

**Steering Committee Minutes  
General Session  
August 8, 2017  
6:30 – 9:00 pm**

**Present: Ken Lerner, Janet Byrd, Rachel Pollack, Chris Coughlin,  
Lisa Cordova, Susan Brenner, Rabbi Benjamin, Liz Joffe, Deborah  
Eisenbach-Budner, Julia Lager-Mesulam, Bill Kwitman  
Absent: Aaron Pearlman**

Topic and Report	Action Items- Who is responsible
Welcome to Rabbi Benjamin, intro to steering	
<p><b>Update on Jewish Federation CRC issues and new anti-BDS effort</b> (accompanying doc) Nancy Becker related the history (the Anti-BDS measure that died), then discussed the Statement on Ant-Semitism/Anti-Zionism created by Bob Horenstein that he asked to be presented to the representative congregations Boards/Steering Committees and/or Social Action Committees. Issues with Havurah’s adopting this measure were discussed. Concerns included the focus on university campuses, the limited content, the lack of clarity regarding the mission’s goal, and the recognition that it does not reflect the diversity of opinion in Havurah. It was agreed that such a measure would necessitate devoting a significant amount of time and discussion within the congregation and Steering does not have this as a priority at this time.</p>	<p>Nancy will let Federation know that the topic was discussed and that Havurah is unable to support the measure at this time.</p>
<p><b>Finance report</b> <b>Membership:</b> Janet Byrd advised that although 43 members have not yet renewed, this is still early in the process and we expect more renewals and possible new members after the <b>High Holidays</b>. Also significant is that the percentage of downward dues adjustment has decreased which means we are getting a higher percentage of dues billed. <b>Rabbi Discretionary Fund (RDF):</b> we reviewed a model plan provided by RJF. The group felt this was overly complicated but agreed that giving the Rabbi a RDF checkbook is a good idea, and that someone on Finance, like Lou Jaffe or Aaron Besen would be a good choice to do the annual confidential review. <b>Professional Development Fund (PDF) for Rabbi and Educator:</b> It was agreed that while we believe that professional development should be ongoing, up to 100% of one year’s allowance can be carried over to the next year</p>	<p>Janet will approach Lou Jaffe and/or Aaron Besen to inquire whether they would be willing to do an annual confidential review.</p>

<p>but \$5600 (twice the annual allowance) should be the limit, but if more carryover is needed, Steering can give authority to do so</p> <p><b>Credit cards:</b> It was agreed that credit card slips and requests for reimbursement shall be turned in on a monthly basis. Forms will be provided.</p> <p><b>Time Tracking:</b> Forms will be provided.</p>	<p>Janet and Liz are working on this.</p>
<p><b>DTF update on staffing</b></p> <p>The draft presented was a result in part of recent meetings with Teri, Rachel, Deborah, and Ilene. The goal is to post the job in mid-August. Suggestions were made about revising the announcement (<i>e.g.</i>,) giving Education more prominence. WE are looking for someone who can “See the Big Picture, but Track the Details.” Percentages will be deleted. Deborah advised that this would not be an opportune time to look for someone, but the DTF felt that we could start the process, have the selected person attend the November retreat, and then start in December or January.</p>	<p>The DTF will revise the draft job description based upon discussion and suggestions offered and email the final version prior to posting.</p>
<p><b>Sponsorship requests:</b></p> <p>by Ilene Safyan for musical event in November honoring Leonard Cohen and _____. Approved</p> <p>by Tikkun Olam for DACA. Faith based groups were asked to support State Attorneys General in opposing any action against the “Dreamers.” Approved</p>	<p>Bill will get details</p>
<p><b>Discussion topics:</b></p> <p><b>Format of meeting minutes</b></p> <p>Julia proposed using a standardized format (this is one), Discussions should be summarized. Draft should go out within a week of the meeting for review and comment.</p> <p><b>What do we want from PNW JRC?</b></p> <p>NW Presidents meetings were discussed. Havurah’s presidents find them useful. Not clear what else we want to do with the other NW Congregations, but we will share our newsletters and might possibly co-sponsor out of state speakers.</p> <p><b>Rabbi Benjamin Transition meeting on 9/10:</b></p> <p>Some who received the invitations were not clear about the date, time and purpose.</p> <p><b>Music Committee:</b></p> <p>Change afoot – group will develop guidelines akin to a Long Range Plan</p>	<p>Lead reports should be sent to Teri and appended to the minutes.</p> <p>Bill will resend the invitation along with Wendy Weissman’s generic explanation.</p>
<p>Announcements/Information:</p> <p>Rabbi integration session 9/12/17</p> <p>RJF National Plenum Nov. 15-18, 2018</p> <p>High Holiday greeter sign-up</p> <p><b>Aliyah assignments:</b> Invitations will be sent out</p>	

**Tivnu and the sukkah:**

Tivnu will design and build. Activities in the Sukkah are already being planned