

What is Church Two42's stance on the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR)?

In the summer of 2011 a term began to be used by many in social media and mainstream media outlets to refer to a Christian movement known as the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR). The term was used pejoratively to distinguish this movement from orthodox Christianity and somehow in recent months Church Two42's name was said to be among this movement. We hope to shed some light on where we stand as a community in regards to this issue.

Is Church Two42 part of the New Apostolic Reformation?

Although the term New Apostolic Reformation was popularized in social media and the mainstream media, its origins are from a scholar known as Dr. C. Peter Wagner (1930-2016) who coined the term in 1994 after trying several alternatives such as "Neopentecostal," "Neocharismatic," "Independent," "Post denominational" or "Nondenominational." This name referred to a movement in the body of Christ at-large of churches with some charismatic/"Third-wave" (also a term coined by Wagner) similarities. He subsequently wrote of the NAR in his books *The New Apostolic Churches*(1998); *Churchquake!*(1999); *Apostles and Prophets* (2000); *Changing Church* (2004); and *Apostles Today*(2006).

Wagner has noted that this nomenclature has subsequently been used against him.

"NAR has become a tool in the hands of certain liberal opponents of the conservative [political] candidates designed to discredit them on the basis of their friendship with certain Christian leaders supposedly affiliated with the NAR."

(http://www.gloryofzion.org/docs/8-20-11_nar.pdf)

While any Christian scholar has an ability to name a movement, the question remains whether any organized movement exists and whether Church Two42 is part of that movement.

In much of the writing against NAR, there are strong implications that NAR is an organized movement with such things as "leaders," "spokespeople," "theology," "interpretations of the Bible," and even a NAR translation of the Bible. This presentation is misleading and disingenuous at best, as these same writers will add caveats that no such organizational apparatus or agreement between leaders and spokespeople exists. When examining this subject Dr. Roger Olson notes that he could discern no kind of organized movement, rather a "kind of umbrella term for a loose collection of independent ministries that have a few common interests."

(<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/rogereolson/2015/06/is-the-new-apostolic-reformation-movement-a-cult/>)

Church Two42 has never claimed any membership or part in the NAR movement. We know some ministries who are identified as being part of the movement, and we respect them as we would any other part of the Body of Christ.

This means we have differences in theology and practices with those whom we still consider brothers and sisters in Christ. We believe in the authority of scripture and the supremacy of Jesus in all things, we believe in the Apostle's Creed and many "classic statements of Christian doctrine" (<https://www.churchtwo42.com/new-page-1>)(Church Two42's statement of faith can be found here.) Our approach in relating to other members of the Body of Christ can be summed up in the common saying, expressed in various ways and attributed to various authors: in essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity.

To answer the question plainly. No, Church Two42's theological stance on a few issues would not put us in the NAR movement.



Is Church Two42 part of a movement led by people claiming to be apostles?

There are no individuals with the title or office of prophet or apostle within the Two42 leadership team. Church Two42 leads with a board model, having no one with the title of apostle or prophet. The Two42 leadership team strongly and consistently emphasizes that believers must check the teachings that happen from any teacher in our congregational settings against the Bible. Further, the Church Two42 leadership team has robust discussions about differing theological interpretations. In those discussions we understand “apostle” as Jesus explained it in scripture and how the ancient Greeks used it. Orator Demosthenes (384-322 BC) explained the word *apostolos* was a naval term that described an admiral, the fleet of ships that traveled with him, and the specialized crew who accompanied and assisted the admiral. The fleet would be sent out to sea on a mission to locate territories where civilization was nonexistent. Then they would begin the process of transforming a strange land into a replica of life as they believed it should be. Their purpose was total colonization of the uncivilized territory. Literally, they were culture changers. This is what Church Two42 believes the gift of Apostleship, found in 1 Corinthians 12, is referring to. Those that have the ability to change culture.

Does Church Two42 believe in the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

While the term NAR may be used simply as a pejorative affiliation in social media and the mainstream media, in the more academic examinations of the NAR, the theological arguments are rooted in whether the gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased in the first centuries (which leads to a position known as cessationism) or whether the gifts of the Holy Spirit continued through the Church age and are available to believers today (which leads to a position often known as continuationism.) Church Two42 would fall within the “continuationist” camp, believing that today’s Church should also follow the apostle Paul’s encouragement to “Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.” (1 Cor 14:1 ESV)

All members of Church Two42’s leadership team are simply known by their first name. While we believe in honoring each other, we believe that spiritual gifts are given to serve each other so that the body comes to maturity, not so that individuals can be honored by a title or office related to their gifts.

Does Church Two42 affiliate with a network of churches?

No, Church Two42 is friendly with many in the Body of Christ across denominational boundaries. Church Two42 however is not affiliated with any of these churches or spiritual communities. We are a true nondenominational church that is doing our part to fulfill the great commission (Matt. 28) and fulfill what the Lord has placed on our hearts for this region.

Does Church Two42 use the NAR translation of the Bible?

Church Two42’s leadership and faculty generally uses the New International Version (NIV) or English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible, although we do not require or specify any version in particular. We have no comment on a so-called NAR translation.

