Dear Adat Reyim Community,

The rabbi search process is well underway, as we prepare for the hiring of a new rabbi to begin July 1, 2020. One of the consistent messages we have heard from other synagogues about their own recent rabbi searches is how fortunate we are to have the blessing of time. Rabbi Aft has given us the luxury to take the time to clarify our values, hear from all of our congregants and learn more about what we all collectively need and want in our next spiritual leader. But we are not kidding ourselves… the time will fly by.

The Rabbi Search Committee is committed to being open and transparent about our work and discussions. We know it is imperative that we keep our membership up-to-date on our efforts as well as opportunities to share input and get involved.

At this stage in the process, we have been focused on the following activities:

- Reaching out to rabbis, Jewish institutions, and leaders of other congregations for insights on potential candidates and suggestions for broader outreach strategies. We have learned a great deal.
- Soliciting congregational input on core values of the congregation and primary qualities of our next rabbi through listening sessions and a survey.
- Inviting guest rabbis to lead services and special programs to explore different rabbinic styles, soliciting feedback afterwards.

The Rabbi Search Committee is bringing in rabbis from diverse backgrounds to give congregants a range of experiences. One of the values and strengths of Adat Reyim that is clear from our early focus groups is the appreciation for diversity in Jewish practices. With this in mind, we are committed to providing our membership with an opportunity to experience different approaches to prayer and spirituality taking place in our region and around the country. *(Please note, these guest rabbi visits are not candidate visits.)*

We will be looking for feedback on the visits from Rabbi Tamara Miller (February 1 and 2) the experiential learning session with Rabbi Jake Rubin (April 28) and other opportunities currently in the works. We encourage everyone to attend these events and **please RSVP** to these events so we can be sure to include you when we solicit feedback afterwards.

Please also take a few moments to complete the survey (http://bit.ly/CARsurvey2019) and sign up for one of the 15 Community Focus Groups in February or March (http://bit.ly/CARFocusGroup). We are carefully reading every survey response and reviewing all focus group input. If you are not able to access the survey, please let us know so we can make other arrangements for you to participate. We want to make sure that this process is accessible to everyone.

Our goal is to include every perspective in our congregation in the process and decisions of the search committee. That takes some time and a great deal of work. We have already listened to over 60 members at three group events, as they described what they felt best described Adat Reyim today, and the characteristics of the next Rabbi who would be the best fit for leading our congregation into the future.

Please take a moment to visit the Rabbi Search Committee page on the Adat Reyim website (www.adatreyim.org/rabbisearch). We update it regularly with new opportunities for your engagement in this process, including community focus groups, our detailed survey and upcoming guest rabbi experiences. While you are there, check out the latest FAQs. And if you have more questions, please contact us at rabbisearch@adatreyim.org. Thank you for trusting our committee with this important task.

Sincerely,

Shira Solomon, Executive Vice President
Esther Bland, Rabbi Search Committee Co-Chair

CONGREGATION
Adat Reyim
A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS