

## **“COMMUNITIES IN CONVERSATION”**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To provide opportunities for a diverse group of people  
with a broad range of religious backgrounds  
to meet, converse, and learn from each other  
so that they may become  
a more informed, cohesive, and compassionate community.

“Communities in Conversation” is a simple idea for a program with powerful potential. Communities can be defined as groups of people living in the same area who have much in common, but who also hold a range of religious and ideological views. The objective of this endeavor includes: building on both intersections as well as divergences to strengthen community and our ability to live together; to learn from each other; and to be enhanced by the richness of our diversity.

“Communities in Conversation” is a network of community-based interfaith study and discussion groups co-sponsored by the Chautauqua Institution and local libraries, in which individuals from different faith communities meet and, in informal discussion based on the readings provided, learn about each other’s beliefs and practices. It has been founded in the confidence that, through study and sincere dialogue, participants of the Abrahamic Faith traditions – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam – will together explore common values as well as differences among their traditions in order to better understand, respect, and appreciate each other’s religious convictions. More than that, it is expected that, by sharing their values, participants will discover ways to act in harmony to address and, hopefully, to ameliorate some of the difficulties that we face in our own communities, as well as those of our common humanity.