

From Strength to Strength

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What's the timeline on the search for two new rabbis?

A: A senior rabbi search committee will be appointed next spring. We will also undertake a search for a new assistant rabbi to join our talented clergy team. We will share additional details of these searches as plans progress.

Q: What will Rabbi Robbins' status as Rabbi-in-Residence look like?

A: As Rabbi-in-Residence from July 1, 2027, to June 30, 2028, Rabbi Robbins will be teaching and assisting the new senior rabbi and clergy team as needed.

Q: What will the departure of our two rabbis mean for Temple membership?

A: Temple Emanu-El is stronger than ever. We have a dynamic team of remaining clergy and a 153-year-old legacy of strong lay leadership. We are confident that our membership will welcome new clergy in true Temple style, with warmth, curiosity, excitement and ongoing support.

Q: Rabbi Stern and Rabbi Robbins have built up so many wonderful relationships over the years. Who will be there for us now?

A: We understand that saying good-bye to a beloved retiring rabbi represents a loss. As you wish Rabbis Stern and Robbins a fond farewell, we encourage you to find opportunities to get to know our other outstanding and experienced clergy, all of whom will be incredible assets to provide continuity and care for our congregation. Additionally, please contact Meredith Pryzant, MSW, Director of Pastoral Support, if you'd like to speak to someone about the clergy transition or other situations for which you may need help.

Q: What are the criteria for selecting a new senior rabbi?

A: In January, we're beginning a series of conversations called Sharing Our Strengths. These will be opportunities to enable our congregants to express their views on Temple, today and in the future, and the role of the senior rabbi. These conversations will help shape the content of the job description and the search and transition processes.

Q: How should we respond if we are contacted by or on behalf of a possible senior rabbi candidate?

A: Please thank the person for their interest and let them know it will be conveyed to President Sara Albert.

Q: Are current Temple clergy members being considered for the job?

A: The job will be open to all qualified internal and external candidates. We are 100 percent committed to the integrity of a fair and thorough search process.

Q: Temple is searching for two other positions right now. What effect will that have on Temple life?

A: Searches are currently underway for the Assistant Cantor and the director of the Karla & Larry Steinberg Center for Jewish Learning, in addition to planning for the Senior Rabbi process. Temple is fully dedicated to taking the time to find the right candidates for these roles and is prepared to coordinate successful simultaneous searches. We expect no disruptions in the workings of Temple and look forward to our community coming together for Shabbat, holidays, life cycle events, community events, MAC performances, adult and youth learning opportunities, social justice and all the other wonderful aspects of Temple life.

Q: Are you accepting volunteers to help plan the celebrations?

A: Yes, volunteers contribute meaningfully to Temple planning and celebrations. We will be sure to communicate volunteer opportunities during the planning process.