

# [***Christian College Professor Who Called Tucker Carlson 'Fascist' Loses Job***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6C1P-1NV1-DY68-10M4-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 856 words

**Byline:** Rachel Dobkin

**Highlight:** Communications professor Matt Warner lost his job at Grace College in Indiana after his social media posts resurfaced.

**Body**

A Christian college professor who called conservative commentator and ex-Fox News host [*Tucker Carlson*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/tucker-carlson?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) "fascist" in a social media post has lost his job.

The news came after old social media posts written by Warner were shared by a Grace alumni and former employee, Evan Kilgore, on [*Facebook*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/facebook?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in October 2023. In them, Warner appeared to criticize the GOP and conservative ideologies.

Warner wrote in December 2022, "Tucker Carlson is fascist," among other statements on X, formerly [*Twitter*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/twitter?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships). In one post from September 2022, Warner wrote, "I support gay marriage," and in another from February 2022 he said, "My pronouns are he/they." The posts spanned over years, but some were written after he started his position at Grace College in September 2023.

*Newsweek* reached out to Carlson's team via email for comment.

In an emailed statement to *Newsweek*, Grace College, in Indiana, wrote on behalf of its Chief Human Resource Officer Norman Bakhit: "Dr. Matt Warner fulfilled his agreement for the year. Grace College wishes Dr. Warner well in his future endeavors. As with all personnel matters, we are unable to provide further comment."

Kilgore said in his post that his goal was not to get Warner fired. In an article earlier this month, he told Religion News Service (RNS) that he shared Warner's posts because "parents might want to be aware of somebody who has influence over their child with these beliefs."

Grace College parent Monica Boyer, however, did want Warner fired. In a Facebook post from October 2023, Boyer criticized Warner for supporting gay marriage and called for Warner's termination "immediately."

"They've created a caricature of me based on taking a very small number of social media posts out of context," Warner told RNS. "I was treated from the beginning as a threat or liability. And nobody at any time had a conversation with me about what I believe, or what I'm willing to do to support the college."

When asked by *Newsweek* if he regrets any of his posts, Warner said via email: "The original smear campaign, which included screenshots of my tweets—virtually all of which were from before I was employed at Grace College—included about 100 tweets. Generally, I stand by them.

"My only regret is that a few of them violated my own commitment to love others well, and went into the arena of name-calling (e.g. 'opposing it is bigotry'). I think the group of tweets that they selected—in their attempt to stir up controversy—demonstrate that their concern with me was never about my faith, or my theology. They are political operatives who oppose my personal ***politics***.

"Finally, unfortunately, in some tweets I used technical language which I meant denotatively (e.g. fascism) which were understood as slurs; and some others were ironic and were taken as literal. But I don't regret using technical language or irony. I regret that the senior administration at Grace College did not have the courage to stand up to outside influences, and defend their faculty."

When *Newsweek* contacted Grace College about Warner's remarks, they said, "As we mentioned in our statement, we are unable to provide further comment on personal matters."

**Warner Refused to Resign**

Warner learned after meeting with his supervisors amid Boyer's demands for his termination, that he wasn't an official faculty member because the college's board of trustees had not ratified him, RNS reported. In December 2023, Warner found out that the board voted not to ratify him, meaning he would leave at the end of the academic year.

Before the board's vote in mid-October, Grace College President Drew Flamm offered Warner the option to voluntarily resign, or Warner could opt for a "potential pathway forward" that included meeting regularly with Flamm and other administrators, RNS reported. However, Warner said that the second option never materialized.

After the board vote, he was again offered to voluntarily resign. Bakhit offered Warner $60,000 for his resignation and a confidentiality agreement, according to RNS.

In a [*Facebook post*](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1416062652381028&id=100019319191788) from Tuesday, Warner said he turned down the resignation deal "because I could not pretend that the school was living out its Christian values as an institution. Christian leadership should be known for grace, love and our ability to and commitment to stand on—and be transparent concerning—our values."

Warner added: "Grace College had no problem with my understanding of ***politics*** and faith being two separate things. The only concern they shared with me concerning my social media was tone and tenor, not content or ideas, nor theology or ***politics***."

Ethan Campbell, an English professor, reacted to the news of Warner's termination, [*writing*](https://twitter.com/ProfGawain/status/1788566890807234802) on May 9: "Many aspects of your story are enraging, but I think the worst is the college's policy of hiring faculty on a provisional basis before the board gives final approval, and not informing them. That is deeply unethical, possibly illegal. You were on probation without knowing it."

"It's nice to see some colleges with a backbone standing up to the cultural revolution," C.Jay Engel, host of the paleoconservative Chronicles Magazine podcast, [*said*](https://twitter.com/contramordor/status/1788379680070135971) of Warner.

[*Link to Image*](https://d.newsweek.com/en/full/2393465/tucker-carlson.jpg)

**Graphic**

Tucker Carlson

Ivan Apfel/Getty Images

Tucker Carlson speaks during the 10X Growth Conference 2024 at The Diplomat Beach Resort on April 02, 2024, in Hollywood, Florida.

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