The Necessity of Black History Month

I recently was privy to a conversation around the necessity of Black History Month. There are some people who believe that our society has moved beyond setting aside time to focus on the history of any one group, because after all we live in a post-racial America. I, however, believe that the exact opposite is true, especially for people of faith. I believe that Black History Month, along with every other designated time to focus on marginalized communities, is more vital than ever, but not for those communities.

Black History Month, at its best, is not just a time for black people to focus on their history and heritage; we do that 24/7/365. It’s actually best when others use this as an opportunity to get to know a community other than their own. This is love to me, agape. God’s love says, “you matter to me. Your history matters. Your voice matters. Your culture matters.” I pray that the churches of our conference will not see Black History Month as something just for African Americans, but as an opportunity to embody God’s love by better understanding the embodied experience of people of the African Diaspora.

- Rev. Cean James
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