



Greetings from the Rabbi Search Committee:

August 24, 2011

After Rabbi Marc Sirinsky resigned his position, the following seven members of Temple Emek Shalom (TES) have been asked, per the Temple ByLaws, to volunteer their services to participate in the newly formed Rabbi Search Committee: Ben Bloom, Sasha Borenstein, Bonnie Frol, Sharon Gell, Michael Schames, Wendy Werthaiser, and myself, Judd Robbins.

We are considering all possible steps to take to ascertain our members' interests, inclinations, desires, and ideas. Our intention is to accept suggestions from anyone (member or otherwise) whose inputs are offered, and in some cases, sought by us for their known experience and knowledge in similar searches. I am writing to encourage your participation. We will hear everyone who wants to have a voice in the process, preferably by email to me at [judd@juddrobbins.com](mailto:judd@juddrobbins.com). However, if you are uncomfortable with that approach, you may speak with any of the Committee members.

Our Committee's intent is to fully understand and represent everyone's concerns and contributions to the selection of our next rabbi. No person's point of view will be ignored. We see ourselves solely in an organizational and facilitating capacity. We will perform the necessary research into how to seek a new rabbi and how to most effectively collect, assess and prioritize our current members' opinions. Subsequently, we will analyze the results, considering the overall goals of the Temple and the expressed needs of our members. With your ongoing help, we will blend everything into a well considered process for rabbi discovery and selection.

Importantly, we will do all of this in a transparent way, revealing on a regular basis our progress, and offering congregants the opportunity to further influence the process through open meetings as well as individual contacts. As we formulate specifics, we will contact you regularly so you will realize what we are doing and how things are going.

This Committee is interested in assessing individual goals, desires, and needs, and combining them with everyone else's inputs to assess the overall factors to consider in the choices for a new Rabbi. We will emphasize objectivity, fairness, and balance in this Rabbi Search Process. If confidentiality is a concern, you may mail unsigned suggestions to the 'Rabbi Search Committee' at Temple Emek Shalom.

Members at Temple Emek Shalom are sometimes known as 'family units' when there are multiple partners or children. Everyone in those units is welcome to offer their opinions. You may share my email address with everyone in your family unit. Please suggest to them that we are truly interested in everyone's opinions about our next Rabbi. From the point of view of our future and the long term growth of our Temple Community, we are also interested in the opinions of others in the Rogue Valley who may be interested in joining or rejoining our Temple. I encourage you to ask former members of TES who may be interested in returning, and non-members from the Community at large, to email me to express their thoughts on this matter. What sort of Temple or Rabbi would encourage them to return or to possibly join?

I'll be back in touch with everyone as our Committee's endeavors progress.

L'Shalom and Thank You,

Judd Robbins,  
Committee Chairman

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