

Rabbi Small's Report to the Board of Trustees Activities and Key Actions July/August 2023

- Offer weekly **sermons and *divrei Torah*** talks to bring the meaning of the Torah and all Jewish wisdom to bear on the vital issues of our lives.
- **Pastoral support and counsel:**

Listen; provide guidance to Emanuel members who face challenges. Give people a sense of hope and that they are not alone in their situation. Assist congregants to access resources and get the help they need. Participate with members in special remembrance on the 25th anniversary of the death of their son. Help plan and conduct end of life blessings, funerals and shivas.
- **Visit congregants** at home and in hospital and rehab and long-term care facilities; deliver lap blankets created by the Emanuel Caring Committee.
- **Advocate and Confer with Lebed Committee** to present two cases of young people who can benefit from monetary support to help them obtain mental health services.
- **Work at Ramah.** Serve "on assignment" on the Lakefront (Agam) at Camp Ramah in New England June 26-July 9. Interact with Emanuel campers and staff, train lifeguards to serve as swim instructors, organize learning materials available to the Agam Staff for teaching various ages.
- **Plan High Holy Days services.**
 - With Hazzan Risman and Hazzan Pinchover, create detailed, page-by-page outline of each Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur service, identify honors to be offered by the Honors Committee (Ken Simon and Jeff Adler).
 - With clergy and staff, plan a wide array of services and celebratory experiences for the Tishrei Season.
- With clergy and staff, conduct detailed review of times and locations of every service during the High Holy Day and Tishrei Yom Tov season.
- With Reesa Olins, Kobi Benita and Lisa Lenkiewicz, prepare communication for High Holy Day tickets and Kol Nidre Appeal.
- Prepare Yizkor Book service section; coordinate Selichot times and location.
- **Advise Torah Renewal Committee:** Support efforts of Tamar Margolis, Randie Fierberg and the Committee to recruit a new sofer/Scribe, (Rabbi Hale) plan his initial visits and evaluations of our scrolls, and assist in planning our Simchat Torah Kick-off event for the Sacred Legacy: Up Close and Personal with the Torah campaign.

- **Levin Sukkah Upgrade:** Participate in planning for Levin Sukkah renovations and upgrades. Participate in design planning for FEMA security measures and other improvements for our green space/"back yard" area.
- **Conduct Personal Membership outreach:** Confer with Executive Director Kobi Benita and President Reesa Olins to focus on member retention;
 - meet an unhappy household at their home,
 - reach out by phone to multiple families to encourage them to maintain membership and to help clear up misunderstandings or hurt feelings. Help our members feel valued.
- **Support new member recruitment.**
 - With clergy, staff, Connections Coordinator Josh Cohen and Membership Vice President Michalee Merritt, plan further outreach to help bring more prospective members into the congregation.
 - Meet with perspectives at Emanuel, offer tours and personal meetings, drop in at "Kibitz and Nosh," offer welcome at Shabbat services and daily minyan.
- **Advise Emanuel's Israel-related efforts.** With the Israel Affairs Committee, define goals for the coming year to promote stronger connections between our Emanuel members and the people and State of Israel.
- **JT Connect Plans:** With Director of Teen and Family Learning Barbara Fink, plan with Jewish Teen Connection Director Caroline Poland for the coming year. Negotiate the addition of a key Teen Philanthropy initiative to be offered on site at Emanuel this coming year. Plan courses I will teach to the Teens.
- **B'nai Mitzvah preparation/coaching:** coach Bar/Bat mitzvah students to prepare and present original d'var torah talk; advise parents as they plan honors, celebrations and prepare their own comments.
- **Year-long advance planning.** With clergy and staff, plan the entire school year 2023-2024 calendar including major holiday events and celebrations, special Shabbatot, Friday night services and dinners and other community-building activities.
- **Prepare for Resnick Fellowship:** With Student Hazzan Max Silverstone, Hazzan Risman, Barbara Fink and Dr. Regina Miller, plan his participation as a JTS Resnick Fellow for the coming school year.
- **Religious School Support:** With Director of Teen and Family Learning, Barbara Fink, plan my Seventh Grade classroom instruction and with Barbara and Hazzan Daniella Risman, plan Family Education sessions for Grades 6 and 7.
- **Tisha b'Av Participation:** Assist in scheduling combined services for the 9th of Av reading of Aicha (lamentations) and joint Minha Service. Offer a prayer to conclude the Erev 9 Av Service at B'nai Tikvah Shalom.