

Rabbi Search Meeting Results

The Rabbi Search meeting on Sunday, Dec. 6th was attended by approximately 80 members of the congregation. The responses to “What are you looking for in a new rabbi?” had a great deal of overlap, so the Community Engagement Committee identified common threads and combined similar responses into 15 clusters of characteristics. By adding up the number of “votes” within each cluster, we were able to form a prioritized list of the most desired qualities for a JCA rabbi.

Please note that:

- no one on the Community Engagement Committee is a statistician
- because we participated in the process we felt that we could reliably interpret the intent of some of the comments (e.g. does a “spiritual leader” put the emphasis on spirituality or leadership?)
- not everyone at the meeting voted for 3 items so the numbers do not add up neatly
- items that were written down--but did not have votes--are recorded, but not included in totals.

If you would like to view the raw data, it is available on the JCA website in two forms. One is a list of all the written responses from the meeting in order of the number of votes they received (“Ranked Feedback”). The other is a listing of responses by cluster (“Clustered Feedback”).

The prioritized list of characteristics (with number of votes) follows:

- Builds community within JCA (30 votes)
- Inspiring spiritual service leader (27 votes)
- Rapport with children (20 votes)
- Charisma (14 votes)
- Scholarly type (14 votes)
- Mensch (13 votes)
- Music (11 votes)
- Social justice (11 votes)
- Emotional maturity (10 votes)
- Open-minded (not an ideologue) (8 votes)
- Administrative skills (6 votes)
- Has their own spiritual practice/depth (6 votes)
- Leadership skills (6 votes)
- Strong educator (6 votes)
- Pastoral counseling (3 votes)

The Community Engagement Committee will continue to solicit your input as the Rabbi search process continues. Please watch for notices about visits from candidates and your opportunities to interact with them as we head into the next few months. In addition, please feel free to use jcarabbisearch@yahoo.com or contact a member of the committee to voice your opinions.