

1 **OVERTURE 23** from Central Carolina Presbytery (to IRC)
2 “Withdraw from the National Association of Evangelicals”
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4 **Whereas** the Presbyterian Church in America is a member of the National Association of
5 Evangelicals (NAE); and
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7 **Whereas** the label “evangelical” has come to designate political distinctives as much or
8 more than theological commitments and distinctives;¹ and
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10 **Whereas** Chapter 31 of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* states that “Synods and
11 councils are to handle, or conclude nothing, but that which is ecclesiastical: and are
12 not to intermeddle with civil affairs which concern the commonwealth, unless by
13 way of humble petition in cases extraordinary; or, by way of advice, for satisfaction
14 of conscience, if they be thereunto required by the civil magistrate.”; and
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16 **Whereas** PCA BCO 3-3 states that “The sole functions of the Church, as a kingdom and
17 government distinct from the civil commonwealth, are to proclaim, to administer,
18 and to enforce the law of Christ revealed in the Scriptures.”; and
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20 **Whereas** the Scriptures clearly teach that Christians should be stewards of God’s creation,
21 care for sojourners and aliens, and promote matters of civil justice, and members of
22 the PCA may have legitimate differences of opinion on the most effective political
23 policies to address these matters; and
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25 **Whereas** the NAE has stated that it intends not only to advocate for biblical values and
26 ethics in general, but that “we must advocate for political policies;”² and
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28 **Whereas** the NAE has frequently intermeddled in civil affairs, by publicly pushing for
29 action on the environment³, immigration⁴, and has changed its original stance on the
30 death penalty⁵; and
31

32 **Whereas** the NAE has recently passed a motion entitled “Fairness for All”⁶ which, in
33 advocating for a political compromise regarding sexual orientation, gender identity,

¹ Benjamin Huskinson. “The Missing Link between Evangelicals and Trump.” The-American-Interest.com.
(<https://www.the-american-interest.com/2018/11/23/the-missing-link-between-evangelicals-and-trump/>)

² National Association of Evangelicals. “For the Health of a Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility.” NAE.net (https://www.nae.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/For-the-Health-of-the-Nation_spreads.pdf)

³ “NAE Releases Poverty, Creation Care Document” (<https://www.nae.net/nae-releases-poverty-creation-care-document/>)

⁴ “Evangelicals Push For Immigration Reform At Capitol Hill”
(https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/29/evangelicals-immigration-reform_n_5235516.html)

⁵ “The National Association of Evangelicals has changed its position on the death penalty”
(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2015/10/19/the-national-association-of-evangelicals-has-changed-its-position-on-the-death-penalty/>)

⁶ “Boards back SOGI compromise” (https://world.wng.org/2018/12/boards_back_sogi_compromise/) “Fairness for All Motion” (https://world.wng.org/sites/default/files/assets/NAEBoardResolution_0.pdf)

34 and religious freedom, goes beyond Chapter 31 of the *Westminster Confession of*
35 *Faith*; and

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37 **Whereas** the NAE claims to speak for all of its members and to be their voice in
38 Washington; and

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40 **Whereas** these are only a few of many examples of the NAE’s continuing practice of
41 intermeddling in civil affairs; and

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43 **Whereas** our sister denomination the RPCNA earlier withdrew from the NAE in 2009 citing
44 “President Leith Anderson’s participation in the meeting between Christians and
45 Muslims where the document ‘Loving God and Neighbor Together: A Christian
46 Response to “A Common Word Between Us and You”’ was approved and signed,”
47 and noting that “the document is clearly based on an unbiblical premise. It falsely
48 assumes that Christianity and Islam approach the same God, but in different ways.”⁷;
49 and`

50
51 **Whereas** no other NAPARC denominations are members of the NAE; the Southern Baptist
52 Convention is not a member of the NAE; the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is not
53 a member of the NAE; no Anglican bodies are members of the NAE; no
54 predominantly African American denominations are members of the NAE; no
55 mainline denominations are members of the NAE; the Roman Catholic Church is not
56 a member of the NAE; and no Orthodox communions are members of the NAE; and

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58 **Whereas** the Presbyterian Church in America, as such, has no need of the benefits of
59 membership in the NAE, especially of having a voice in Washington championing
60 political concerns;

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62 **Therefore,** Central Carolina Presbytery hereby overtures the 47th General Assembly to
63 withdraw the membership of the PCA in the NAE at the soonest possible date.

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65 *Adopted by Central Carolina Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 23, 2019*
66 *Attested by /s/ RE Flynt Jones, stated clerk*

⁷ RPCNA IRC NAE Withdrawal Statement (permission granted to cite by the RPCNA Interchurch Committee)