

Job Description

Interim Rabbi for the Woodstock Jewish Congregation (WJC), Woodstock, NY

Our full-time rabbi since the congregation's inception over 35 years ago, Jonathan Kligler, will be retiring at the end of June 2022. He has been a beloved and respected leader of the WJC and will be missed.

As a congregation in transition, we are looking for an interim rabbi who shares our values of being an inclusive, caring, and egalitarian community. Our interim rabbi will provide continuity for the period of July, 2022 through June, 2023 and will guide, support, and encourage us as we create a clear/new vision of how we want to grow and who we want to lead us as our next settled rabbi. The interim rabbi will not be a candidate for the settled rabbi position.

We are committed to maintaining our loving character by treating all people with care and respect, and to fostering our connection with the state of Israel and Jews around the world. We draw from all streams of Jewish practice. Men and women have an equal opportunity to participate in bringing forth our goals.

In addition to leading our discernment process, we need an interim rabbi to fulfill the basic responsibilities of being our rabbi:

- Lead Shabbat and holiday services
- Support life cycle events including weddings, funerals, B-Mitzvah
- Provide pastoral care
- Engage in youth and adult education and programming
- Work with staff, the board, and committees

To achieve our goals it will be necessary for the interim rabbi to facilitate meetings and listen to the congregation as we express our needs, frustrations, desires, and concerns about the departure of our long term rabbi and ascertain the qualities we seek in our next settled rabbi. The interim rabbi will guide us in creating the job description for the new rabbi and will assist us in the search process.

An ideal candidate will have most or all of the following qualifications:

- Experience as a congregational rabbi
- Experience as an interim rabbi
- Training in interim congregational leadership
- Be a skilled listener with the ability to facilitate reflection and discussion
- Ability to quickly form relationships with the adults, teens, and children in our community
- Ability to foster a sense of continuity as the congregation moves forward
- Be a service leader with presence and musical talents
- Be comfortable with multi-access (hybrid) services
- Willingness to live in the Mid-Hudson Valley for the year

We welcome candidates of all gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, nationalities, ages, marital or family status, and levels of ability.

To learn more about our vital, diverse, and creative congregation, please visit our website, www.wjcshul.org. Please send a cover letter and resume to transition@wjcshul.org