Opening Questions

What do you value about the Yamim Noraim? What do you hope to experience on a personal, spiritual level during these days? What impact would you like these days to have on the community?

How do our actions on these days, including preparation during Elul, services, study sessions, and sermons, help to achieve these goals? What, if anything, are the shortcomings of these actions?

How might our values of preserving tradition and acting as part of *K'lal Yisrael* on these holy days come in conflict with our personal search for meaning and spiritual elevation?

On what different levels do you experience prayer? How would you define those levels? How can you make the best use of these different entry points?

What are your personal boundaries concerning making changes to the liturgical text? How do we best communally set boundaries?

How important is it to follow the "traditional" liturgy?

How do we define "traditional," in light of the complex process of liturgical change that occurs over time?

What options do we use to deal with difficult text?

What changes do we permit ourselves to make in order to pray using liturgy that is in line with our values and/or our theology?

What is the process for making change?

How do we balance individual and communal needs in prayer?

What is the role of the rabbi in making decisions, changes, explanations, *kavanot*, teaching, and so on?

What is the value of adding new voices to this process, and how can they take a part?