

IDAC Review Process

The Israel Discourse Advisory Committee (IDAC) is an ad hoc committee that was appointed by JRC President Steve Simon to support the Israel Discourse Policy and to encourage discussion of Israel-related topics in a manner than is in keeping with the spirit of the Policy. The committee is guided in its work by Steve Simon's Charge to the committee, which states, "The Israel Discourse Committee will be notified of proposed Judea-sponsored Israel-related programming and other matters related to Israel by committee chairs, the rabbi, staff, and volunteer leaders. At its discretion, the Israel Discourse Committee will take up discussion where there is possible conflict with the Israel Discourse Policy, where there is potential for controversy, or where there is an apparent imbalance in programming."

In order to bring programming requests or other Israel-related matters to the committee, a brief written description of the proposed program or other matter may be sent, at any time, to IDAC chair Norm Loewenthal, nloewenthal2@gmail.com. It is recommended that congregants or groups bringing requests to the committee carefully review the Israel Discourse Policy. Relevant supporting material may be included and the committee may also request additional information pertinent to the matter at hand.

Requests for the committee's review can be made at any stage in the planning process, and its input may be especially helpful early on. The committee encourages submission of requests as soon as the general substance of the request has been determined.

However, it should be understood that IDAC retains the responsibility to approve the program or matter in question in its final form. Accordingly, while tentative plans for speakers or other aspects of a program may be suggested, no commitments should be made until the committee's approval of the final iteration is given.

It is important for requests for IDAC's review to be submitted to the committee in a timely fashion, allowing the committee the opportunity for thorough consideration of the request at a face-to-face meeting of its members. Whenever possible, requests should be submitted at least seven days before a scheduled meeting of the committee; Norm Loewenthal should be consulted as to IDAC's planned meeting schedule.

In situations which are time-sensitive and in which exceptional or unanticipated circumstances have precluded timely submission of a request, a special meeting of the committee may be called. Where feasible in time-sensitive situations, the committee may supplement its discussions with interaction through email or telephone conference calls. In all cases, IDAC will consider matters brought to it expeditiously, consistent with careful deliberation. The committee, through its chair, will then convey its decisions in written form as promptly as possible and will include the basis for its decisions in its written communications.