Christian Churches Together (CCT) Meet in Montgomery

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Christian Churches Together is one response to our Lord prayer for His Church. Our Lord prayed that all who believe in Him might be one with god and with one another so that the world would believe in Him as god and Savior. We live in a world divided by ideologies, politics, race and religion. CCT is the only movement in the USA that promotes and nurtures dialogue and cooperation between the theological and ideological spectrum of American Christianity. It offers a space that is inclusive of the diversity of Christian families in the United States-Evangelical, Orthodox, Pentecostals, Historic Protestant, Historic Black churches: and Christian organizations.

The whole church is represented in Christian Churches Together. CCT is the first national ecumenical group that our United States Catholic have joined: with over 67 million members, our Catholic Church is the largest church in the United States. Christian Churches Together is unique improving the only venue where churches from all the major groupings of churches, representing over one hundred million Christians, to come together for prayer, dialogue, fellowship and witness.

The United States of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) invited representative form our Diocese of Birmingham to participate in this conference; Very Rev. Vernon Huguley, Matthew Walker, and myself. Matthew is a bright and intelligent 23-year-old young adult Catholic. These are his thoughts about the conference: As a recent college graduate who participated in several campus ministries, I got to meet, learn, and engage with students who were not believers in Jesus Christ. One common theme as to why they were skeptical of faith is because of the atrocities the church had down in the past. The biggest of these topics was the church’s position, or lack thereof, of racism. Racism, in my eyes, is a subject the church sometimes does not do a good job of discussing. It brings up a hard past where religion was used to justify many acts of oppression towards people of different races. The frustration that was shared to me was how the church seemed to ignore its past transgressions. The CCT, however, not only faced the past but engaged with it head on.

I was struck by how open the church leaders present spoke on how the church in the past had failed people. They gave no excuses. In fact, they lamented on how negligent at times they were in the past to support people of different racial backgrounds. As someone who was consistently told that the church doesn’t do enough about racism, the experience was the antithesis of what people had told me original. My favorite thing was there not only a lament of the past crimes, but a call to action to ensure that racism will not invade the church. In a time where people want to see action over words, I am proud I got to be part of the planning process to put actions in motion.
The CCT is something more people should know about. Seeing church leaders show remorse for what the church has done in the past is a sight many non-believers need to see. Not only that but people need to know about the actions that the church is making to prevent racism within itself. There is a movement happening in the church that people need to know about. A movement where the church reconciles with those it has wronged in the past, but also ensures their safety in the future. My heart is on fire after the convocation and my prayer is to share the CCT’s message to all.

Powerful reflection coming from a young man. Out of this conference we grew closer to Christ and each other. Discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit in prayer and theological dialogue enabled fellowship and mutual support for participants to take action in a common witness to our society: address issues of poverty, racism, and immigration.