 18:2-6).
- In 2018, most evangelical Christians opposed the “zero tolerance” border policy that led to thousands of children being forcibly separated from their parents, a situation that prominent evangelical leaders called “cruelty,” “disgraceful” and “heartbreaking.”
- While those convicted of serious violent offenses should face deportation, any initiative to deport *all* unauthorized immigrants – the vast majority of whom have lived within the United States for at least a decade and have not been convicted of any serious crime – would result in family separation at an unconscionable scale.
 - 4 to 5 million U.S. citizen children live with at least one unauthorized immigrant parent who would be at risk of deportation.

As you seek to appeal to evangelical voters, we urge you to reflect each of these biblically-informed values in the rhetoric you employ and the policy solutions you propose.

To read the full letter, see additional signatories and add your name, visit worldrelief.org/letter

Chad Gilbert, First Baptist New Orleans (LA)

Charles Fernandez, Redemption Hill Church (NC)

Chris Hall, Houston Northwest Church (TX)

Corey Jackson, Trinity Park Church (NC)

Darren Carlson, Redeemer Church/Training Leaders International (MT)

Dave Dummitt, Willow Creek Community Church (IL)

Dave Ferguson, Community Christian Church (IL)

Dave Gibbons, NEWSONG (CA)

Dennae Pierre, Surge Network, City to City North America (AZ)

Eric Costanzo, South Tulsa Baptist Church (OK)

Frank K. Thomas, Mt. Zion Baptist Church of High Point (NC)

Graham Aitken, The Heart Church (NC)

Hanibal Rodriguez, Wheaton Bible Church (IL)

James Merritt, Cross Pointe Church (GA)

James Sharp, Life Church (Salisbury) (NC)

Jeff Schultz, Faith Church (IN)

Jeremy Hudson, Fellowship Church (OH)

Jim Mullins, Redemption Tempe (AZ)

Joel Rainey, Covenant Church (WV)

Joel Zeiner, Christ the Rock Church (WI)

Jon Middendorf, OKC First Church of the Nazarene (OK)

Jonathan Misirian, Southbrook Church (WI)

Joshua Hershberger, The Good Citizen Project (IN)

Julio Guarneri, Texas Baptists

Lisa Jernigan, Amplify Peace/Central Christian Church AZ (AZ)

Mark Vowels, Center for Global Opportunities (SC)

Marshall Benbow, Grace Community Church (NC)

Matt Erickson, Eastbrook Church (WI)

Nathan Kline, Friendly Hills Church, PCA (NC)

Nathan Finn, Institute for Transformational Leadership at North Greenville University (SC)

Noah Filipiak, Mosaic Church of Grand Rapids (MI)

Ralph West, Church Without Walls (TX)

Randy Heckert, Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region (OH)

Rich Nathan, Vineyard Columbus (OH)

Sandra María Van Opstal, Chasing Justice (IL)

Scott Venable, Northwood Church (TX)

Tish Harrison Warren, Immanuel Anglican Church (TX)

Troy Loether, Kettlebrook Church (WI)

Vernon Pierre, Roosevelt Community Church (AZ)

All specific polling findings are from a Lifeway Research poll of evangelical Americans conducted in January 2024. Institution names are listed for affiliation purposes only.