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THOMAS ALPERT ☆ RABBI
ANDREW RUBENSTEIN ☆ PRESIDENT
HANA BERMAN ☆ DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

TEMPLE ETZ CHAIM

Dear Friends:

The last four months have been busy ones for Temple Etz Chaim's Rabbinic Transition Committee. Since posting our position with the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) in October, we received seven applications. Based on the size of our congregation and the number of rabbis who are seeking positions according to CCAR, this number is to be expected.

In addition to reviewing candidates' written applications (resumes and personal statements), our review process included 15-minute "get-acquainted" zoom meetings with applicants that was followed by a more extended 90-minute interview for the candidates in whom we were interested. In February two of the candidates – both rabbis with over 20 years experience currently serving congregations – were invited to visit Franklin to meet with the Rabbinic Transition Committee and a small group of other temple members over 1 ½ days. In addition to a "teaching" that each candidate gave to the committee and members of the Board, our interviews were developed and shaped by the congregational survey and focus groups we conducted in the fall.

The committee was enthusiastic about one candidate and with the unanimous approval of the temple's Board of Directors, an offer was extended to this candidate. Unfortunately, this candidate decided to accept an offer from another congregation, largely for personal reasons having to do with proximity to elderly parents and children in college. While this is disappointing news, we saw that we were an attractive and appealing congregation, and in this case the decision involved factors outside of our control. We also unanimously decided not to proceed further with the second candidate who visited.

The committee is now reviewing and moving forward with two of the applications that came in after our initial screening. We understand the selection of our next rabbi is a critically crucial time for our congregation. We are grateful for your support on this sacred journey and look forward to sharing more information with you as we have it.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rubenstein, President, and
Rabbinic Transition Committee

Bill Ferstenfeld & Robert Martin (co-chairs)
Wendy Bierman
Stacy Bushey

Howard Heilweil
Ellen Keith
Alyson Lajeunesse Candace Lyons

Mike Rubin
Richard Shulman
Jayme Solomon-Zissu

חיים היא למחזיקים בהעץ

... IT IS A TREE OF LIFE TO THOSE WHO HOLD IT FAST...

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Rosemary Buja, Executive Secretary ☆ Jim Buja, Clerk
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Ex-officio: Karen Dauer, Sisterhood President