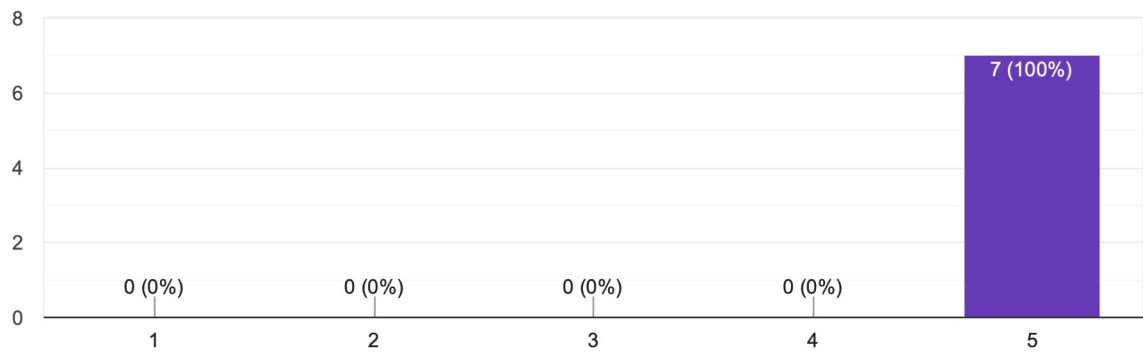


Survey: First Meeting of Respectful Conversations

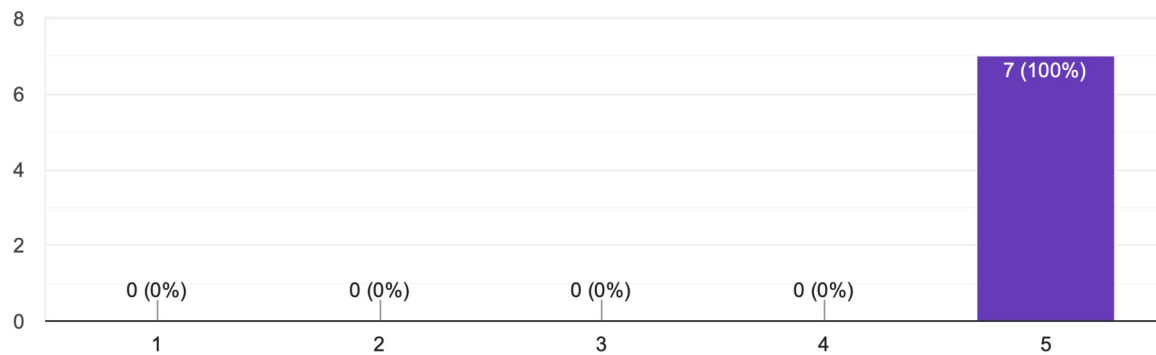
The first session met my expectations

7 responses



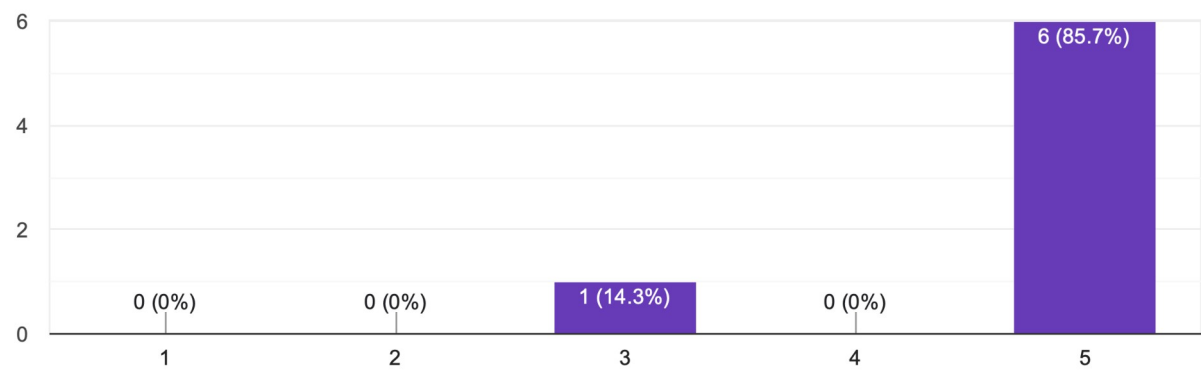
Our first session made me comfortable with expressing my positions to others who may not share my positions.

7 responses



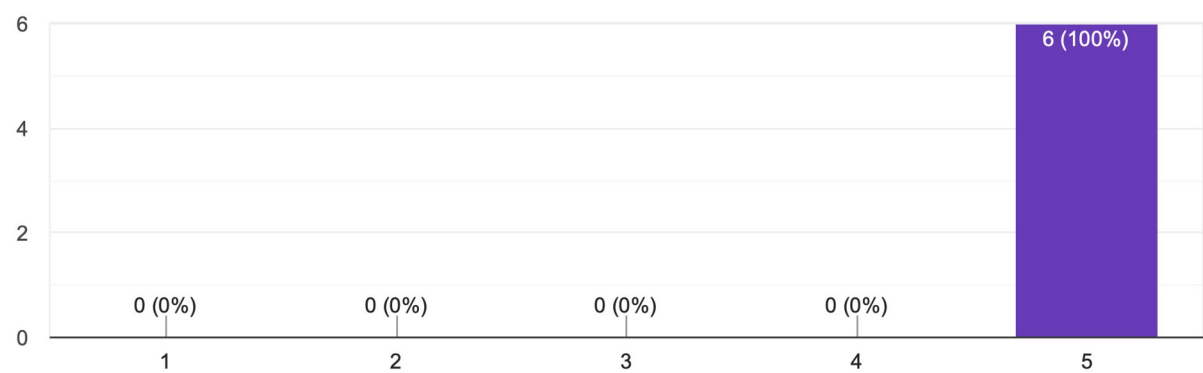
I think these conversations help me appreciate different points of view

7 responses



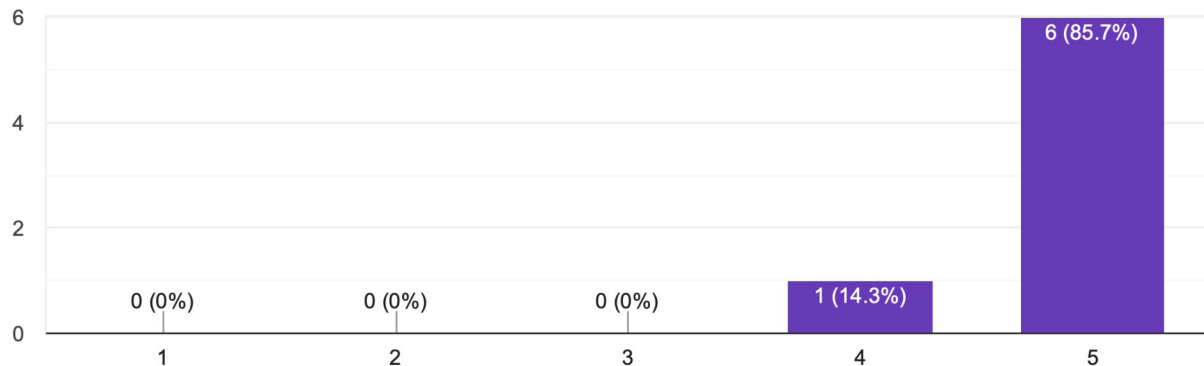
I would like to continue these conversations

6 responses



### I would like to expand these conversations to other people

7 responses



*Please take a few minutes to write your overall response to this project. Do you think it will work? What worked well and what didn't? What might we change for our next meeting? Any ideas on a good way to move this way of understanding each other into our Harrisonburg/Rockingham community? Do you have any suggestions for topics for our next meeting?*

I very much enjoyed it. short enough to not feel boring, well moderated so everyone spoke. I do think we played it pretty safe, speaking only on fundamental values. I'm curious to see what happens when we go into more controversial subjects. I think the pace is good but would want to make sure we didn't move too slowly or shy away from culture war topics after building trust.

The facilitators and participants promoted a relaxed, supportive environment that promoted honest sharing. We didn't get into any controversial social or political issues but that didn't matter. A positive environment and dynamic for future sharing and respectful conversations has been achieved.

Our first meeting went well. The topics discussed gave us a perfect opportunity to introduce ourselves and express our perspectives in a safe and non-judgmental way. I felt the people selected listened and asked good questions after each person spoke.

The way I've been thinking about exporting this to a bigger scale is to have some work or some artifact that can be produced as a result of it. I don't know what this is. even just a story at the end of it about how people changed their views as a result. but it's nice to know we're making something at the end of it.

It might be challenging to find facilitators and organizers for multiple meetings.

I feel this first meeting was successful, but the agenda for the first meeting is not the same as for subsequent meetings. I think we were able to find common ground and to respect and like each other around the table. The next phase will involve easing the conversation into topics where “heated disagreements” are currently prominent in the news and media sources around us. This will be the real challenge. I’m up for it and interested, because I don’t see a way out of our societal predicament without learning to communicate with each other.

I think we will find out the real success of this project in upcoming meetings. Perhaps a topic of conversation for the next step could be around discussing the ways in which our society has become so dichotomized, divided and unable to communicate in many cases. Why is this happening? If we can better understand the forces (presuming they exist) that are working against us all to keep us separated, it may be easier to sidestep their pitfalls.

I would like to see us have another meeting and then to start reaching out to others by forming subgroup meetings for them with a member from our team facilitating.

Ideas for our next meeting might consist of some thoughts and ways to reach out to the Harrisonburg community to improve it and bring people together. One passion I would like address would be ways to better support and help the homeless/families struggling and how we can promote getting them off the streets and to become productive members of our community in a successful way.

This project is what should have been happening at a national stage. We are all people and as such have different beliefs and views. I would like for us to talk about difficult/growing conversations we have had with others that had shaped how we think today.