



CONSULTATION MEETING WITH CHRISTIAN LEADERS

DATE: 22ND NOVEMBER, 2024

YMCA BUILDING,
2ND FLOOR, BOARD ROOM



INTRODUCTION

The One Accord Forum's first consultation meeting with Christian leaders from various denominations was held on 22nd November 2024, at the YMCA Campus. The meeting was chaired by former Minister Thiru. Mano Thangaraj and facilitated by the Co-founders of OAF. Representatives from prominent Christian denominations and organizations, including the Catholic Diocese, CSI, ECI, TELC, FMPB, Salvation Army, AICCC, CBMC, MCC, Sathyam TV, Good News TV, as well as Bishops from various independent churches, graced the occasion. Special invitees included Mr. Peter Alphonse and Mr. Inigo.



OPENING SESSION

The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Rev. Augustine, Superintendent Minister of the North Zone, TELC. Following the prayer, Mr. Ashvin Dhyriam, Managing Director of Good Vision Television, delivered the welcome address. In his address, Mr. Dhyriam likened the gathering to the upper room of the early church, describing it as a place of preparation, prayer, and unity. He expressed his hope that

this meeting would be the beginning of oneness and collaboration among Christians through the One Accord Forum.



CONTEXT SETTING

Dr. P. Wilson, Principal and Secretary of Madras Christian College, set the context for the meeting. He emphasized the urgent need for unity among Christian denominations and highlighted the challenges faced by Christian minorities in Tamil Nadu.



Dr. Wilson also pointed out the declining participation of Christians in politics and how churches have failed to encourage capable and dedicated youth to take up leadership roles in governance.

VISION CASTING



The chief advisor of OAF, Thiru. Mano Thangaraj, took the stage to present the Forum's vision. Sharing his personal background as the son of an evangelist, Thiru. Thangaraj expressed his passion for advancing the Christian community through political engagement.

He reflected on his support for Christian denominations and institutions during crises, both as a minister and as a Christian political leader. He called for unity, stressing the need for Christians to raise a unified voice and contribute actively to nation-building through political representation.

During his presentation, Thiru. Mano Thangaraj elaborated on OAF's past efforts, including:

1. Hosting an Executive Dinner with the Deputy Chief Minister and prominent Christian business leaders in Chennai.
2. Representing GO5 during the Consultation on School and Higher Education, in the presence of Thiru. Ponmudi (Minister of Higher Education), Fr. Joe Arun (Chairman of the Minority Commission), Thiru. P. Wilson (Member of Parliament), and others.
3. Seeding Meeting at the district levels and selection of core and advisors.

Thiru. Mano Thangaraj also unveiled the Forum's vision, mission, objectives, and commitments. His detailed explanation left the audience inspired and united, with participants pledging their support and willingness to work with OAF.

SUGGESTION FROM THE FLOOR

The participants provided valuable feedback and suggestions, including:

1. Incorporating OAF's geographical scope into its vision statement.
2. Highlighting the exchange of resources and expertise among churches and denominations.



PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION

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The following initiatives were proposed to advance the Forum's objectives:

1. Establish a statewide executive body.
2. Organize a Christmas event inviting OAF's core representatives from each district, starting with Chennai.
3. Conduct half-yearly conferences.
4. Provide leadership training for Christian youth and human resources.
5. Offer business upskilling programs.
6. Recognize and award outstanding professionals and role models.
7. Host ecumenical carol programs.



CONCLUSION

Thiru. Isaac Livingston, Managing Director of Sathyam TV, delivered the vote of thanks. He expressed gratitude to all attendees for their active participation and contributions. He urged the group not to let the decisions made at the meeting fade into obscurity but to continue building on them through prayer and collective effort.

The consultation concluded with a dinner.

