



## **What is changing?**

We're shifting our concept of belonging to promote growth and sustainability of our community. To do so, we are changing the model for congregants to make their annual financial commitment to Makom Solel Lakeside. We are calling this the *Community Commitment*. Each year, we will ask you to make a values-based commitment to help us financially sustain our community and all that we offer. This single financial commitment to the community covers all that Makom Solel Lakeside offers, including *Lev Learning*. We hope that this will help us strengthen and build our community, while creating a greater sense of belonging for congregants.

## **Why is this change being made?**

Based on national and local trends, we know that a traditional dues model can be a barrier to affiliation with a congregation. Moreover, the current model no longer reflects our values of transparency and empathy or our goal for simplicity. We hope that by removing these barriers, many families will choose to join or remain with our community and take advantage of the lifelong opportunities for learning and growth.

While this model is new to Makom Solel Lakeside, variations of it have been adopted at many congregations over the past decade. What will set Makom Solel Lakeside apart is the elimination of separate religious school fees for Lev Learning. This will better align with our values, and the emphasis that Judaism has always placed on education.

## **What's not changing?**

At Makom Solel Lakeside we will continue to do what we have always done, and that is to serve as a sacred community for our congregants. The wide range of worship, music, learning, social justice, and community programs will not change. As in the past, we ask for each household to make an annual financial commitment, and as before, that commitment will remain confidential. We continue to value and encourage all members of our community to make an impact on the congregation by giving of their time, talent, and skills as volunteers and lay leaders.

## **Is the community commitment voluntary? How do I determine my community commitment amount?**

The commitment is not voluntary. We hope that no matter your personal or household situation, you will find a meaningful *Community Commitment* that represents your ability to support the needs of Makom Solel Lakeside. The specific amount of the commitment will be up to you.

## **What will my community commitment cover?**

Your *Community Commitment* will offer you and your family members access to the entire depth and breadth of all that Makom Solel Lakeside offers. This includes the ability to attend worship services, including High Holiday tickets for members of your household; access to music programming and concerts; access to Lev Learning regardless of the number of children enrolled, as well as access to our Adult Education classes and all other programming and services unless otherwise noted.

## **What additional fees will I be asked or required to pay?**

The *Community Commitment* is intended to cover nearly all regular programming. We will continue to have additional fees for B'nai Mitzvahs and special events (e.g., trips, dinners). As with any not-for-profit, we will continue to regularly solicit funds and encourage donations to Makom Solel Lakeside.

## **How will enrollment in Lev Learning change?**

Our new financial commitment to the community covers all that Makom Solel Lakeside offers, including Lev Learning. Registration for Lev Learning will be included in the Community Commitment enrollment. Once families have made their Community Commitment they will be able to register for Lev Learning. Both enrollments will be located on one form for ease of access.

## **What will be the impact of this change?**

We expect the financial impact will at least be revenue-neutral and hope that it might be slightly positive in the short-term. In the long-term, we hope that this change will encourage more households to stretch their giving to support our community, create more on-ramps to the congregation, and will result in the growth of

our community. Notably, we are making this transition from a position of strength. Financially, we have no debt and are blessed to have an endowment that helps defray a portion of our annual costs.

### **Who do I talk to if I have questions or concerns?**

We encourage you to view our pre-recorded 'Fireside Chat' on our YouTube channel for a comprehensive explanation of this change. If you would like to speak to someone directly, you can reach out to our Executive Director, Holly Krakow at 847.433.3557 ([Hkrakow@mymakom.org](mailto:Hkrakow@mymakom.org)) or our president, Ross Erlebacher ([president@mymakom.org](mailto:president@mymakom.org)).