



WINTER 2023

Impact Report

NAE | National Association of
Evangelicals

Courageous, Christ-centered Leadership

An Antidote to Division and Isolation

With the wonders of technology, we have never been as connected as we are today. And yet, in a twist of tragic irony, it seems that the increase in technological access is accompanied by an equally staggering rise in social fragmentation. Divisive rhetoric pervades our social media exchanges. Our politics are increasingly polarized. The temptation to retreat within echo chambers and to insulate ourselves from those who look, think or act differently is hard to resist. We feel isolated and alone.

Churches and ministries have been particularly impacted over the past couple of years by this phenomenon. Many pastors and leaders are weary. According to Barna, more than 40 percent of pastors have seriously considered quitting the ministry in the past year. As Kevin McBride, pastor of Raymond Baptist Church in Raymond, New Hampshire, laments, “These past few years have been overwhelming and exhausting in life and ministry. The debates that raged in our culture also infiltrated our ministries and fractured Jesus’ Church.”

At the National Association of Evangelicals, we believe that one of the most effective antidotes to this division and isolation is courageous, Christ-centered leadership. That’s why one of our core areas of focus is on equipping leaders who proclaim and exemplify good news for the tumult of our times.



First held in October 2022 in Nashville, Tennessee, the NAE's Flourish conference is designed to provide a safe space for evangelical pastors and leaders to have meaningful conversations about difficult issues. We want leaders to flourish and to help others to flourish. Inspired and challenged by dynamic speakers, 150+ attendees spent significant time reflecting together in small groups on what it looks like to be gospel-centered in practical, loving and truthful ways. Sessions at Flourish included analyses of current cultural realities by Rebecca McLaughlin and Ed Stetzer, "Capturing Gen Z for the Gospel" by Nick Hall, "The Gospel and Racial Justice" by Derwin Gray, "What's Next after *Roe v. Wade*?" by Kelly Rosati, reflections on soul care for leaders by Jimmy Mellado and Curt Thompson, and how to approach issues of gender and sexuality with compassion and biblical clarity.

McBride testifies that "Flourish provided a way forward out of the 'floundering' of many these past two years. Flourish was a place to engage in meaningful conversations and be able to do so in a safe, constructive and God honoring way. **The NAE's vision to connect us with each other, to always take on tough topics in a thoughtful way and be a transformative influence for God's goodness in our culture was prevalent all through the Flourish conference.**"

Another important impact of Flourish was the way in which it resonated with younger leaders. Carl Greene, executive director of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, brought a diverse group of Millennial leaders to Flourish looking for encouragement, renewal and stronger ties to other leaders. As Greene attests, Flourish gave his team exposure to speakers and resources that they would not have been able to access otherwise.



“Too often, conferences like these provide answers to questions that were actually being asked 10 years ago,” Carl remarks candidly. “This was not the case with Flourish. My team told me that at Flourish, the NAE ‘was speaking our language.’”

Experiential engagement is important for younger generations, and that’s exactly what Flourish provided. Carl says, “We weren’t just being talked *at*; we were invited to engage *with*.” As a result of Flourish, Carl has seen what he describes as an “awakening” in these younger leaders. They are energized and feel better equipped for ministry.

The next generation of evangelical leaders faces unique and complex challenges. Together, we can equip and empower them as they seek to follow God, foster thriving communities and navigate complexity with biblical clarity. Our society desperately needs to see the beauty of the gospel today.

A photograph of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a tan jacket and glasses, standing on a stage and speaking into a microphone. She is positioned in front of a dark blue curtain. To her right, a wooden director's chair is visible. The background is dark, suggesting an indoor event space.

Video recordings of Flourish 2022 presentations can be found at [NAE.org/flourishvideos](https://www.nae.org/flourishvideos)



Investing in Women

in Leadership

The National Association of Evangelicals, along with the Fuller Center for Spiritual Formation, is hosting a one-year spiritual formation journey for a cohort of 26 national female leaders representing different races, ages, denominations and professional roles. Participants include representatives of NAE member institutions and other leaders from around the country.

The program is a hands-on, relational way to deepen spiritual practices. After the second of four retreats, women shared that they felt more connected to the Lord and to each other, lifted and reassured that God is in control.

One participant said, “I feel at peace, knowing that I am known, I’m loved, and God’s got this.”

Because of your generosity, these women are experiencing enhanced leadership capacity, stronger connections with colleagues across the evangelical spectrum, and a deeper walk with Christ.

This is just one example of how the NAE organizes opportunities that transcend denominational lines and brings people from different backgrounds together to encourage one another and build up the Body of Christ.

Thank You!

Amidst the tumult of our times, you are making a difference in the vital work of equipping leaders to proclaim and exemplify the good news of Jesus!

Because of generous partners like you, the Church's discipleship has been deepened, its witness strengthened, and its influence broadened in all areas of life.



Walter Kim

WALTER KIM
President

Your gifts over the past year have enabled us to:



Host more than **60 events** to encourage and support pastors.



Reach over 2 million people nationwide through 80+ radio and TV appearances of the Bless Your Pastor campaign.



Equip over **1,500 people** through a candid webinar on the ethical, theological and pastoral challenges of life after *Roe v. Wade*.



Publish a revised, updated edition of “**Loving the Least of These,**” our report on creation care and care for the most vulnerable around the world.



Support **183 chaplains and chaplain candidates** in their unique places of ministry (military, hospitals, prisons, boardrooms, police departments and more) through the Evangelical Chaplains Commission.



Lay the groundwork for a new initiative on racial justice and reconciliation by connecting with a wide range of national leaders and experts.



Educate nearly **1,200 people in 14 states** about the opportunity to express biblical justice for immigration reform and economic security for families.

Your generosity is opening doors for gospel-centered transformation. With your support, we are fulfilling our mission to honor God by connecting and representing evangelical Christians. Thank you!

Prayer Requests

PRAY for Christians around the country and the world to let our light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

PRAY for Christian leaders across denominations and organizations to be humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love, and making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:2–3).

PRAY for our evangelical chaplains who minister in all branches of the military, as well as in civilian capacities, to be a comfort and a source of strength and hope in Christ.

PRAY for pastors and leaders who are experiencing burnout or despair to have their souls restored and for congregations to be encouraged and equipped to bless their pastors.

PRAY for God to heal the racial and socio-economic divisions in our country through a fresh outpouring and work of his Holy Spirit.