

QUESTIONS

For Houses of Worship

1. Where were you on September 11, 2001?
 - a. How has the world changed over the past ten years as a result of 9/11?
 - b. What still troubles you about 9/11?
 - c. How can our faith tradition help you through this?

2. Forgiveness can be an important part of the healing process.
 - a. Is there something you have not forgiven about 9/11?
 - b. What do you believe our faith teaches about forgiveness and does that relate to 9/11?
 - c. What can we draw from our faith tradition so that we can move forward?

3. As a religious community, let's reflect on what we did and did not do on 9/11 and the days/weeks following.
 - a. What can we do now to help the community and the city to heal from the wounds of 9/11?
 - b. As the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 approaches, what can – what should – our congregation/faith community do to help heal the city and the nation?
 - c. What are obstacles to healing NYC post-9/11?
 - d. What can we, as a religious community, do to help overcome these obstacles?

4. Who are the victims of 9/11?
 - a. How should we define the victims of 9/11?
 - b. What do we know about victimization in our religious community's history?

5. How does the community at our house of worship interact with communities in other houses or worship, both within our faith/religion and with those of other faiths/religions?

6. What role do houses of worship play in the broader neighborhood/community?
 - a. What role do you think they should play?
 - b. What role does our house of worship play, and how can we positively affect our surrounding community?
 - c. Would increasing our knowledge of people from other religions be helpful in doing this work? If so, how we would go about doing that? If not, why?

7. What sort of sacred law does our faith tradition have? Why are these laws? Why are they important to our community and our tradition? How do they interact with U.S. law?
 - a. What are the parallels between our faith's sacred law and the sacred law of others?
 - b. How might a ban on Sharia affect the practice of our faith's sacred laws?

8. What is a stereotype?
 - a. What stereotypes do people have about our religious tradition and how do they affect our community?
 - b. What stereotypes does our religious community have about other religious and non-religious groups?
 - c. How have stereotypes led religious communities to mistreat others?
 - d. How has the post-9/11 media contributed to stereotypes about a variety of religious groups?

9. Has our community ever been the target of a hate crime?
 - a. If yes, how did we respond? If not how might we respond?
 - b. How can we help other religious groups that might be targets of hate crimes?
 - c. What can be done to *respond* to hate crimes and/or hate groups?
 - d. What can we do to *prevent* such incidents?
 - e. How should we respond if a hate crime is ever perpetuated in the name of our religion/faith?

10. Within our religious community, how are we diverse in our beliefs and practices?

11. There is a lot of information about Muslims all around us.
 - a. When we look at the facts, what is surprising?

- b. How do you respond to the demographical data about Muslims in the United States?
 - c. What informs perceptions of Muslims in the United States?
 - d. What can be done to change inaccurate perceptions?
 - e. How do the experiences of Muslims in the United States compare to the experiences of our religious community? Of other religious communities?
 - f. Are there any similarities between Islam and our beliefs?
12. What is the difference between Islamophobia and anti-Muslim Sentiment?
13. Many different religious communities have experienced opposition to the establishment of their houses of worship and their beliefs.
- a. Does this challenge the notion of the United States as a land of religious freedom? How so?
 - b. What does this suggest about the state of religious awareness and understanding in the United States?
 - c. How might our house of worship respond to such opposition?
14. Although the proposed Park51 community center is located in lower Manhattan, the controversy surrounding it swept across the nation and globe.
- a. Is this a local issue, a national issue or a global issue?
 - b. What do you think the broader impact and implication of this issue is/will be?
 - c. How should we/have we, as a religious community/house of worship, respond to Park51?

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