

Letter #3 to the Community on the Rabbi Search Process  
January 9, 2010

Dear JCA Community,

The Rabbi Search Committee has been hard at work. To date, the screening committee has received 16 applications, conducted 9 telephone or Skype and we are likely following up with in-person interviews with at least three rabbi candidates. Those interviews will be taking place over the next month. The candidates include one seasoned rabbi, and others who pursued the rabbinate as a second career after different professions. We are grateful for all of the input from JCA members and the Big Questions committee. It has given us a lens that helps us to identify candidates that we feel will be able to meet the needs of our community.

After the preliminary in-person interviews are complete, we will be at an important decision point. If we have outstanding candidates, we will bring them back to Amherst for weekend interviews that will include their participation in services, meetings with constituent groups, opportunities for teaching adults and interaction with the community, etc. If we feel that the candidates drawn from the Reconstructionist pool do not match our expectations, we will expand our search.

A sub-committee of the Screening Committee, with input from the JCA board, the coordinating committee, the education director and the teen leader have been working to design a format for candidate visits that will provide a broad range of opportunities to meet the candidates and see them in a variety of settings that will hopefully help us to assess their strengths in a variety of rabbinic areas. As soon as we confirm dates for the weekend visits, we will notify you so that you can be an active part of the decision-making process.

The Host Committee, which is engaged in the Rabbi search process, is looking for volunteers to help with the logistics involved with candidate visits to the JCA.

Specifically, we need volunteers for the following:

A. Hosting a candidate in your home for 2-3 nights.

Here are some things we need to consider:

- \*\* pets
- \*\* ability to provide privacy
- \*\* tobacco use
- \*\* some meals (possibly)
- \*\* distance from JCA
- \*\* ability to transport candidate to JCA

B. Helping with transportation:

- \*\* moving candidates to/from the airport
- \*\* in-town transport

C. Sponsoring~Onegs/Kiddushim. Rabbi visits will mean more people attending services which means we'll need more refreshments. The challahs, wine & juice are already taken care of.

\*\* Individuals or groups contributing any amount of food or money to help.

D. Showing candidates around the area (during the weekend visits)

If any of the above sounds like something you'd be willing to help with, please contact either Josette Henschel at 253-0186 or by email at [Josette.Henschel@aic.edu](mailto:Josette.Henschel@aic.edu) or Margaret Mastrangelo at 256-6431 or by email at [mastrangelom@comcast.net](mailto:mastrangelom@comcast.net).

We will continue to keep you updated on the Rabbi Search process. If you have questions, concerns or comments, you can email us at [JCArabbisearch@yahoo.com](mailto:JCArabbisearch@yahoo.com), or call or email any of the members of the steering committee. Names and addresses are listed in the Rabbi Search section of the JCA website ([www.j-c-a.org](http://www.j-c-a.org)) along with past community letters and the details of the community meeting held on December 6, 2009.

Sincerely,

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