

1 **OVERTURE 3** from Pee Dee Presbytery (to IRC)
2 “Withdraw from the National Association of Evangelicals”
3

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

29 **Whereas** the NAE, in 2018, passed a motion entitled “Fairness for All”⁵ which, in advocating
30 for a political compromise regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, and religious
31 freedom, goes beyond Chapter 31 of the *Westminster Confession of Faith*; and
32

33 **Whereas** many prominent conservative and evangelical thinkers and leaders have denounced
34 this compromise as not leading to “fairness” for all who uphold biblical teaching on
35 sexuality and marriage, but rather attempts to guarantee religious freedom for some
36 organizations and institutions while potentially undermining the pre-political religious

¹ 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-theNation_spreads.pdf)

² NAE Releases Poverty, Creation Care Document” (<https://www.nae.net/nae-releases-poverty-creation-caredocument/>)

³ “Evangelicals Push For Immigration Reform At Capitol Hill” (https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/04/29/evangelicals-immigration-reform_n_5235516.html)

⁴ “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-evangelicalshas-changed-its-position-on-the-death-penalty/>)

⁵ “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)

1 freedoms of all Americans codified in the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution⁶,
2 and

3
4 **Whereas** the NAE claims to speak for the entirety of its membership and to be their voice in
5 Washington; and

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

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10 **Whereas** our sister denomination, the RPCNA, withdrew from the NAE in 2009, citing a
11 particular document “Loving God and Neighbor Together” that was written and signed
12 by Christians and Muslims with the implied premise that our historic faith and Islam
13 worship the same God, but in different ways;⁷

14
15 **Whereas** no other NAPARC denominations are members of the NAE; and

16
17 **Whereas** any individual, local congregation, or presbytery, who feels strongly about
18 remaining in the NAE may join at those appropriate levels; and

19
20 **Whereas** the Presbyterian Church in America, as a denomination, has no need of the benefits
21 of membership in the NAE, especially of having a voice in Washington championing
22 political concerns that would not even be permitted as a subject of discussion before
23 its councils, let alone be adopted as positions;

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25 **Therefore**, Pee Dee Presbytery requests that the 49th General Assembly take action to
26 withdraw the membership of the PCA from the National Association of Evangelicals
27 (NAE) at the soonest possible date.

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29 *Adopted by Pee Dee Presbytery at its stated meeting, October 28, 2021*

30 *Attested by TE Michael S. Brown, stated clerk*

⁶ See, for example, <https://www.theaquilareport.com/misguided-proposal-from-christian-leaders-and-lgbt-activists-is-anything-but-fairness-for-all/>, <https://albertmohler.com/2017/01/16/01-16-17/> (“Religious liberty in the balance: Why the Fairness for All campaign is a threat to religious liberty”

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