



WINTER 2025

Impact Report

NAE | National Association of

Evangelicals

Peacemakers in a World of Conflict

A Transformational New Podcast Series

A few months ago, the National Association of Evangelicals launched *Difficult Conversations*, a documentary-style podcast series that shares stories of influential leaders and everyday changemakers who have crossed deep divides for the sake of building bridges.

As the country becomes more polarized, meaningful conversations between people who disagree can feel like a thing of the past. But we believe it's not only possible to have difficult conversations with those who see the world differently; it's an essential part of living out our role as peacemakers.

Your support is helping equip Christians to be peacemakers in a world full of conflict.

“I went looking for more understanding of the role of evangelical Christians in the 2024 election and politics more broadly. I was heartened to find NAE and this podcast, which looks at the issues from a loving and biblical perspective. It has given me guidance and hope for how to live my faith more compassionately and work at connecting with others whose faith takes them on different journeys.”

Hosted by NAE President Walter Kim, *Difficult Conversations* explores how we ended up so polarized, and how Christians can become the peacemakers that Jesus called blessed. The series features thought leaders Jonathan Haidt, Dr. Francis Collins, Derwin Gray, Sheila Heen, Amanda Ripley, Kaitlyn Schiess, Sean McDowell and many others, who share why difficult conversations are so hard, how to have them, and why they matter for the kingdom of God.

Here are a few highlights from the series:

- Jonathan Haidt, one of the world's top experts on the psychology of morality and politics, explores how we ended up so divided, including how technology and social media has shaped us and is shaping the next generation (Episode 1, *Why Are We So Polarized?*).
- Caleb Campbell shares his journey from skinhead to pastor, and from accusations of demonic influence to restored relationships. Along with Dr. Sheila Heen at Harvard Negotiation Project, Caleb offers a hopeful way to engage with those who hold extreme views (Episode 3, *What's Christian Nationalism Anyway?*).
- Though Kaitlyn Schiess and Brent Leatherwood often speak to different populations of Christians, they come to some surprising areas of agreement on political idolatry, political disengagement and

the biblical mandate for our participation in politics (Episode 5, How Should Christians Engage Politically?).

- Sean McDowell, Justin Brierley and Preston Perry explain and demonstrate a form of winsome apologetics that seeks to connect, rather than win arguments (Episode 7, Apologetics for a Divided World).

“This series was excellent. I can’t even choose a favorite episode. You approached each issue and subject matter with humility, respect with Christlike manner. I’m definitely going to re-listen to these podcasts.”

Because of you, Difficult Conversations is reaching more and more people.

As of late January, the series has generated 85,000 listens. Full-length video interviews with Jonathan Haidt and Sheila Heen have 32,000 and 31,000 views, respectively.

Derwin Gray, co-founder and lead pastor of Transformation Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, was a featured guest and shares this reflection:

“The NAE Difficult Conversations series was really, really important. One of the things I’m learning after 20+ years of pastoral ministry is that so often we as the Church don’t deal with difficult questions. It’s important for us to do so, because if we don’t, the culture is going to. We have the gospel, so we should be able to engage in these conversations in a way in which we become unoffendable because Jesus has declared us righteous, and because we have a common purpose — **to make disciples and embody Jesus’ love for the world with grace and mercy.**”

Follow **Difficult Conversations** wherever you listen to podcasts.



The Reviving Impact of *Glocal Evangelicalism*

Photo courtesy of Lausanne Movement

Your support makes it possible for the NAE to influence the leading biblical and theological scholars of the day.

In November 2024, NAE President Walter Kim was a plenary speaker at the annual conference of the Evangelical Theological Society. ETS is the premier professional guild for evangelical biblical and theological scholars, and its flagship conference attracts approximately 2,000 people every year. Dr. Kim spoke about the rise of “glocal” evangelicalism, referring to the increasingly interconnected nature of global and local aspects of evangelical community and mission. In order to faithfully respond to God’s call in the 21st century, it is crucial that we recognize that mission is:

Polycentric — The truly global nature of the Body of Christ means that mission is now from everywhere to everywhere.

Polymorphic — To be effective, we need multiple models for discipleship that reflect different cultural backgrounds in different communities.

Polyphonic — Followers of Christ are part of a great symphony of believers from across time and space, and our reading of Scripture should reflect the different “tones” (emphases) that emerge from different cultures.

The NAE actively partners with the global church through World Relief, the World Evangelical Alliance, the Lausanne Movement, Missio Nexus and Accord Network, among others. Be sure to check out the Winter 2024/25 issue of Evangelicals magazine, which is focused on the global church and its mission at [NAE.org/magazine](https://nae.org/magazine).

Thank You!

In a divisive climate, your partnership empowers many to reach out across differences with the love and compassion of Jesus. Because of you, more people are equipped to step outside their comfort zones and follow God's leading into difficult spaces for the sake of the gospel.

Thank you for supporting the NAE financially. I am deeply grateful for you and for the ways you enhance our collective gospel witness in the world. May God bless you in abundant measure!



Walter Kim

WALTER KIM
President

Your generous support has enabled us to:



Host the United in Prayer event for **200+ leaders from a variety of churches and ministries** to join in prayer for our nation and the witness of the Church.



Represent **evangelical perspectives on current events** to major media outlets, issue press statements responding to executive orders, and connect press to pastors and other church leaders.



Host a one-day immigration summit in Columbus, Ohio to equip **450 participants** to advocate for and support immigrants and refugees as an expression of faithful Christian discipleship.



Increase the reach of **"Following the God Who Transforms,"** a 10-day devotional from the NAE, through placement on YouVersion and short videos that have over **53,000 views** on YouTube.



Co-host webinars with Denver Seminary ("Beyond Social Justice") and Christianity Today and Wheaton College ("Black and Evangelical") for **more than 870 registrants.**



Convene the annual retreat for the executive leaders (and spouses) of NAE member denominations. These leaders represent more than **3 million evangelicals**, and this retreat is a unique opportunity to share encouragement and best practices with one another.



Generate more than **80,000 views** of the video series "I Am Your Immigrant Neighbor" through increased promotional efforts.

Curious to know how the NAE defines "evangelical?" Check out our new video **"What Is an Evangelical?"**, which your support made possible!



Prayer Requests

PRAY for immigrant and refugee communities throughout the country to experience Christ's loving presence.

PRAY for the Difficult Conversations podcast series to continue to touch many lives, inspire followers of Jesus to reach out across differences, and for the Body of Christ to be more unified as a result.

PRAY for the college students who attended the NAE's Christian Student Leadership Conference in January 2025, that they would be equipped for lives of faithful public witness for Christ in every professional domain.

PRAY for the diverse group of female leaders who will participate in a year-long spiritual formation cohort in 2025, co-led by the NAE and the Fuller Center for Spiritual Formation, that new friendships would be established to further the gospel and strengthen the Body of Christ.

PRAY for the leaders who participated in NAE trips to the U.S.-Mexico border in February, that they will be transformed by their experience and help others respond with wisdom and compassion to the challenges facing immigrants today.