

**Ritual or a rabbi beginning a position in which she is the first woman in her role**  
**Compiled by student rabbi Rachael Pass**

**Rabbi stands alone before the open ark and reads:**

*Heyeh im pifiyot shluchatei amcha beit yisrael v'ha'omedet l'vakesh tfilah v'tachananunim milfanecha im amcha beit yisrael.*<sup>1</sup>

Source of all Being, be with me as I step into my position as a leader in this congregation. May I approach this task with equal parts humility and assertiveness, thanksgiving and deservedness.

May I be treated with the respect that this authority deserves, and may I have the patience to teach others when they assume my gender diminishes my abilities.

May my assertiveness never be taken for aggression, my direction never taken for limitation.

May my gender experiences enhance my work, that I may bring my whole self serve this congregation with grace, compassion, and kindness, with greatness, strength, and awe.

**Rabbi takes Torah from the ark and recites:**

May I follow in the footsteps of the generations of rabbis who came before me...

**Rabbi uncovers the round challah, raises it, and recites:**

...and may I uplift the work of the generations of Jewish women leaders who came before me.

**Holding the Torah and the *challah*, Rabbi recites:**

*Ribbono shel Olam*--help me when I enter the lives of our people in their gladness, in their grief, and in their need. In their pain, let me sorrow; in their joy, let me rejoice. Let me not be impervious to their troubles. May I help them to feel the sanctity of celebrations, and to know the solace of tears. Then may they come to cherish our Jewish faith and bind themselves to the Covenant with increased devotion.<sup>2</sup>

**Congregation/colleagues respond:**

*Y'simeich elohim k'Miryam u'Mosheh,*  
May God make you like Miriam and Moses,  
Whose call-and-response leadership<sup>3</sup>  
Led the people through the desert,  
And nourished them on their way  
To the promised land.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Baruch ben Shmuel.

<sup>2</sup> CCAR Rabbi's Manual (Polish, David 1988)

<sup>3</sup> *Shiru: Miriam's Model of Reform Leadership*, Sarah Berman. 17 January 2019.