

**YOUNGSTOWN CONGREGATIONAL COLLABORATION IMPLEMENTATION
COMMITTEE (YCCIC)**

Meeting Minutes June 8, 2021

Call to Order: Mark Huberman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. via zoom.

Present Were:

Mark Huberman
Elliot Legow
Lee Burdman
Jack Kessler
Sam D. Roth
Harriet Schor
Aaron Hively
Beverly Nathan
Brigitt Berk
Richard Shapiro
Samie Winick
Mark Zeidenstein
Andy Lipkin, Ex Officio
Susan Schwebel Epstein, Ex Officio

Absent:

Alvin Weisberg, Ex Officio

- 1. Governance/Organizational Structure Sub-Committee Report:** Mark Huberman reported that his Sub-Committee held its 6th meeting on May 27th at which they reviewed all of the suggested names for the new Congregation that have been received from the community and also reviewed a Wikipedia list of the names of all Congregations in the U.S. There were only two that the Sub-Committee felt had promise, those being “Am Echad” and “Ohev El Sholom”. After a brief discussion, the Committee was unanimous in recommending the new name be “Congregation Ohev El Sholom”, a name that would honor our constituencies and history. Each member of the Committee was asked to offer their preference for the new name, and the support for “Congregation Ohev El Sholom” was approved by all with a stipulation that the letterhead of the new Congregation reference the fact that it is the collaboration of all four Congregations. The only remaining work for this Committee would be developing a detailed Resolution of Consolidation for each Board and Congregation to approve.
- 2. Ritual, Artifacts and Education Sub-Committee Report:** Elliot Legow reported that the 16 member Clergy Search Sub-Committee has been meeting every week and a half

and have been talking through the qualities the new Congregation will want in a Rabbi, completing the CCAR Application focusing on the new Congregation's needs and issues. Booker Kessler noted that the primary requirement of the Committee is to find a Rabbi who is flexible and responsive to the needs of our diverse community. In response to a question from Mark Huberman, Booker and Elliot reaffirmed that, from the outset, it has been the intention of the Ritual Committee that the new Congregation will have a Friday Reform Service and a Saturday Conservative Service.

- 3. Finance/Building Sub-Committee Report:** Lee Burdman reported that his Sub-Committee met last Tuesday evening and reviewed a proposed checklist of factors to be weighted by committee members to help guide their decision on recommending which building should house the new Congregation. He is still waiting for two members of the Committee to complete their survey after which he will compile a total score. He is also expecting the report from Architect Rich Yankel who accompanied most members of the Committee on tours of all three buildings on May 12th. Mark Zeidenstein and Alan Mirkin who missed the initial tour, toured the buildings late last week. In order to propose a budget, Lee Burdman has received additional accounting information from HD Davis and he is working to digest the same for the Committee.
- 4. Community Response to the Consolidation Process:** Mark Huberman noted that there appear to be pockets of opposition to the consolidation process in various quarters and asked each member of the Committee to offer suggestions on the best way to overcome the opposition and build support for the process. He suggested that one option might be for the Tri-Chairs of the Committee request a special meeting of each Temple Board where they can answer any and all questions. Most members were in agreement that the choice of building will remain a major obstacle to consolidation and that maybe more time needs to be taken in the in building community support for the ultimate selection. Other members suggested we might want to consider preserving more than one building as a way of assuaging congregational feelings. Elliot Legow shared a proposed one to two page "Why Now" fact sheet that should be prepared for the Board of each Temple documenting the imperative of consolidation in terms of the decline in membership and dues income and the continuously rising deficits. After lengthy discussion during which each Committee member was asked to share their thoughts on the various proposed strategies, it was agreed that:

 1. A special meeting of each Temple Board with the Tri-Chairs of the Committee is not needed at this time.
 2. A "Why Now" Fact Sheet as suggested by Elliot Legow should be developed for each Temple and that the Fact Sheets should be shared with all of the Temple Boards.
 3. The Committee should stick with the current timetable of having a full consolidation plan including the building recommendation by the July 8, 2021, Town Hall.

4. At the Town Hall, the Committee will field questions and solicit community input about the recommended Consolidation Plan with a commitment to those present and participating that the Committee will convene after the Town Hall to consider any appropriate changes to the Plan.
5. Lee Burdman agreed to promptly schedule additional meetings of his Finance and Building Sub-Committee to finalize their recommendation as to which building should house the new Congregation.
6. An additional meeting of this full committee will be set for Sunday June 20, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the Finance and Building Committee recommendations.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.