

How can we foster enriching interfaith conversations?

An Encountering Other Faiths Webinar Series
Session 4: Navigating Challenges in Interfaith Encounters

“When it comes to creating a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, democracy, we are still a developing nation.”

-Vincent Harding, Civil Rights Activist (2014)



Navigating Challenging Moments in Interfaith Encounters:
Exploring Scenarios and Applying Tools

Interfaith Leaders Navigate Religious Pluralism:

- Pluralism is not diversity alone, but the energetic engagement with diversity.
- Pluralism is not just tolerance, but the active seeking of understanding across lines of difference
- Pluralism is not relativism, but the encounter of commitments.
- Pluralism is based on dialogue.

Diana Eck, Pluralism Project, Harvard University



The Case Method Prepares us as Interfaith Leaders

Case Studies are a Teaching Modality



- Provide shared material where everyone has the same information
- Offer real life scenarios made anonymous so they can be viewed more objectively
- Opportunity to reflect on common dilemmas and competing interests
- Complex stakeholders with commitments and values to be discerned

Case Study: Whole Group Discussion

Listen for:

FACTS
FEELINGS
VALUES

Bring your whole self to the scenario.

SMALL GROUP SHARING ...

- Choose a scenario/case study to discuss in small groups
- Consider who are the stakeholders and what's at stake?
- Consider symbols and commitments that stakeholders hold dear.
- What triggers might you anticipate that could detract from your positive use of self as a facilitator or leader in this situation?

Closing & Next Steps

Thank you for taking on the Role of Facilitator and
Interfaith Leader

Feedback Survey to Follow

Thank you and enjoy the work!

