

Dear Members of Temple Solel,

As you may be aware, the leadership of Temple Solel has been diligently working to ensure the continuity of our spiritual guidance during the transition period between the retirement of our beloved Rabbi in June, 2025 and the selection of a permanent senior Rabbi. After careful consideration and consultation with the URJ and various other congregations, the Board approved the engagement of an interim Rabbi during this transition phase. The best practice among synagogues with long-serving Rabbis is to hire an interim Rabbi.

We sincerely appreciate Rabbi Linder and his exceptional service over the past 17 years. In addition to expressing our gratitude, we also want to emphasize that your input and involvement in the future of our congregation are of utmost importance. The Community Research Task Force has been conducting small group conversations to understand what is important to you for the future of our congregation. If you want to participate and haven't been invited yet, please send an email to [research\(@\)templesolel.org](mailto:research(@)templesolel.org)

The interim Rabbi will serve as a compassionate and knowledgeable presence within our community, working closely with Rabbi Stiel, Cantorial Soloist Todd Herzog and the senior staff, offering spiritual guidance, leading services and providing pastoral care. The search for the interim Rabbi will begin this summer, and our goal is to identify an individual who possesses the necessary qualities to meet the diverse needs of our congregation. The appointment of an interim Rabbi will be for one (1) year. The interim Rabbi will maintain the continuity of our religious practices and ensure that our community remains vibrant and supportive during this time of change.

The interim Rabbi search process will involve carefully considering candidates who possess the necessary qualifications, experience, and compatibility with our congregation's values and needs. Becky Lieberman will chair the interim Rabbi search committee. The committee will conduct interviews, review resumes and references, and seek input from various stakeholders to make an informed decision.

Together, let us continue to support one another, embrace the changes ahead and uphold the vibrant spirit of Temple Solel. Your commitment to our community is deeply valued, and we are confident that by working together, we will emerge from this transition period just as vibrant as ever.

We will keep you informed about the progress of the interim Rabbi search and provide updates on any significant developments.

May our shared journey be blessed with peace, wisdom and continued spiritual growth.

With warm regards,
Eve Danoff, Board President

We have put together the following information to help our congregation with questions regarding the process of moving forward to find a new senior Rabbi. If you have additional questions, please feel free to email me at edanoff(@)templesolel.org

When is Rabbi Linder retiring?

- Rabbi Linder will be retiring as Temple Solel's senior Rabbi at the end of June 2025, when he will become Rabbi Emeritus. The Board of Trustees has approved a search for an interim Rabbi to lead Temple Solel for 1 year.

Are there any retirement events being planned?

- Over the following year, there will be events to celebrate Rabbi Linder and he will be honored at Solelebration in February.

Why are we searching for an interim Rabbi rather than a permanent Rabbi?

- Based on input from the URJ, the best practice among synagogues with long-serving Rabbis is to hire an interim Rabbi to give the congregation time to reassess its values and process the change of spiritual leadership before searching for a permanent, senior Rabbi. An interim Rabbi has special training in transition management and organizational change.

How long will the interim Rabbi serve, and might they become the settled Rabbi?

- The interim Rabbi will serve for one year and will not be eligible for the settled senior Rabbi position.

What are we looking for in an interim Rabbi?

The interim Rabbi will perform Rabbinic functions of the synagogue, including leading services, supporting life cycle events, providing pastoral care and engaging in educational programming in collaboration with Rabbi Stiel and Cantorial Soloist Todd Herzog.

Is Rabbi Stiel interested in becoming our next senior Rabbi?

- Rabbi Stiel has expressed her interest in remaining the Associate Rabbi and will continue to be an integral part of our clergy team.

What is the benefit of having an interim Rabbi for our congregation?

An interim Rabbi allows our congregation to adjust to having a new spiritual and congregational leader. The transition period will allow our congregation to reflect on our vision for the future of Temple Solel and establish our search criteria to ensure the Rabbi we select will be the best possible fit for our community.

What is the process for selecting an interim Rabbi?

- The Interim Search Committee works on behalf of the congregation to select a candidate who best represents the needs and desires of the congregation. Becky Lieberman will chair our search committee. The committee will prepare the application, review resumes and conduct interviews. Once a candidate is selected, the search committee makes a recommendation to the Board.