

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING WITH EVANGELICALS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
June 6-7, 2016

Members of the National Council of Synagogues participated with other Jewish leaders and with Evangelical pastors and academics in the Eighth Annual National Conversation convened under the co-chairmanship of Rev. David Neff and Rabbi David Sandmel.

The first session of the meeting considered issues of “Faith in the Public Square. Presenters were Dr. Stanley Carlson-Thies and Rabbi David Straus. The second session considered different approaches to the Afterlife, following presentations by Dr. Ruth Langer and Dr. Jay Phelan. Smaller group discussions considered texts from both faith traditions and contemporary issues.

The evening session considered the proposition of “Do We Worship the Same God?” following presentations by Rabbi Saul Berman and Dr. Alan Johnson, followed by small group discussions and reports back to the larger group.

Sessions on June 7 began with a presentation by author Yossi Klein Halevi on The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, with Robert Nicholson as respondent, followed by a session of questions and answers.

The second morning session discussed “How to talk to and about each other’s faith communities, with framing presentations by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine and Dr. Paul de Vries. In smaller group discussions that followed each group was asked to develop lists of goals about Christianity for the training of rabbis, and goals concerning Judaism for the training of Christian clergy.

Afternoon sessions began with framing by Galen Carey and Rabbi Jonah Pesner on the subject of Faith and the Voting Booth. And the closing discussions, introduced by Rabbi Mark Dratch and Mark Galli, discussed “What is Kedusha-holiness?”