

Justin White

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Intro Racial Reconciliation

Church Assignment

For my church assignment, I attended Transformation Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma via online stream. I was truly blessed by the service. Something I love about the 2020 pandemic is that it has caused churches to reimagine what is possible. It has caused churches to extend their reach. Many churches now provide opportunities for virtual guests to be just as much a part of the worship experience as those who are in the sanctuary. I was blessed to be a virtual visitor of Transformation Church.

The church has a compelling and captivating mission and vision statement that I'm sure motivates all of their members. The vision statement is this: Representing God to the lost and found for transformation in Christ. In visiting their church virtually, it was clear that they have a real heart for reaching "beyond the four walls". Not only do they strive to reach beyond the four walls, but they try to reach those that may not have a traditional church experience. They are welcoming to those of all walks of life; whether from the Church or not. They just want to share Jesus with people so that people can be transformed.

It is easy to sense how much worship is a part of the culture of the church. Even through the screen, I could strongly sense the presence of God. The people who were there for in-person worship were so engaged with the worship. It was clear that this was deeply rooted into the culture of the church. The way they expressed their faith through worship showed that the church as a whole is intentional to pursue God together.

One of the best things that is clear about the church is that the church is extremely diverse and very multicultural. First of all the lead pastors (husband and wife) are African American, while the executive pastor of the church is a Caucasian woman. During the worship, there were black worship leaders standing beside white worship leaders. As the camera would pan along the in-person attendees, there were people of all races and colors worshipping all together. They had a very blended approach in their service. Even down to the songs that were chosen, I heard contemporary Christian songs, with traditional songs, with gospel songs, and they even had a praise break. Through all of it, everyone was together in worship.

I saw so much intentionality in their leadership and style of worship. There was diversity among the church and there seems to be a place for everyone. This church was another example of reconciliation. It was an example of what it looks like when people choose to come together and worship Jesus together. I'm encouraged to see unity, and I hope that more churches follow in this example of reconciliation.