

## **Rabbinic Transition Committee - FAQ**

### **What is RTC?**

RTC stands for Rabbinic Transition Committee.

### **What will the RTC do?**

In response to Rabbi Goldin's announced retirement our congregation will have a new Senior Rabbi. The RTC will work on several issues relating to this rabbinic transition. This committee, through discussion, focus groups and surveys, will identify the issues with which the community is most concerned and will challenge us to define our community going forward. This committee's work will provide the congregation with guidance that will shape the development of Ahavath Torah and the selection of our next spiritual leader.

The RTC was also mandated to create meaningful ways to acknowledge and celebrate Rabbi Goldin's 35 years as leader of CAT and recommend any potential future role for Rabbi Goldin.

### **Will the RTC conduct a search? Is the RTC another name for a "search committee"? Why wasn't a search process mentioned?**

The RTC is NOT a search committee. The RTC will be gathering information as to what our community is looking for in our next spiritual leader. The RTC will do this through focus groups, a detailed survey and other data.

There are several possible outcomes from the focus groups and survey.

Rabbi Poupko will be considered as a candidate for the Senior Rabbi position.

One possible outcome is to hire Rabbi Poupko as our next Senior Rabbi. Another possible outcome is to conduct a formal Rabbinic Search. If Rabbi Poupko is hired as Senior Rabbi, we may still need a search for a new Assistant Rabbi.

### **How will CAT conduct a Rabbinic Search?**

This question is not relevant at this point because there may or may not be a Rabbinic Search (see question above). In theory, if there is a need to conduct a rabbinic search, a Rabbinic Search Committee would be formed, comprised primarily of different members than the RTC.

### **Why is Rabbi Goldin retiring?**

Rabbi Goldin announced his retirement in an email to the congregation on April 6, 2016. Please read that email for Rabbi Goldin's own eloquent words.

### **When is Rabbi Goldin retiring?**

Upon the expiration of his current contract at the end of August 2017.

## **Who are the members of the RTC?**

The committee is chaired by Jeremy Fingerman (Vice President for Finance), Debra Hirsch (Trustee) and Lee Lasher (immediate Past President), and includes the following appointed members: Yehuda Blinder, Kenny Eckstein, Deborah Feuer, Irene Gottesman, Stu Halpern, Michael Harary, Leon Kozak, Jen Lifschitz, Sam Moed, David Muschel, Deena Ottensoser, Drew Parker, Kenny Prager, Harry Reidler, Chana Schwartz, Marc Setton, Shevy Solomon, and Aaron Stein. While each of them contributes significant skill and experience, each is also available to hear your suggestions and concerns.

## **Has CAT engaged the services of a professional?**

Yes. We have retained Rabbi Ronald Schwarzberg, Director of The Morris and Gertrude Bienenfeld Department of Jewish Career Development and Placement at Yeshiva University. Rabbi Schwarzberg is a skilled and experienced professional who has consulted and facilitated similar processes for other synagogues and his biography can be accessed at <http://www.yu.edu/cjf/about/senior-staff/>. It is important to note that, should a search process occur, CAT will not be limited to only candidates with a YU ordination.

## **How can I participate?**

There are several ways:

- Stay up to date by reading the email updates
- Sign up for one of the focus group sessions
- Email your ideas to us at [rtc16@ahavathtorah.org](mailto:rtc16@ahavathtorah.org). Please include your full name when emailing comments to the RTC.
- Participate in the survey

Keep in mind that only members in good standing will be allowed to participate in the process. All questions regarding membership should be directed to our Director of Operations, Melody Sandor. All financial conversations with Melody are confidential. You can email Melody at [MSandor@ahavathtorah.org](mailto:MSandor@ahavathtorah.org).

## **What is the timetable for the various components of the rabbinic transition process?**

The expected timetable is as follows:

- Focus group sessions will take place in June (see the email already sent to the membership with the details and schedule; to date 14 focus group sessions have been scheduled and are available for sign up on a "first come first served" basis). The goal is to have about 250 or more members participate in the focus groups.
- The survey will be sent in July and replies must be completed and returned before early August. The goal is to have all members (in good standing) participate in the survey

-All of the data, congregational input will be analyzed and the RTC expects to make a recommendation to the Officers and Board of Trustees by early Fall.

**Will the Membership get to vote on the hiring of the new Senior Rabbi (whether or not it is Rabbi Poupko or anyone else)?**

Yes, the hiring of any full-time Rabbi requires a membership vote, which would take place at a Membership meeting (voting must be in person and not by proxy or email), and approval by a majority of the members present (to be eligible to vote a member must be in good standing)

**I have a good idea, how can I be in touch?**

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