



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***Religion in Public Life***

One of the key deliberative dispositions that the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) has identified is an “action orientation.” While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to shared agreement on key issues and an intentional commitment to take either individual or collective action on them.

Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve issuing a set of recommendations or deciding to support a particular policy. It might also manifest as developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, participating in continued discussions, or generating new approaches to engaging with the issue.

To support such an orientation, the DCI shares a series of “action pathways” for participants to consider after each event or activity it sponsors. Please see the pathways below related to the topic of **Religion in Public Life**. Engaging in these activities is voluntary -- participants are free to choose any of the pathways, or none. But we encourage you to at least consider them as options that can build on the conversation you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

Get Informed

- Learn more about public [attitudes](#) from Pew Research about religion and public life in the United States.
- Explore these essays from Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs on [public health](#) and [education](#) and how they are affected by debates about religion in public life in the United States.
- Read more about [federal protections for religious liberty](#) from the US Department of Justice.
- Learn more about the protections citizens are entitled to against religious discrimination from the [US Department of Health and Human Services](#).
- Learn more about the study of religion in public life by exploring Wake Forest University’s [Initiative on Religion, Pluralism, and American Public Life](#).
- Learn more about [religion and the law](#) from the National Constitution Center.

Get Connected

- Learn more about the [Moral Monday Movement](#) and its efforts in North Carolina.
- See how [NC Values](#) is promoting religious freedom and morality in the public square.
- Visit [Americans United for the Separation of Church and State](#) and learn about their work nationwide.
- Check out the [Pluralism Project](#) at Harvard University to learn more about their work to research and support religious pluralism in the United States.

Get Involved

- Support the public education system by [getting involved](#) in local government and school board work in North Carolina.
- If you have a legal background or interest in law, [connect with the efforts of the American Bar Association](#) to protect religious freedom and non-establishment of religion.
- Get involved with the [Alliance Defending Freedom](#) and their work defending religious freedoms in the public square and advocating for a wide range of related cases before the Supreme Court.
- Join the [Interfaith Alliance](#) and their work promoting democracy, bringing together people of diverse faiths, and pushing back against religious extremism that threatens individual freedoms.

About This Guide

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The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for Davidson students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society. The DCI regularly hosts facilitated deliberations on a wide range of topics and organizes training workshops for deliberation facilitators. To learn more about these opportunities, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org.

DCI Deliberation Guides

The DCI has launched this series of Deliberation Guides as a foundation for such conversations. They provide both important background information on the topics in question and a specific framework for engaging with these topics. The Guides are designed to be informative without being overwhelming and structured without being inflexible. They cover a range of topics and come in a variety of formats but share several common elements, including opportunities to commit to a shared set of Conversation Agreements, learn about diverse perspectives, and reflect together on the conversation and its yield. The DCI encourages conversations based on these guides to be moderated by a trained facilitator. After each conversation, the DCI also suggests that its associated Pathways Guide be distributed to the conversation's participants.

DCI Pathways Guides

For every Deliberation Guide, the DCI has also developed an associated Pathways Guide, which outlines opportunities for action that participants can consider that are related to the covered topic. These Pathways Guides reinforce the DCI's commitment to an action orientation, a key deliberative disposition. While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to individual or collective action on the key issues facing society. Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, generating new approaches to an issue, or deciding to support a particular policy.

If you make use of this guide in a deliberation, please provide attribution to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative and email dc@deliberativecitizenship.org to tell us about your event. To access more of our growing library of Deliberation Guides, Pathways Guides and other resources, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources.