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 Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the High Holy Days, relate to our spiritual and communal goals? How can we reconcile these goals with the community's needs and values?

How might our values of preserving tradition and acting as part of the Reform Movement be reflected in our liturgical practices during this time?

On what different levels do you experience prayer? How do you define those levels? How can we 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?