**SESSION I**

**THE DIMINUTION OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN AMERICA**

**WHAT CAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS DO?**

**FACILITATOR’S GUIDE**

Thank you for taking on this helpful role. The role of the facilitator is both technical/logistical and also valuable to deepen the experience.

The technical side is literally to pause the session at key moments and start the computer session again after the break. You will know when to hit pause because a sign will pop up with a person holding a stop sign. There will be a task for the group to do.

You certainly can introduce the session (so please watch it in advance), but that is not necessary as it is meant to be self-explanatory. You may want to just tell participants that the sessions are all on line so taking notes would make sense to highlight that which personally seems very important. Each person can always return to the module. And tell them that there will be exercises for them to do either in small groups or dyads.

**One more recommendation:**  If during the module presentation or in conversation at any point, you hear complaints, frustrations or anger over something that a participant saw or heard, please explain that this is not your program, that you were asked to facilitate, and to please direct any concerns or questions to the team that created this by going on the website and giving feedback. We always want to hear from participants and have changed the modules as a result. While from our experience, it is unlikely that you will have any problems, we want to remind you (and for you to remind others) that you are a facilitator and no one should critique you.

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Start the video – MODULE 1

The first exercise is at 10:47. The questions asked are:

1. What do you see in terms of community when you look at the American landscape?
2. We see Americans engaged less with each other and with society. How would you explain what is happening today in the ways people engage each other and their roles as citizens?

Hit the pause button at 10:58. If you want, you could read the questions. Then ask them to work in pairs or triads to discuss. Tell them that they will have five minutes. Please keep track of the time.

At 4 minutes tell them they have one more minute. Stop at five minutes. If you want, you could ask for a few comments – limit them to no more than three. Please hold down lots of group conversation at this point – there is much more to do.

Hit the play button and resume the learning..

The second exercise is at 18:02. The questions asked are:

1. Can I imagine myself as a religious leader who can help those whom I serve bring their religious beliefs into the public square and engage directly in America’s future?
2. What skills and resources do I want to acquire to be the effective civics educator that my community needs?

Hit the PAUSE button at 18:17. If you want, you could read the questions. Then ask them to work in pairs or triads to discuss. Tell them that they will have five minutes. Please keep track of the time.

At 4 minutes tell them they have one more minute. Stop at five minutes. If you want, you could ask for a few comments.– limit them to no more than three Please hold down lots of group conversation at this point – there is much more to do.

Hit the play button and resume the learning.

The session ends at 19:56 minutes. You can do a very quick check in before you move on to the next session. People can stretch but try to hold everyone together. If you are the facilitator for the next session, get it ready. If not, hand it over to the next facilitator.

And once again, thanks so much.