

December 16, 2008

Leith Anderson  
President  
National Association of Evangelicals

Dear Leith,

We know Richard Cizik's departure from the National Association of Evangelicals has been difficult for you, him and the organization. Effective leadership is not easy, and we write to reach out to you in Christian friendship.

We respect the right of the NAE to select spokespersons that represent the organization's stated priorities. At the same time, we release this letter in order to show our deep gratitude for Richard's 28 years of leadership at the NAE, in which he has had a guiding hand in shaping a broad Christian moral agenda that has helped define American Evangelicals' public witness.

Richard's faith, compassion, courage and intellect have strengthened the Church, and his moral witness will resonate for many years to come. His unwavering commitment to a broad, whole-gospel agenda is reflected in the NAE's official policy statement, *For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility*, which he helped write and implement. Its principles of protecting religious liberty, nurturing families, the sanctity of life, justice and compassion for the least of these, human rights, seeking peace, and protecting God's creation must remain an enduring contribution to the Evangelical public witness in America.

The NAE exercises a powerful leadership role in the family of American Evangelicals, even in churches that are not part of an NAE member denomination. As Christians belonging to both NAE-affiliated and non-affiliated churches, it is our sincere hope the NAE's next Vice President for Governmental Affairs will carry out Richard's vision of a broad Christian moral agenda—rooted in the Gospel and relevant to the full range of moral challenges facing us in the 21st century.

Please know that the NAE will remain in our prayers during this time of transition.

Rev. Paul Alexander, PhD, Professor, Theology & Ethics; Director, Doctor of Ministry Program,  
Graduate School of Theology, Azusa Pacific University

Joe Battaglia, President, Renaissance Communications, Inc.

Cliff Benzel, Executive Vice President, Evangelicals for Social Action

Craig A. Boyd, PhD, Executive Director, Institute of Faith Integration Prof. of Philosophy,  
Azusa Pacific University

Steve Bradbury, International Chairman, Micah Network

Randy Brinson, President, Redeem the Vote

Don Bromley, Executive Pastor, Vineyard Church of Ann Arbor

David Bryant, President, Proclaim Hope!

Jason Chatraw, Publisher, Ampelon Publishing

Calvin B. DeWitt Ph.D., President, Academy of Evangelical Scientists and Ethicists, President Emeritus, Au Sable Institute

Serge Duss, Visiting Fellow, Mark O. Hatfield Institute of Public Service

Joel Edwards, International Director, Micah Challenge International

Daryl Eldridge, Ph.D., President, Rock Bridge Seminary

Chris Elisara, Ph.D, Creation Care Study Program, Julian, CA

Carl H. Esbeck, Professor of Law, University of Missouri

Deborah Fikes

David Gushee, President, Evangelicals for Human Rights

Steve Haas

Rev. Derrick Harkins, Senior Pastor, Nineteenth St. Baptist Church, Washington, DC; Member, Board of Directors, World Relief

Peter Heltzel, Assistant Professor of Theology, New York Theological Seminary

Lynne Hybels, Willow Creek Community Church

Peter Illyn, Founder/Executive Director, Restoring Eden

Jim Jewell, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer, Flourish

Cheryl Bridges Johns, Professor of Christian Formation and Discipleship, Church of God Theological Seminary

Robert K. Johnston, Professor of Theology and Culture, Fuller Theological Seminary

Anna Jane Joyner, Co-Coordinator of Renewal: Students Caring for Creation

Jan Kary, Senior VP, Marketing & Development, World Relief

Rev. Dr. Andrew Lindahl, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Austin, MN

Rick Love, Ph.D., Consultant for Christian-Muslim Relations

Ben Lowe, Co-Coordinator of Renewal: Students Caring for Creation

The Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, Chair of the Board, World Hope International

Gabe Lyons, Author and Founder of the Fermi Project and Q Conference

Steve Martin, President, Vital Visions, Inc.

Brian McLaren, Author/Speaker

Teri Merrick, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy & Theology, Azusa Pacific University

Jonathan Merritt, Faith and Culture Writer/A Southern Baptist voice on creation care

Rev. Marlon Millner, co-founder, Pentecostals & Charismatics for Peace & Justice, Philadelphia, PA

Stephen V. Monsma, Research Fellow, The Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics, Calvin College

Richard J. Mouw, President, Fuller Theological Seminary

Bryant L. Myers, Ph.D., Professor of International Development, School of Intercultural Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary

Mary Nelson, President and CEO, Bethel New Life

Carey C. Newman, Director, Baylor University Press

Rev. Adam Phillips, Chair, Micah Challenge USA

Lowell (Rusty) Pritchard, Ph.D., Editor, Creation Care magazine

Mark Rodgers, Principal, Clapham Group

Dr. Tony Richie, Senior Pastor, New Harvest Church of God, Knoxville, TN

Rev. Gabriel Salguero, Executive Member, Latino Leadership Circle; Sr. Pastor, The Lamb's Church of the Nazarene

Andrew Saperstein, Associate Director, Reconciliation Program, Yale Center for Faith and Culture

Ron Sider, President, Evangelicals for Social Action

Matthew Sleeth, MD, Director, Blessed Earth

Glen Stassen, Lewis B. Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics, Fuller Theological Seminary

Richard Stearns

Rev. Eric Steinkamp, PhD, Northwest University

Brian Swarts, National Coordinator, Micah Challenge USA

Clyde Taylor, Former Chair, World Relief

Peter Vander Meulen, Coordinator, Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America

Dr. Bob Wenz, The Kings College and Seminary

Tyler Wigg Stevenson, Director, Two Futures Project

Ken Wilson, Senior Pastor, Vineyard Church of Ann Arbor

Note: Affiliations are listed for identification purposes only.