**SESSION 3**

**GENERATIVE DIALOGUE ACROSS DIFFERENCE**

**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 this session is different in that there are skills that will be taught by faculty members in a more frontal fashion as well as some thoughts and experiences of religious leaders who are in the field. And you can also say that we will model a generative dialogue and then ask some participants to model a conversation as well. Participants may want to take notes in this session. As before, 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 3

The first exercise is at 17:53. Participants (including you) are asked to write down as many items as they choose, responding to the question Who Am I?

Hit the pause button at 18:27. If you want, you could read the question. Then remind them that they will have three minutes. Please keep track of the time.

At 2 minutes 30 seconds tell them they have a half-minute to finish up. Stop at three minutes. Please facilitate a quick go-around, once or twice. This should be without commentary, just reading a word or phrase. Please hold down lots of group conversation at this point – there is much more to do.

Hit the play button and resume the learning.

There is a vignette that you will watch of religious studies students and graduates engaging in a generative dialogue conversation. It will take about 20 minutes and, while a simulation, was not rehearsed. Ask participants to think about what worked, what did not, and how they did or did not apply principles of generative dialogue.

The second exercise is at 43:10. As facilitator, you will pick four people to engage in the conversation. Try to make it as diverse as your group can be – either ask for volunteers or else choose people. You will be the timekeeper, keeping each person to 1 minute for each go around.

We recommend that you use the topic “What does Freedom of Religion mean for you and for your religious community?”

Hit the PAUSE button at 44:31.

Ask each person to respond first to:

How do you think freedom of religion should be played out in America today? (ONE MINUTE EACH)

Then: Even though you may disagree, what is one thing you learned or will think about that you heard? (ONE MINUTE EACH)

Finally: What is an area of disagreement you want to mention – with respect? (ONE MINUTE EACH).

Hit the play button and resume the learning. You will be asked to debrief. Check the room and see how engaged and/or tired people are. If you think it would be helpful, ask for any comments – please carefully monitor this and hold the conversation to no more than five minutes. This could include those who observed and those who spoke in the dialogue.

Hit the PAUSE button at 45:32 and allow for a brief conversation.

The session ends at 47:15 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.