

The Center for Christianity & Public Life

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The Center for Christianity and Public Life, a New Nonpartisan Nonprofit Led by Former White House Staffer Michael Wear, Formally Launches with Mission to Contend for the Credibility of Christian Resources in Public Life, for the Public Good.

Inaugural Programming Will Focus on Spiritual Formation for Civic Leaders and a Major Public Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 17, 2022 – Today, former White House staffer to President Barack Obama, Michael Wear, launched [The Center for Christianity and Public Life](#), a new, nonpartisan nonprofit in Washington D.C. with the mission to contend for the credibility of Christian resources in public life, for the public good.

CCPL advances their mission through two parallel streams of work: public influence and spiritual formation. First, they explain Christianity to the public and advance Christian resources for the good of the public. Second, they grow, resource, convene and represent the community of Christians who are convinced of the centrality of spiritual formation (or character) to civic renewal.

Joining Michael, Phebe Meyer, serves as Chief of Staff building CCPL and the programmatic design of the organization alongside him; Phebe previously was at The Clapham Group. Michael is also joined by three founding board members: James Catford, Founding Chair of *Theos*, the leading UK think tank on religion and the public square; Dr. Nicole Martin, Founder and Executive Director of Soulfire Ministries and Adjunct Professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; and Chris Crawford, Policy Advocate at Protect Democracy and former senior program officer at Democracy Fund.

“I am thrilled to be joined at the outset of this endeavor by a board, staff and supporters who embody our commitment to public service and contribution that flows from lives of pursuing faithfulness to Jesus,” said Michael Wear, Founder, President & CEO of CCPL. “We look forward to working with a range of civic and religious leaders, learning together and offering the resources we have, in a way that contributes to a healthier public life.”

Founding Chair, James Catford, said, “CCPL is born out of a holy longing for a renewal of public life and this has only grown stronger over the last two years of prayer and planning. As we seek the welfare of the city we have been humbled by the warmth of the welcome we have received from civic representatives, commentators and church leaders.”

Inaugural programming for the nonprofit includes three initiatives: First, a Public Life Fellowship gathering an intergenerational class of civic leaders in an intensive community-learning environment about the intersection of faith and public life. Second, an annual “For the Good of the Public”

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conference that shares publicly a positive and hopeful vision for Christian contribution to our politics and public life. And third, a young professionals network of Christians in politics who meet monthly to discuss shared concern and encouragement across lines of party affiliation.

“Amidst the divisions and demagoguery in American public life, Christians have an important obligation to engage joyfully in the public square and to lift our public discourse and public policy to better serve the common good - especially those on the margins,” said founding board member, Chris Crawford. “The Center for Christianity and Public Life will play a vital role inspiring and equipping Christian leaders to embrace the Good News of the Gospel and to serve as a light in our public life. Having spent much of my career at the intersection of religion and democracy, I believe CCPL is the exact organization that is necessary to help Christians serve their nation and neighbors at this important moment in our country's history.”

CCPL believes that the future of American democracy is inextricably tied to the character of Christianity in this country. They seek to answer the question of how Christianity will influence our nation's future by offering Christian resources in public life, for the public good, not as an act of imposition, but out of a spirit of loving service.

Dr. Nicole Martin, founding board member, said, “The only way we can adequately respond to the conflict, injustice and pain that so marks our public life is through the wisdom and power of the Bible. This power has been demonstrated throughout every generation in American history and now is the time to bring this credibility of Christian witness back into public life. For this reason, I am grateful that CCPL exists to equip current and future generations to walk in the diverse legacy of those who have gone before us, boldly applying their faith to issues that affect us all.”

Applications for the Public Life Fellowship are now open. The first annual “For the Good of the Public” conference will be held in Fall 2023 in Washington D.C.

About CCPL

Established in 2022, the Center for Christianity and Public Life is a nonpartisan nonprofit in Washington, D.C. with the mission to contend for the credibility of Christian resources in public life, for the public good. We advance our mission through two streams of work: Christian Formation and Public Influence. Our work is grounded in the conviction that spiritual formation is central to civic renewal. For more information, visit www.ccpubliclife.org.

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[Download CCPL's media kit.](#) For general media inquiries, please contact media@ccpubliclife.org. To reach Michael Wear directly for an interview request, contact michael@ccpubliclife.org.