Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation
Congregational Meeting
March 22, 2015


I. Welcome and Call to Order - David Tabak: The meeting was called to order at 1:34pm at 303 Dodge Ave, Evanston, IL.

II. Blessing - Cantor Howard Friedland

III. Bylaws Amendments - David Tabak: On March 11, 2015, the Board approved several changes to the JRC Bylaws related to the size and scope of the Board and now seeks the congregation’s vote of approval. The major changes are:
1. Create a new position of President-Elect to serve for one year. That individual would then become President for two years. The Past President position would be reduced from a two-year term to a one-year term.
2. Eliminate the Board position of Vice President of Operations. A House Committee would continue to work with staff on building issues.
3. Reduce the number of Members-at-Large on the Board from twelve to six.
4. Limit the Member-at-Large position to two consecutive two-year terms.
For details, refer to jrc_bylaw_changes_march_22_2015 which was distributed to the congregation on March 16, 2015.

MOTION (by Linda Mathias Kaskel): It is moved that the congregation accept the changes to the Bylaws to restructure the Presidency sequence for greater transparency and preparation, to eliminate the position of Vice President of Operations, to reduce the number of members-at-large from 12 to six, and to enact term limits for members-at-large. This motion presents changes to the wording of the JRC Bylaws, Articles IV, V, and VI.
The motion was seconded. Discussion ensued.
VOTE: 35 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. MOTION PASSED.
IV. Strategic Planning Update - Barbara Pinzur:

1. 2015-2018 Strategic Plan. This plan, approved by the Board on March 11, 2015, builds on JRC’s 2013-2015 Strategic Plan. Based on input from committees and members, the five goals and related objectives from the previous plan are still relevant and progress continues on them. The new plan adds a sixth goal (to welcome new staff and implement systems to provide congregational support to them) and two new objectives (to ensure that JRC supports the expression of diverse views on all topics, including Israel/Palestine).

2. Mission, Vision, Values Survey. The survey was conducted in the fall, 2014, to frame JRC’s identity moving forward and provide input to our Strategic Plan and rabbinic search. Surveys were completed by 382 adult JRC members, a 46% response rate. Most respondents agreed with JRC’s mission, vision, and most important core values: Tikkun Olam (Repair of the World), Gemilut Hasadim (Acts of Kindness), Limud (Learning), and Simcha (Joy and Celebration). Respondents were split in their agreement on JRC’s Bylaws Article II - Object and Scope, which has been part of the Bylaws since JRC’s original constitution, addresses the purpose of the congregation, and includes a now-controversial reference to the Land of Israel. Time is needed to determine how to thoughtfully address this Article.

3. Forums on the Future. Thirteen small group discussions have been held since January to gather members’ input on our JRC community’s shared future and ideas on how to strengthen JRC. Based on a preliminary review, the themes expressed in these groups align with the goals in our Strategic Plan. Many ideas were suggested, which will be forwarded to the appropriate committees.

V. Adjournment - David Tabak: The meeting was adjourned at 2:24pm.

Barbara Pinzur, Secretary