



# Speaking With Your Congregation in the Event of Government Disclosure of NHI

## A preparedness guide for clergy and congregational leaders

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If a government announces evidence of non-human intelligence, congregational leaders may be asked to help people make sense of news that reaches into their beliefs about humanity, creation, and belonging. Begin by offering a steady presence, careful language, and opportunities to be heard. You do not need an immediate theological explanation to provide meaningful pastoral care.

This guide addresses a hypothetical future announcement. It does not establish that non-human intelligence exists or that any government has confirmed its existence. NHI is used here to mean a purported intelligence other than human intelligence; the announcement itself would need to clarify what is meant and what the evidence supports. An unidentified phenomenon alone does not establish NHI.

### Begin with what can be known

Read the original statement before addressing the congregation. Identify exactly what was announced, which evidence was released, whether independent examination is possible, and what remains unknown. Separate an official assertion from independently established findings. A disclosure about existence would not, by itself, establish origin, intentions, capabilities, or a threat.

### Make room for different responses

Some congregants may feel wonder, skepticism, relief, anger, fear, or little concern. Others may need time before they know what they feel. Avoid predicting universal panic or assuming that faith will either collapse or resolve every question. A person can remain spiritually committed while reconsidering an interpretation.

### Keep your purpose clear

The first task is to help people remain connected to one another and to everyday responsibilities. Explain that questions are welcome, disagreement is permitted, and no one will be judged for needing reassurance. Adapt this guide to your tradition, language, accessibility needs, and established safeguarding practices.

# Principles for a responsible pastoral response

## 1. Speak with humility

Say what you know, how you know it, and where your knowledge ends. Avoid presenting personal intuition, a viral video, or an unverified account as evidence.

## 2. Offer care without promising outcomes

You can promise to listen and help people find support. Do not promise that there is no danger, that contact will occur, or that all questions will soon be answered.

## 3. Allow theology to unfold

Invite reflection within your own tradition while respecting differences within the congregation. Avoid declaring NHI to be angels, demons, divine messengers, or evidence for or against God on the basis of an announcement alone.

## 4. Protect dignity and freedom of belief

Do not require congregants to agree with a theological or political interpretation. Avoid ridicule of skeptics, believers, or people reporting unusual experiences. Respect people who prefer not to participate.

## 5. Refuse fear based mobilization

Do not encourage confrontation, weapons use, trespassing, attempts to summon or pursue phenomena, or hostile action against individuals or groups. Do not let uncertainty become a justification for scapegoating.

## 6. Preserve community life

Continue meals, worship, charitable work, schooling, caregiving, and ordinary routines where practical and safe. Familiar responsibilities can provide continuity while understanding develops.

## 7. Coordinate care

Identify trusted pastoral contacts and licensed mental health professionals before they are needed. Spiritual care and professional care can work together. Obtain consent before sharing personal information, subject to applicable safety and safeguarding duties.

# A sample address to the congregation

Adapt these words only after checking the actual announcement. If the evidence is disputed or incomplete, make that uncertainty explicit.

Today, many of us are trying to understand an announcement from our government concerning what it describes as non-human intelligence. We will take time to examine what was said and what evidence was offered. We will also be careful about what has not been established.

I will not ask you to reach a conclusion before you are ready. Some of you may feel curious or hopeful. Some may feel frightened or angry. Some may remain unconvinced. You are welcome here with those feelings and questions.

For people of faith, this news may bring deeply personal questions. What might it mean for our understanding of creation? How might we understand our place in a larger universe? Does it change how we read a familiar teaching? We can bring these questions into our spiritual life without demanding an answer tonight.

I do not yet know what this announcement means for every aspect of our tradition. I will not fill that uncertainty with claims I cannot support. We can examine evidence, consult thoughtful teachers, and listen to one another. We can allow understanding to develop.

Our responsibility to care for one another remains. Children still need reassurance. People who are ill still need support. Neighbors who are alone still need a call. Whatever we learn, we can continue to act with compassion and restraint.

Please give yourself permission to step away from the news. Eat, rest, and keep in touch with people you trust. If you are overwhelmed, speak privately with us or with a qualified professional. Asking for support is welcome in this community.

We will offer a gathering for questions and reflection. It will be a place for listening, not a contest over who has the final explanation. We will distinguish evidence from interpretation and respect those who see things differently.

We can meet this moment with patience. We do not have to understand everything today to care for one another today.

## An optional closing reflection

May we meet uncertainty with patience, examine claims with care, and remain attentive to those who need us. May our questions deepen our willingness to listen. May compassion guide what we do next.

Use a prayer, meditation, silence, or other closing practice appropriate to your community. Participation should remain voluntary.

# Responding to difficult questions

## Does this mean our faith is wrong?

An announcement about another intelligence would not by itself settle theological questions. We can examine the evidence and consider how our tradition responds. You do not have to resolve your beliefs immediately.

## Are they angels or demons?

We do not have evidence sufficient to make that identification. Religious language may express how someone feels, but a spiritual interpretation and a verified description are different things.

## Are we in danger?

We need to distinguish a claim about existence from evidence of a specific hazard. We cannot infer safety or hostility from the announcement alone. If authorities issue concrete safety instructions, we will check their source and communicate them accurately.

## Why would this have been hidden from us?

That is a legitimate question. We should seek records and accountable explanations rather than invent motives. Anger can be expressed without turning it against our neighbors.

## I feel as if the world no longer makes sense

Thank you for telling me. Which part feels hardest right now? We can sit together, slow down, and decide what support would help you today. You do not have to work through this alone.

## I think I have personally encountered NHI

I hear that this experience matters to you. I cannot verify its cause from our conversation, but I can listen to how it has affected you. Are you feeling safe, and is it disrupting your rest or daily life? We can help you find appropriate support without deciding its explanation here.

## What should we tell our children?

Start by asking what they have heard. Give a brief, age appropriate account of verified information. Say when you do not know. Avoid frightening images and speculative detail. Tell them who will care for them today and keep familiar routines. Do not promise that nothing bad can ever happen.

## Does humanity still matter?

The value we place on a human life need not depend on humanity being the only intelligence. Our responsibilities to love, care, and act ethically remain available to us.

# A practical plan for the congregation

## 1. Before making a public statement

Designate a spokesperson and a small pastoral response team. Review the original announcement together. Prepare a short summary that separates what is confirmed, what is claimed, and what remains unknown. Identify private support contacts and arrangements for children, older adults, people with disabilities, and those who cannot attend in person.

## 2. Hold an initial listening gathering

Offer a 45 to 60 minute meeting with a clear purpose. Begin with a brief factual summary and a pause for reflection. Invite people to describe how the news affects them. Accept anonymous questions. End with practical next steps and the timing of any further updates.

Agree that participants will speak from their own experience, avoid graphic material and unsupported claims, and refrain from pressuring others to adopt an interpretation. Do not record or publicly identify participants without their consent. Explain the limits of confidentiality; a group cannot guarantee that everything shared will remain private.

## 3. Offer individual support

Ask privately what a person needs and whether they feel safe. Listen before explaining. Offer a quiet space, contact with a trusted person, and referral when distress interferes with daily life. Do not diagnose someone on the basis of an unusual belief, skepticism, or spiritual questioning. Do not interpret distress as a failure of faith.

If someone expresses suicidal intent, threats of violence, or an inability to remain safe, seek urgent help rather than relying on pastoral conversation alone. In the United States, call or text 988 for crisis support. Call 911 for immediate danger or a medical emergency. Outside the United States, use local crisis and emergency services.

## 4. Follow through in the days ahead

Continue ordinary services and community support where appropriate. Check on people who request contact and on isolated members through established outreach practices. Share updates only when there is something verified to add. Bring in qualified professionals for questions beyond your role. Review what people need as the situation develops rather than assuming one meeting will be enough.

## The message to carry forward

A congregation does not need a complete account of the universe to practice care. Its contribution can be a place where people ask questions honestly, examine information carefully, and remain connected while their understanding changes.

PATH | Psychological Alliance for Transparency and Humanity <https://pathforhumanity.com>

Crisis information: 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, Contact Us, <https://988lifeline.org/contact-us/> (accessed October 10, 2026). This guide is a proposed pastoral preparedness resource, not an official emergency protocol.