

From Orthodox to Evangelical: Ecumenical Theological Education in Cambridge, England

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This article offers an overview of ecumenical theological education within the Cambridge Theological Federation (CTF) in Cambridge, England. It situates the ecumenical model represented by the CTF in its particular English historical context. It argues that the development of parallel church traditions alongside one another in the same geographical locations has allowed for a particular form of local ecumenism within the English context. This in turn has allowed ecumenical theological education to be considered both possible, and even desirable. It examines the relationship between the churches and the historic universities in England, which allows for theology to be understood as an 'academic' discipline rather than a 'confessional' discipline. The structures and curriculum aims of the Federation are elucidated with the help of David Kelsey's Athens and Berlin typology, demonstrating the way in which the CTF upholds elements of both which, in part, allows the creative ecumenical space for the CTF to be made possible.

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Introduction to the Cambridge Theological Federation

The Cambridge Theological Federation (CTF), based in Cambridge, England, is the most ecumenical federation of theological colleges in Europe. A recent independently commissioned report compiled for a possible funder stated that:

“The Cambridge Theological Federation – and its integrated ecumenical approach to theological education – is unique in the world. Comprised of 10 theological institutions, the Federation is an association that seeks to provide students a broad education within an ecumenical context. Member institutions in turn work with both the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University, which grant Federation students degrees at the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral levels. The breadth and depth of the Federation's membership, the quality of instruction available through linkages with the University of Cambridge, and the physical environment of the member institutes

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