**SESSION 2**

**A HISTORY OF FAITH AND A WALL OF DIVISION IN AMERICA**

**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.

We would like you to introduce the session (so please watch it in advance) by explaining that this is a very limited history and that in no way is this meant to tell the larger and very complicated story of the United States. You may want to 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 2

The first exercise is at 1:54. Participants are asked to think about the constructive and positive roles religion and religious leaders have played in American history (and perhaps you may want to add the positive roles American religious leaders have played in world history).

Hit the pause button at 2:07.

You can repeat the question/topic again – feel free to remind them that while we know that religion that also been a force for conflict and pain, we want to focus on the positive role in this short breakout. Also, please remind them that not everyone may agree with each other. That is all right. Listen rather than critique, even if you disagree. 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 4:40. It is more complicated, asking the small groups to think about how religious leaders could create constructive dialogue around gay marriage/marriage equality. The goal here is not to debate the issue but to think about a healthy conversation, one at which there could even be disagreement.

Hit the PAUSE button at 5:19. If you want, you could reiterate the task as noted right above. 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. TELL THE GROUP THAT IN THE NEXT SESSION WE WILL LEARN TOOLS FOR LEADING A GENERATIVE AND HEALTHY CONVERSATIONS TO AMPLIFY WHAT WE JUST DID.

Hit the play button and resume the learning.

The session ends at 7:01 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.