



If you were unable to attend the March 1st & 2nd focus group meetings on the rabbinic search process and would like to be heard, please email your responses to the following Focus Group Questionnaire to rabbisearch@harshalom.org or deliver your responses to Congregation Har Shalom.

We need your responses by Friday, March 6, 2009. We are now drafting a strategic vision for the rabbinic search process. We will share that document with the Har Shalom community and with each rabbinic candidate whom we interview in person.

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE

Adult Education

- What do you want from the adult education program offered at the synagogue?
- What is the senior rabbi's role in adult education?
- How can the rabbi facilitate greater participation by congregants?
- What should the rabbi's role be in educating non-Jewish spouses or in conversion activities?

Worship

- Describe the level of observance you expect the rabbi to have.
- Describe the amount of English you want in the regular services.
- What are some current political topics that would be appropriate for the rabbi to include in sermons?
- What are some current social topics that would be appropriate for the rabbi to include in sermons?
- How do you expect the rabbi to strengthen the bonds of the congregation through pray and ritual?
- What traits or practices of the rabbi would encourage greater attendance at Shabbat services?
- What traits or practices of the rabbi would encourage greater attendance at non High Holiday services?
- What should be the rabbi's responsibility for training/mentoring bar mitzvah students?
- Do you want musical instruments to be part of the services?
- Should havarium (small lay lead services) be held concurrent to regular services?
- Is the rabbi's singing voice important? Why?

Youth Education and Programming

- How do you expect the rabbi to interact with ECEC?
- How can the rabbi aid in the retention of families after the children leave the ECEC?
- How can the rabbi encourage ECEC non-member families to join?
- How can the rabbi inspire our youth and motivate them to continue their Jewish education after their Bar Mitzvah?
- What are your expectations for the rabbi's involvement in Kadima and Keshet youth groups, e.g., post bar/bat mitzvah, at Har Shalom?
- What are your expectations regarding the rabbi's involvement in preparing Bar Mitzvahs?

Social Action

- How do you expect the rabbi to be involved in advocating for social action within the synagogue?
- How do you expect the rabbi to be involved in advocating for social action within community at large?
- What are the specific social issues you expect the rabbi to advocate for?
- Is the rabbi's specific belief regarding the land for peace in Israel relevant in the selection process?

Membership

- What should the rabbi's role be in building membership?
- How should the rabbi work to build our membership role?
- What traits should the rabbi pose to build membership?
(Please answer with traits other than the obvious: Energetic, Inspirational, Learned, Motivational, Excellent Orator)
- How should the rabbi help to ensure that fresh leadership is available?

Finances

- What do you expect the rabbi's role to be in ensuring financial sustainability of the synagogue?
- What endowment programs should the rabbi champion for?
- What role should the rabbi have in developing the annual budget?

Facilities

- Are specific upgrades need to the chapel and Burk Sanctuary?
- Are accessibility upgrades needed?
- How should the Gordon Sanctuary be revitalized?
- What facility changes does ECEC need to be attractive?
- What other facility changes do you feel are necessary to improve the overall appearance of Har Shalom?

Other

- Are there any *other* areas of growth that you feel we should focus on for Har Shalom?
- How can our next rabbi help us achieve these goals?