

COME TO THE TABLE AT A GLANCE

2017 CONFERENCE

Bridging Divides:
Cultivating Food & Faith
Connections

MARCH 16TH, 2017 | DURHAM, NC

"The fact that a room full of different people with different backgrounds can discuss something as heavy as race with kindness & grace is something I haven't seen in a while! Thank you!"

"I found myself participating in a deep level of humanity. I greatly appreciated seeing that modeled & then given to participate in."

DIVERSITY

Attendees appreciated attention to diversity in conversations & workshops, and welcomed further focus on diversity & a deeper dive into equity issues in the future. Attendees represented faith communities, food pantries, growers, farmworkers, markets, & more.

OPENING & PERSONAL STORIES

Participants said the opening prayer & grounding set the tone of being attentive to themes of racial justice & equity, as well as honesty & communication. Attendees appreciated Jason Brown's inspirational personal story & faith journey—and personal story-sharing stood out generally as an important part of the conference for people.

Nearly **500** people registered for the **2017 Come to the Table Conference** to find mutually beneficial solutions for food insecurity and local farms. They collectively participated in **27** workshops, **4** community conversations over lunch, & networking opportunities over the course of **1** day at the Durham Convention Center. Themes of **diversity, personal stories, & connection** emerged from attendees' evaluations.

"My favorite part of the conference was: Diversity! Honesty! Communication! Vulnerability!"



CONNECTION

Networking was often listed as a favorite part of the day. People found opportunities to network during participatory workshops, breaks between workshops, & over lunchtime "community conversations." Exchanging personal narratives set the stage for networking and partnership-building.

"Felt like a family reunion."

GOALS GOING FORWARD

Attendees asked for future gatherings to have clearer descriptions & expectations for workshops, more opportunities to network both within the day of the conference & beyond, more practical tools & knowledge, and more & deeper conversations on equity issues. RAFI will continue to work to build Come to the Table into a community of people of all religions, races, genders, abilities, & orientations.