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cata Conversations Across The Aisle

CATA 2025—IT'S A WRAP!

CELEBRATING A POWERFUL YEAR OF CATA CONVERSATIONS



Hello CATA Friends!

On October 29, we hosted our 7th and final CATA Conversation for 2025, exploring the Evolving Relationship Between Church and State. Our guest speakers, Reverend James Golden and Richard Cannarelli grounded the challenging topic and set the stage for the evening's vibrant discussion, with the Reverend arguing for separation and Richard arguing against.

If you missed the workshop, you missed a great conversation. But, don't despair! We may bring the workshop topic back in spring 2026. We'll be sharing more info through this newsletter and on social media.

Thank you for sharing your feedback of our October Conversation! A third of our October participants were first-timers while another third had been to two or more CATA Conversations before.





What you said about our October guest speakers:

"Reverend Golden illustrated his point in a very creative and engaging way."

"I was a bit shocked by Mr. Cannarelli... but found it helpful for me to understand the position against separation."

"Richard Cannarelli presented a side most liberals have never heard."

Almost 90% of our Community Members see CATA as an opportunity for learning and growing.

Almost half of our October guests found that CATA can improve or has already improved their confidence and comfort when engaging with folks of differing opinions.

We are realizing our goals, although we are always looking for opportunities to improve. *You* can help us welcome diverse political perspectives into CATA by nominating a conservative neighbor or family member. Simply respond to this email with their name and contact information.

NOMINATE A FRIEND

Thanks to all who have attended one or more CATA Conversations this past year! We are successful because of you!

Bill Woodson, PhD

Founder & Board Chair, CATA

Unlock the Secrets to Disagreeing Better

January 17, 2026 | 2 - 3:45 PM ET

Several CATA Community Members suggested a Conversation focused on techniques for effective dialogue across political differences. As a Member of the Braver Angels Braver Network, CATA is happy to share this upcoming virtual session below.

Braver Angels is a national, volunteer-led organization that brings Americans together across the political spectrum to better understand one another and lower the temperature of our public debates. Their online workshop, Skills for Disagreeing Better, offers practical tools for listening in ways that reduce defensiveness, sharing your own views so others can truly hear them and looking for common ground even when real differences remain.

This is a natural complement to what we are working toward at CATA: greater confidence and respect when we step into conversations across political and ideological divides.

Details about the **Skills for Disagreeing Better** session, including date, time, and how to register, appear below. If you do participate, we would welcome hearing what you found most helpful, and how we might build on those skills in a future CATA gathering.



SAVE YOUR SEAT

Be Part of CATA's Next Chapter!

This newsletter is part of our effort to keep our growing CATA Community

connected between Conversations. The newsletter will share information we hope you'll find useful—announcements of upcoming events, highlights and takeaways from recent sessions, and occasional resources related to dialogue across differences.

To make the newsletter as valuable as possible, I would welcome your thoughts. What would you like to see included? How often would you prefer to receive it—monthly, every other month, quarterly? You'll have the option to unsubscribe at any time, and past versions will be stored on the website for you to re-visit or share with others.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS



As we wrap up 2025, we remain grateful for your willingness to show up, listen, and lean into conversations that are not always easy but are always needed.

I hope you will stay engaged with CATA in the year ahead by joining future Conversations, inviting others into the discussion, and sharing your ideas for how we can do this work even better.

Thank you—and if you're able, please consider supporting this work with a tax-deductible gift to CATA. Your generosity helps us bring more voices to the table.

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About CATA

Conversations Across the Aisle (CATA) is a non-partisan initiative dedicated to strengthening our nation—one community at a time.

By creating safe, structured spaces for informed conversations we foster understanding, build appreciation for different points of view, and strengthen Members' skill and confidence in navigating differences of opinion. We utilize a tested, replicable model that prioritizes respect, highlights the value of learning from peers, even when we disagree, and values authentic curiosity. This model enables us to bring neighbors together across political, racial, and cultural divides; bridge ideological division; and discover our common interests.

Contact Us!

Info@CataProject.org

cata Conversations Across The Aisle

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