

PREVIOUS DISCUSSION THEMES



2021 - 22

After over a year of social distancing and pandemic precautions, we had both the challenge and opportunity to ask, "How do we live in community together?" We discussed the six civic values expressed in UVM's [Our Common Ground](#) statement by exploring a different value each month. We reflected upon how we understand and embody these core values from our individual religious, philosophical, and cultural perspectives, as well as the gifts and challenges of being part of a pluralistic community where not everyone understands or expresses those values in the same way.

2020 - 21

In the midst of a pandemic, political division, and racial violence, we found ourselves challenged anew to examine what it means to live as a civil society. This year we explored how each of us understands and prioritizes freedom from our own religious and/or philosophical perspective. Each month we discussed one of the five basic freedoms found in the [First Amendment](#) to the U.S. Constitution.

2019 - 20

What makes human beings moral how do we define what is "good/bad" and "right/wrong" in daily life? Scientists contend there are six [moral foundations](#) innate to all human beings, but how we each understand and express them can vary significantly. We focused on a different foundation each month and invited participants to explore the question of morality from their own religious and/or philosophical perspective.

2018 - 19

According to Catholic Monk and interfaith leader Brother Steindl-Rast, joy is "the happiness that does not depend upon what happens." This year we explored how we understand and experience joy from our own religious and/or philosophical perspectives by discussing the qualities of mind and heart that can be stepping stones to joy. The six qualities were suggested by "[The Book of Joy](#)," written by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

