

Chadash Exploratory Process
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Drafted September 2020

1. Has a decision to join the synagogues already been made?

No. While there is a tentative vision for a partnership, we are undertaking an exploratory process to test and confirm that vision is mutually beneficial.

2. Will I still have access to my Rabbi?

Yes. Both Rabbi Camras and Rabbi Vogel will continue to provide support for their members. As is true now, they and other clergy will be present for congregants at lifecycle events, to provide pastoral care, and in regular course of synagogue life. Specific details around programs and ritual are still being explored by the subcommittees.

3. How will my status as a member of my synagogue change?

The vision, as currently discussed, is to preserve and unite the memberships of both congregations. The joint synagogue will still allow ample opportunity to connect with the other members and families you know, while also allowing for building relationships between the congregations and with the broader Jewish community in the West Valley.

4. How will this change the identity of the synagogues?

The intended goal is to preserve what both congregations love about their synagogues, while also creating a wider array of options for how members and families can engage with Jewish spiritual life. While this partnership will entail change, the intention is to honor and maintain the traditions at the heart of both organizations that generate the shared purpose and experiences we know our members so greatly value.

5. What is the role of The Jewish Federation in this exploratory process?

The Jewish Federation is a partner in our effort. Trends within the national Jewish community point toward the need to collaborate; the Federation sees our process as a potential local and national model. It is in this vein that Federation CEO Jay Sanderson will participate at various points in our process to provide additional context and insights for our discussions.

6. What is the role of the outside consultants?

We have engaged a third-party consulting team to support our process. We felt this was important given the sensitivity of some of our conversations and the complexities of coordinating multiple, concurrent sub-committees. We also wanted to free up clergy and leadership to continue to focus on the health and vitality of our communities and, in the immediate, prepare for the high holiday season. We interviewed several teams and are confident that Betsy Uhrman and Ned Lederer from HMA Community Strategies will help facilitate a visionary process that recognizes and honors the culture, values, and rituals of each community.

7. Who can I contact if I have questions or comments?

Please direct any general questions or comments to chadash@healthmanagement.com. For questions specific to your synagogue community, please reach out to your Rabbi, Board Chair, and/or Executive Director.