

# Congregational Meeting



**February 24, 2022**

**This meeting is being recorded**

# Agenda

- I. Welcome - John Spera, Temple Israel President
- II. Presentation - Rabbi David Komerofsky
  - What We Know
  - Where We Are
  - Where We Are Going
- III. Questions (using the chat function or email [rabbi@templeisraelcanton.org](mailto:rabbi@templeisraelcanton.org))

**NOTE: This is not the appropriate venue for reporting incidents or making accusations or defenses.**
- IV. Conclusion

# What We Know

- We must acknowledge the complexity and pain of this situation.
- Our duty is to the congregation.
- Navigating the organizations and reports – Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)
- Union for Reform Judaism independent report came out Thursday and is what triggered our present conversation.
- Central Conference of American Rabbis ethics investigation into Rabbi Adland specifically was done in 2017-2018 for incidents alleged to have occurred between 2005-2010 before he came to Temple Israel in Canton. The leadership of the congregation at the time did what it believed what was right – knowing what we do now it would certainly have been handled differently.
- As far as we can tell, when Rabbi Adland was hired in Canton there were no known accusations against him.
- We do not know of any incidents in Canton that rise to the level of what was in the URJ-commissioned report or the CCAR ethics investigation.
- We do have an obligation **now** to ensure that any potential victims are able to make their reports (more on that later).

# Where We Are

- Rabbi Adland is no longer an emeritus at Temple Israel – that is a title of honor. He is a former rabbi of the congregation.
- I have asked the Adlands to absent themselves from the congregation while we do our work. We need time and distance if we are to have any hope of a future reconciliation and t'shuvah (repentance) process.
- Time and distance, along with transparency and swift action, are our best chance to navigate this difficult experience fairly and justly.
- We are sharing this information widely because to do otherwise would be to perpetuate the unhealthy secrecy that allows these problems to continue. At a bare minimum, the restrictions placed on Rabbi Adland's work should have been made known more widely.
- Again, the leadership of the congregation at each point in this process did what it believed to be right. I have not discovered any intentionally misleading or improper activities on the part of Temple Israel's volunteer leadership.

# Where We Are Going

- Collaboration with the URJ, CCAR and congregations in Indianapolis and Lexington to collect reports via the CCAR Ethics Committee and/or the independent law firm engaged by the URJ.
- Time and distance.
- This is a painful moment for all involved. It is also the time for anyone who has information to share that information with the appropriate parties.
- No secrets, no gossip, no speculation.
- What do we do next? If you know something, report it. It's the only way things change.
- At the appropriate time, we will share widely what is found **and** if nothing is found.
- All of this is to ensure that we do better in the future than we have done in the past.
- Finally...

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# Welcome to Temple Israel



## Release of Ethics Investigation Report

**Update on Ethics Investigation**

Earlier this year, the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) retained Debevoise & Plimpton, a leading law firm, to conduct an independent, comprehensive, and impartial investigation into sexual harassment, abuse, and misconduct. This included anything experienced or witnessed at URJ workplaces, summer camps, and programming, including all youth programming. The URJ has released the report and it names one of Temple Israel's former rabbis. Temple Israel is committed to ensuring that we address this most serious matter.

Any additional reports of misconduct should be directed to one or both of the following: CCAR Ethics Committee – [ethics@ccarnet.org](mailto:ethics@ccarnet.org) (third party reporting is acceptable), Debevoise & Plimpton – [URJinvestigation@debevoise.com](mailto:URJinvestigation@debevoise.com)

Temple Israel website  
[www.templeisraelcanton.org](http://www.templeisraelcanton.org)

CCAR Ethics Committee  
[ethics@ccarnet.org](mailto:ethics@ccarnet.org)

URJ-engaged independent law firm  
[URJinvestigation@debevoise.com](mailto:URJinvestigation@debevoise.com)

# Questions?

- It is not possible to have a verbal conversation with this many people
- Use the chat function in Zoom (at the bottom of the screen) or email Rabbi David Komerofsky at [rabbi@templeisraelcanton.org](mailto:rabbi@templeisraelcanton.org)
- **NOTE: This is not the appropriate venue for reporting incidents or making accusations or defenses.**