

FAQ regarding the promotion of Rabbi Brad Levenberg to Senior Rabbi



Where did the idea of having a second Senior Rabbi emerge?

Rabbi Segal first broached the idea of Rabbi Levenberg's promotion with Sinai President, Adam Mayer, and President-elect, Robert Sinsheimer, in recognition of Rabbi Levenberg's 15+ years of outstanding rabbinic leadership and dedicated service to the congregation, as well as the positive, collaborative, and close nature of their working relationship.

How will Temple Sinai members be impacted by having two Senior Rabbis?

Congregants will not be impacted in any way. As is currently the case, any congregant in need of rabbinic/clergy support of any nature (e.g. life cycle need, pastoral support, question to be answered, etc.) may contact any member of Temple Sinai's clergy team and still receive the same dedicated level of service. As clergy portfolios are not dependent upon tenure or title, the four members of Temple Sinai's clergy team work collaboratively to ensure that the needs of the community are addressed. Additionally, a member of the Sinai clergy is always on call and available to assist a congregant in need of support.

How will Temple Sinai staff and clergy team be impacted by having two Senior Rabbis?

As Senior Rabbinic Partners, Rabbis Segal and Levenberg will closely consider the delineation of their respective rabbinic responsibilities as well as their impact upon their clergy colleagues and the rest of the Sinai staff. Any internal modifications concerning these responsibilities will be thoroughly and carefully communicated to the members of the staff.

Why "Senior Rabbis" and not "Co-Senior Rabbis"?

The choice of language is intentional. "Co-Seniors" could suggest to some that Rabbis Segal and Levenberg are sharing a position when, in fact, each maintains a full and deep senior rabbinate. As Senior Rabbis, Rabbis Segal and Levenberg will collectively help to shape the religious and spiritual life of the congregation as rabbinic partners.

Is this rabbinic leadership model common for synagogues?

Aside from a few congregations which are co-led by married colleagues, we know of only one other synagogue currently led by two Senior Rabbis. These rabbinic colleagues (and personal friends of Rabbis Segal and Levenberg) lead a thriving congregation in the Boston area and have provided important information and insight concerning this unique rabbinic leadership model. Although uncommon, we feel confident that Temple Sinai's distinct and special character as well as the strength of relationship shared by Rabbis Segal and Levenberg make this leadership model an exciting and positive one for our congregation.

Is this a permanent change to Temple Sinai's rabbinic leadership model?

No. This dynamic opportunity capitalizes on this particular moment in the life of our congregation and the desire of Rabbis Segal and Levenberg to uniquely meet the evolving needs of our remarkable community.

Does Rabbi Levenberg's promotion mean that Rabbi Segal is retiring?

No. Rabbi Segal looks forward to serving Temple Sinai for many more years.

Does this mean that Rabbi Levenberg will one day become the sole Senior Rabbi?

Each of Temple Sinai's clergy members serve the congregation at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees for a defined number of years specified in an employment contract. Decisions concerning the future employment of our clergy will be made by the leadership of Temple Sinai at the time.

What are the financial implications of two senior rabbinic salaries?

Sinai's professional and lay leadership charged with ensuring the congregation's continued fiscal health feel confident in our ability to meet the ongoing salary requirements for all of our clergy and staff members.

Is there a need to change the Sinai's bylaws to reflect having two Senior Rabbis?

Upon consultation with our Parliamentarian, our leadership has determined that any necessary bylaws changes are minor (e.g. changing Senior Rabbi to Senior Rabbi(s)). The congregation will be asked to both ratify the Board's recommendation that Rabbi Levenberg be promoted to the position of Senior Rabbi, and to approve any necessary changes to our bylaws at the Annual Meeting.