

Dear Members,

We are writing to provide an update to the membership on the status of the shul's rabbinic search process. The search committee received applications from 17 rabbis and invited 10 of them to participate in 45-minute Zoom interviews. The meetings with these 10 candidates, all of whom are congregational rabbis from across the United States and Europe, were attended by a minimum of 10 members of the search committee at all times, as well as by Bina Faber in her capacity as shul president and *ex officio* member of the committee. These interviews afforded the committee an opportunity to become acquainted with the applicants, with the conversations centering upon their passions, accomplishments in the rabbinate, and sources of inspiration.

The committee recently completed the first round of interviews and has invited 6 rabbis for second-round interviews to be conducted over Zoom. Those conversations, which will probe the applicants' hashkafah, leadership style, and substantive halakhic and public policy positions, will go farther in both breadth and depth.

The committee remains on schedule to complete second round interviews and deliberations by the middle of January, after which it will select 2 or 3 candidates for the membership's consideration. The constitution requires that the search committee report its findings to the board and that candidates be approved by the board before they can be presented to the congregation. The full membership will have an opportunity to hear from and interact with finalists during probas that will be designed in COVID-safe ways and that are currently scheduled to be held in late February and March. Details will follow.

Please do not hesitate to approach any one of us with any questions or concerns you might have, or to email the Committee as a whole at searchcommittee2020@rinat.org.

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