



TOGETHER ENGAGED IN SOCIETY

The National Council of French Evangelicals (CNEF) encourages Evangelical Protestants to engage and bear witness to their faith, according to each individual calling, in all spheres of society: family, professional, community, cultural, and civic. This is the essence of the “Together in Mission” initiative it seeks to inspire. The following text sets out ten guiding principles to chart this commitment to serving humanity around us.

Guideline 1: God’s love compels us to love in words and deeds.

Our commitment to the common good is motivated by love for God and for our neighbour. It translates into action the faith that animates believers. This same love for our neighbour motivates Evangelical Protestants to publicly witness to their faith in a culturally relevant way and to proclaim the Good News and the hope found in encountering Christ. Finally, it implies a humble approach toward others and toward society.

Guideline 2: The CNEF seeks to constructively raise awareness about Evangelical Protestants for who they are; to promote what they believe and what they do.

In support of this missionary initiative, “Together in Mission,” the CNEF has a specific mission to publicly promote Evangelical Protestantism in the media and among civil, administrative, and religious authorities. This mission is to be carried out at the local, national, and even international levels. The CNEF thus serves as the public voice of its members on shared issues, working in various ways and in different places to raise awareness of who Evangelical Protestants are, what they do, and what they believe, in terms of doctrine and ethics. When the social or political situation requires it, the CNEF takes the initiative to challenge and propose solutions to public authorities in a constructive and non-partisan manner.

Guideline 3: The Christian message we carry is Good News addressed to a suffering world, broken and far from God.

The CNEF seeks to present Evangelical Protestants as bearers of Good News for today, even when they go against contemporary trends. Whenever possible, it will strive to do so in partnership with other Christians beyond the CNEF, in service to the humanity that God loves.

Guideline 4: Through this message, we wish to emphasize that political and economic action should always be directed toward serving humanity, human freedom, human dignity, and the environment.

The CNEF believes that political action—that is, the management of public affairs—is intended to serve the common good and protect every individual, without discrimination of any kind. Political action is called upon to uphold justice and the law and to pay particular attention to the promotion of fundamental freedoms: notably the freedom to believe or not to believe, to express one’s convictions, and to live accordingly, without being harassed in any way. It must also be committed to respecting the dignity of every person, the freedom to pursue economic endeavors, and the pursuit of economic and social solidarity among members of society, with a specific concern for the most vulnerable. Since

the nation's economy exists to serve people, and not the other way around, political action should promote responsible economic management that respects creation, our common good par excellence.

Guideline 5: In a democracy, this responsibility is shared by all, and Evangelical Protestants are called to do their part in the service of all.

In a democracy, this civic calling is a responsibility shared by all, including believers. The members of the CNEF thus encourage Evangelical Protestants to play their part in civic life through prayer, words, and deeds, each according to their own calling (for example: participating in democratic debate; serving on a neighbourhood council; engaging in community organizations, labor unions, or politics).

Guideline 6: Based on what they believe to be right, Evangelical Protestants wish to contribute to the pluralistic society of which they are citizens.

Evangelical Protestants are particularly aware that faith is personal and that a voluntary commitment is necessary to embrace it. The Evangelical Protestants represented within the CNEF are nevertheless convinced that a number of the human values they uphold are universal in nature and can, as such, inspire and help shape a political vision that resonates with everyone. Wishing to respect everyone's freedom of conscience, they refuse to impose their opinions on the nation and look forward to participating in a constructive dialogue within a pluralistic society of which they are citizens.

Guideline 7: In the context of this secular and pluralistic society, Evangelical Protestants are particularly committed to the values of respect and civic dialogue.

In the context of a secular and pluralistic society, this capacity for constructive dialogue is a virtue worth promoting. It is the prerequisite for building a society that fosters peace and trust, where all too often the logic of rejecting others, of "everyone to their own," or of "every man for himself" prevails. Evangelical Protestants are called to embody, within their own ranks and in their wider communities, this essential openness—a disposition vital to peaceful coexistence that respects individual identities.

Guideline 8: Based on these values, and remaining above partisan positions, the CNEF freely offers, during election seasons, guidelines for discernment informed by the Gospel.

On a regular basis, particularly during election seasons, the CNEF offers believers, through various means, guidelines for discernment informed by the Gospel. While it seeks to stimulate their reflection, it refuses to take this a step further by issuing voting instructions. The CNEF thus maintains a distance from partisan positions.

Guideline 9: While encouraging Evangelical Protestants, in the name of the Gospel, to engage concretely in society, the CNEF rejects any attempt to impose faith.

The CNEF is committed to encouraging Evangelical Protestants to share the Gospel through a lived witness and in a spirit of service in the image of Christ. It distances itself from any strategy aimed at imposing Christian hegemony on society.

Guideline 10: CNEF members, out of respect for the authorities, commit to praying for them so that they may act for the common good.

CNEF members respect the authorities in their mission to serve the common good and commit to praying for them, regardless of their political affiliation. They pray in particular that they may demonstrate wisdom, act in favor of peace and the good of all, and preserve fundamental freedoms, particularly freedom of conscience, thought, and religion, as well as freedom of expression.