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***Interfaith Center of New York and Union Theological Seminary
to Host Summer Institute for School Teachers with a
Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities***

The **Interfaith Center of New York** and **Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York** are pleased to announce a new educational program, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In July of 2012, we will host an N.E.H. summer institute for secondary school teachers, entitled ***Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity***. This innovative program will help public, private, and parochial school teachers teach more effectively about the rich religious diversity of the United States.

The three week institute will bring together 30 teachers from throughout the country, to work with leading scholars in religious studies, as well as a wide range of local religious leaders. It will introduce participants to six religious traditions that are part of the fabric of American life, and offer them the pedagogic tools they need to teach their students about contemporary “lived religion,” in addition to the conventional “world religions” curriculum that is currently dominant in American secondary schools. The institute will thus help to transform secondary school religious studies instruction, by empowering teachers to teach about the everyday lives of Americans from diverse religious traditions.

The *Religious Worlds of New York* summer institute grows out of a rich history of collaboration between The Interfaith Center of New York and Union Theological Seminary. Founded in 1997, the Interfaith Center is a secular nonprofit organization that works to foster cooperation among New York’s religious communities and civic institutions, and to educate a range of publics about the religious diversity of the city. Established in 1836, Union Theological Seminary is an independent, multi-denominational seminary that seeks to educate leaders for ministry in churches and related organizations, extend the work of social justice, and enrich the academy through teaching and research.

For more information about the institute see www.religiousworldsnyc.org, or contact Dr. Henry Goldschmidt, Education Program Associate at the Interfaith Center of New York, at hgoldschmidt@interfaithcenter.org or 212-870-3514.