

Check the interfaith Calendar

[& turn me over for
10 Commandments for
Religious Inclusivity @ DU]

10 Commandments for Religious Inclusivity @ DU!

CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES



1. Check the interfaith calendar.

2. Don't be a wishful thinker. Strategize changes! What is your strategy for you and your office checking the interfaith calendar as part of your routine event and meeting scheduling processes?

3. Never cite DU's policy that "religious holidays have no official status at DU" as an excuse for being anything less than 110% dedicated to and 110% creative around matters of religious inclusivity.

4. Don't use equality as an excuse for ignoring equity; don't use theoretical concerns for treating everyone equally in every way at every moment across the board without exception, as a way to avoid finding practical solutions that genuinely and actually make DU a more religiously inclusive place.

5. Be a creative problem solver. It might seem that some longstanding DU method or practice or calendaring custom is inviolable; it probably is not! DU creativity helps us revise, revisit, and revision!

6. Do not allow words like "worship" and "religious observance" to limit your sense of religious inclusivity. Life cycles, memory, culture, friends, food, identity, family—holidays are complex parts of the human experience with or without worship or religious observance!

7. Put people over pastry. An Islamic fast day is not a good day for a division-wide pastry party. Honor your co-workers: defer the event.

8. Hanukkah is not Jewish Christmas. Strategize ways to learn more about the many religious traditions celebrated by your DU friends and colleagues!

9. Don't disrespect, disparage or downplay feelings. If something you or your office is saying or doing (or not saying or doing) is making valued members of your DU community "feel excluded," worry about it. And then strategize ways to do things better.

10. Be committed, and say you're sorry when you can't make it work. Commitment does not entail perfection, but if you are committed to greater religious inclusivity at DU, it will make a difference, even if you can't always get ideal outcomes.