

July 6, 2025

Pursuit NW Church, Pursuit NW PAC, Snohomish Politics, and Christian Dominance USA-Wide

Let me prep you gently for this blog post. I will be writing about the Pursuit NW Church, its leadership, and the Pursuit NW Church's recent political activities. If you feel this is unfair: that churches deserve total religious tolerance and should be protected, I agree. Until, that is, a church starts publicly advocating a political agenda.

Even then they may deserve a pass. When they create a Political Action Committee (PAC) to influence political outcomes, they forfeit protection. When they start nudging their congregation and the public toward Christian dominance in civic governance, it is time to fight.

In all that follows I want to highlight the role the leadership of denominational churches and synagogues are taking to counteract what they find to be subversion of their religious, and ethical teaching. Where secular media has been hesitant to report on the Pursuit NW, religiously affiliated news organizations have been watching. As much as possible, I will try to use their original postings and published news articles.

First some background. The Pursuit NW Church was established in Snohomish in 2014 by Russell Johnson and his wife. Johnson had left a career in Republican politics to start the Pursuit NW Church. Prior, he as director of governmental affairs for the Family Policy Institute of Washington an organization advocating against gay marriage among other social causes. Simultaneously he worked on the US Senate campaign of Dino Rossi (R-lost) in 2010 then a short stint with State Rep Mike Hope. While Russell Johnson's higher education is exclusively religious, there are no records of his ordination in any particular faith. He appears to have free-lanced his way to his current faith leadership role.

The Pursuit NW grew rapidly, going from barn to a church building on Cedar Avenue to its current location in the converted JC Penney store on Pine Avenue. This is a property worth about \$3 million. They also acquired an office building on Avenue B, just south of Third Street, another commercial/church building in Kirkland and the former University Presbyterian Church UW in the University District, all held property tax free under church ownership. In total, Pursuit NW own about \$10 million in real estate, all accumulated in 10 years of operations, while

paying the pastors, husband and wife, salaries, and maintenance and improvements to their buildings.

This would be astounding if it were a commercial or manufacturing operation. However, the Pursuit NW attributes their financial success to the remarkable charity of individual and congregational donors.

During the COVID quarantine, the Pursuit NW hosted Sean Feucht, a self styled lay minister, for a rally at Harvey Field, billed as “Let Us Worship” (unmasked), August 6, 2021, as part of a year long national tour. On a subsequent nationwide tour, Sean Feucht returned to the Pursuit NW on January 7, March 17, and June 2, 2024, as guest speaker for several services. During that 2024 tour Feucht was also joined by Russell Johnson on the road on at least two occasions: Columbia University, New York, April 25, 2024, and on the National Mall, Washington, DC, October, 2024, where Johnson spoke emphasizing the benefits of Christian Nationalism and Theocracy. Why is this important? Sean Feucht is solidly associated with the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) movement. Now, with more than a half dozen co-appearances, it's pretty clear Russell Johnson is leading the Pursuit NW Church to the NAR movement as well.

In recent reporting Sean Feucht has been accused of financial malfeasance. Over the course of his traveling ministry, Feucht has amassed a personal real estate portfolio of at least nine properties, including 7 in Pennsylvania, one in Montana, and one in California. Since reclassifying his religious evangelism as a church, he has tax sheltered 3 high value properties as ministry parsonages: a Washington DC property worth \$1 million, a San Juan Capistrano property worth \$3.5 million, and in Bigfork, Montana, 40 acres of ministry hunting land worth \$1 million.

The whistleblower complaints include: diverting donations to personal use; accumulating numerous properties with unclear sourcing for the acquisitions; failing to pay staff; misclassifying workers as contractors to avoid tax and employment reporting. There are more. Sean Feucht Ministries has been downgraded to an “F” for lack of transparency, and donors are warned to withhold giving.

Sean Feucht will be performing in Seattle on Saturday, August 30, 2025, at 5 p.m., as part of his “Revive in 25” tour. According to Sean Feucht’s social media, he will appear at Cal Anderson Park, in Seattle. Russell Johnson evangelized at Cal Anderson on May 24, 2025. I reference a news story on this event by Baptist News Global below. Seattle has not granted the permit, and after the Pursuit NW Church event, it seems this New Apostolic Reformation revival event would be better placed in Gas Works Park. Regardless, Sean Feucht Ministries, likely with help from the Pursuit NW Church, have chosen Cal Anderson Park for a reason. Their last Cal Anderson rally sparked predictable results, which Johnson characterized as religious persecution. The Trump administration’s FBI promptly opened an investigation against the city of Seattle. Next time perhaps they send troops.

Cast of characters

Russell Johnson with Trump



Sean Feucht with Trump

Following are articles on the New Apostolic Reformation, their political goals, and examples of some of their tactics. Most of these can be read on line, though the Atlantic might need to be accessed through your local library.

2:27 newrepublic.com

Politics

The Right-Wing Christian Sect Plotting a Political Takeover

The New Apostolic Reformation doesn't always admit its own existence, but it's growing in influence in the Republican Party.

Elle Hardy
August 23, 2022

Mother Jones DONATE

POLITICS OCTOBER 12, 2024

A Growing Movement Seeks to Dominate Not Just Religion, But American Life

The New Apostolic Reformation is taking its spiritual war to the ballot box on the latest episode of Reveal.

 **ABBY VESOULIS**
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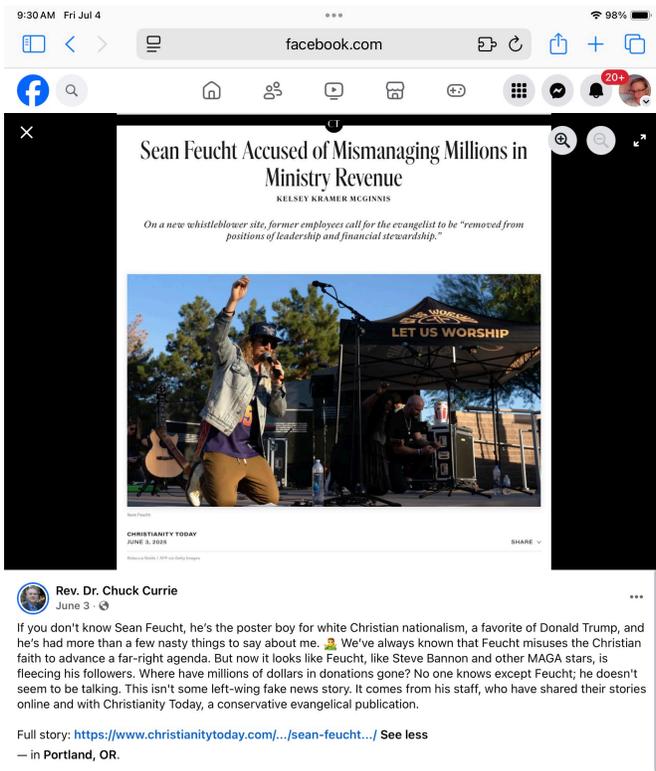
2:23 theatlantic.com

POLITICS

THE ARMY OF GOD COMES OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Tens of millions of American Christians are embracing a charismatic movement known as the New Apostolic Reformation, which seeks to destroy the secular state.

By Stephanie McCrummen



Sean Feucht, Eric Metaxas and Russell Johnson reshape their Christian nationalism tour as pro-Israel protests

ANALYSIS KRISTEN THOMASON | MAY 9, 2024



Outside agitators are striking back at pro-Palestinian protesters on college campuses across the country. Seeing an opportunity to further their own agenda, Christian nationalist groups are joining them.

On April 25, worship leader Sean Feucht, along with conservative pastor Russell Johnson and author Eric Metaxas, led the first of their "United for Israel" marches outside the Morningside Heights campus of Columbia University. Feucht said the rally was intended to show solidarity with the university's Jewish students and faculty, although neither group invited the Christian leaders to the campus.

Rather, this pro-Israel rally portends a shift from Christian nationalism to Christian militancy among the Religious Right.

Another United for Israel march was held last night at the University of Southern California, and more are planned for other locations.



The ringleader of the United for Israel rallies is Feucht, a charismatic worship leader with ties to Christian music and media juggernaut **Bethel Church**. Sporting a California surfer vibe, he came to national



Christian symbols and images were displayed by rioters during the January 6, 2021 insurrection. (Tyler Merbler, Used under Creative Commons 2.0 license)

Apostles and prophets. Spiritual warfare. Dominionism and the New Apostolic Reformation. You might

This is not an exhaustive collection by any yardstick. It also doesn't include articles meant exclusively for informing adherents or recruiting new warriors, though you will surely find them if you search.

Above upper left, I include the remarks of the opposition, a minister, responding as best he can. He mentions Christianity

today. It is worth a query.

Directly above, changing from Christian Nationalism to support Israel, super charged the 2024 tour, and laid the groundwork for Columbia University's lost federal funding in 2025.

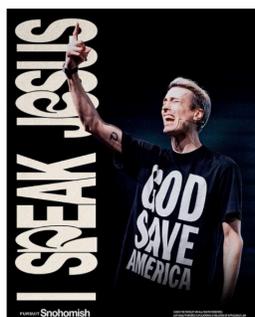
Of worship warfare, theocracy and a weekend with Sean Feucht

ANALYSIS RICK PIDCOCK | OCTOBER 30, 2024



Is the United States on the verge of becoming a theocracy? After covering Sean Feucht's "Kingdom to the Capitol" event in Raleigh two weeks ago — during which Feucht embraced the term "Christian nationalism" and another pastor admitted, "We deny the right of any other kingdom to prosper in North Carolina" — I decided to drive up to Washington, D.C., to learn more at the grand finale of Feucht's 50-state capitol tour.

"We find ourselves standing on the National Mall on the precipice of what will be the most hotly contested election of our lifetime, still with this simple belief: that if the people of God will stand in worship and in prayer, that God would partner with their obedience for the righting of the history of nations," pastor Russell Johnson declared on the National Mall while wearing his "God Save America" T-shirt.



Social media publicity image for Russell Johnson and a campus of his church.

Johnson, pastor of the multi-campus Pursuit NW Church, is a frequent guest at Feucht's rallies and events.

On this day, he declared: "Let me remind you, friend, the kingdom of God is not a democracy. It's a theocracy."

Even for a "Let Us Worship" event, it was notable to a number of the journalists standing together to hear the word "theocracy" invoked so clearly from the stage. After all, Christian nationalists tend to deny promoting a theocracy. And Feucht himself wrote on Substack earlier this year, "I do not want to see America turn into a theocracy, even a Christian one. Religious freedom is in America's DNA; the two cannot be separated."

Despite using the term from the stage in the heat of worship warfare, Johnson told me

"Johnson attempted to draw a distinction between a theocracy and a Democratic Republic"

privately after the event that he doesn't believe the U.S. should

Right is a BNG article on the informal partnership between Russell Johnson and Sean Feucht.

Again, the full article is accessible and well worth reading.

Baptist News Global has done a number of extensive stories on this dynamic duo of democratic subversion.

'Rattle in Seattle' adds fuel to the evangelical anti-gay fire

NEWS MARK WINGFIELD | MAY 28, 2025



Ultra-conservative evangelicals continued their quest to provoke anger from Seattle's LGBTQ community May 27 by holding another rally outside City Hall. They came to protest comments made by Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell two days before when the city shut down their outdoor worship rally after police arrested 23 protesters.

Exactly who was arrested and which side of the dispute they were on remains unclear. Organizers of the Tuesday "Rattle in Seattle" rally claim all those arrested were protesting against their worship rally. They claim the city and the mayor attacked their First Amendment rights to freedom of worship.

The first event, held Saturday, May 24, in the city's Cal Anderson Park, was planned and publicized as a way to provoke the LGBTQ community and its allies. The park is named for the first openly gay member of the Washington Legislature, who was a Democrat representing the Seattle area from 1987 to 1995.



Left is the follow-up rally held to demand Mayor Harrell's resignation or an apology. The apology was not warranted, and the demand for Harrell's resignation was laughable.

The key point: this is not just a Snohomish phenomenon. It isn't just a Western Washington campaign. It is happening everywhere, at all levels, all at once. If you value democracy, having a representative government, by the people for the people, inclusive, supportive and responsive governance, now is the time to get involved. Don't wait. Russell Johnson and Sean Feucht do not respect the electorate generally and they are working to make your vote irrelevant.