

TOP EVANGELICAL PASTORS AND LEADERS FROM WISCONSIN AND 49 OTHER 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.

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.

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,

WISCONSIN PASTORS AND LEADERS

Aaron Winowiski, New Day Christian Church, Wausau

Alex Hui, The LIGHT!, Milwaukee

Andrew Belcher, Olivet Bible Church, Kimberly

Andy Shanholtz, Pastor to Pastor, Inc, Sheboygan

Barrett Marcantel, Hingham Church, Hingham

Bee Vang, Refuge Church, Appleton

Bob Lenz, Lifest, Oshkosh

Bruce Komassa, Essential Rock Church, Fond du Lac

Casey Getz, River Shores Evangelical Free Church, Berlin

Chad Magnuson, Church of the Incarnation, Appleton

Dallas Cox, Life Church Green Bay, De Pere

Daniel Breed, Emmaus Road Church, Appleton

David Barber, RiverValley Church, Oshkosh

Derek Mueller, Northside Community Church, La Crosse

Doug Jerred, Western Great Lakes District, Appleton

Edgar Gomez, Refuge Church Appleton, Appleton

Eric Leverance, Portico Church, Oshkosh

Eric Hagedorn, St. Norbert College, De Pere

Gary Zacharias, Terrace Shores Evangelical Free Church, Markesan

Gildardo & Delia Castellanos, Familia En Cristo, Menasha

Greg Schmidt, Restoration Church Wausau, Wausau

Jeff Prewitt, New Hope Lutheran Church, Neenah

Joel Zeiner, Christ the Rock Church, Menasha

Jonathan Misirian, Southbrook Church, Franklin

Karl Kramer, Community Church Oshkosh, Oshkosh

Keith Doyle, Calvary Bible Church, Neenah

Kirk Miller, author & speaker, Milwaukee

Leng Yang, Refuge, Appleton

Marcio Sierra, Lighthouse Church, Madison

Marcus Constantine, Disciple WI & UP! ~ Disciple Making Movements Network, Milwaukee

Matt Erickson, Eastbrook Church, Milwaukee

Matt Gilkerson, Encounter Church, Kaukauna

Michael Vargo, Marquette Community Church, Montello

Quench Gloire, Come Jesus Liberty Ministry, Green Bay

Rich Eng, the LIGHT!, Milwaukee

Rob Schrader, St. John Lutheran Church, Berlin

- 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 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.

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

John Wentz, Alpha USA

Carl Nelson, Transform Minnesota

Greg Baker, THE FAMILY LEADER & Church Ambassadors Network

Eugene Cho, author & speaker

Phil Vischer, Holy Post Media

Skye Jethani, Holy Post Media

Raymond Chang, Asian American Christian Collaborative

Jen Pollock Michel, author & speaker

Kaitlyn Schiess, author & speaker

John Jenkins, Converge & First Baptist Church of Glenarden, MD

Alan Robinson, Brethren in Christ U.S.

Colin Watson, Christian Reformed Church (CRCNA)

Greg Williams, Grace Communion International

Jo Anne Lyon, The Wesleyan Church

Steven Cole, The Brethren Church

Dave Dummitt, Willow Creek Community Church (IL)

Rich Nathan, Vineyard Columbus (OH)

James Merritt, Cross Pointe Church (GA)

Roger Knowlton, Edgewood Community Church, Waupun

Roswell Nelson, Northwoods Vineyard Church, Tomahawk

Rugimbana Nkunda Ezechiel, Revival Unity International Church, Appleton

Ryan Hansen, The Table Church of the Nazarene, Manitowoc

Scott Eastman, Remnant Church, Green Bay

Stephen Maris, Word of Grace Church, Sheboygan Falls

Steve Musto, Bethany Church, La Crosse

Thomas Soerens, First Christian Reformed Church, Oostburg

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SELECTED NATIONALLY PROMINENT LEADERS

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

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.