Rabbinical Placement Commission
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Important Update to Rabbinical Placement Commission’s Policy Change
Regarding HUC-JIR/CCAR Student Placement Process

The search and placement procedures established by the Reform Movement’s Rabbinical Placement Commission (RPC) and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), for rabbinical students in the year of ordination have evolved and undergone changes over the years. The goal is to maintain fairness for all candidates and congregations and to ensure an orderly and dignified system for this important process.

The landscape for rabbinic searches has changed in recent years, and after careful consideration, the RPC, made up of representatives from HUC-JIR as well as the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), voted to implement a change in the placement process for students in the HUC-JIR ordination class.

Beginning 2021, upon certification by HUC-JIR made to the CCAR Director of Rabbinic Career Services that a student is in good academic standing and has progressed sufficiently in their coursework and capstone project and there are no ethical concerns, such that ordination is expected that spring, the student becomes eligible to begin the placement process. Students may then apply for available Assistant Rabbi, Rabbi Educator and Senior/Solo (size A-Category) Rabbi positions.

There is no longer a separate student placement process taking place over a set period of time with distinct dates for initial interviews, call-back interviews, or when an offer may be extended. Congregations will be able to consider and interview students in the ordination class and ordained rabbis in the same process, beginning a search and moving forward in a more organic fashion, rather than according to a set calendar.

The RPC’s Handbook of Placement Procedures has been updated to reflect this policy change.

We believe that this new system benefits both students and congregations. As the new system enters its second year, we realize there may continue to be some challenges and are available to answer any questions.
For the 2022-2023 year, the CCAR will begin sending resumes on behalf of all students in the HUC-JIR ordination class who have submitted two chapters of their capstone to searching congregations on **December 12, 2022**. The only exception to this date is that students may request that the CCAR send out their resume to congregations before December 12, 2022 if the Rabbinical School Director informs the CCAR that the students (1) have submitted a complete draft of their capstone OR (2) have submitted a draft of two chapters of their capstone and are not enrolled in any courses for credit other than the Senior Seminar and the Capstone course.

In addition to the above, for congregations whose search applications are cross-listed with the CCAR and the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) for a clergy position for which students are eligible to apply, the earliest date on which the CCAR will send resumes on behalf of students in the ordination class is January 3, 2023.

If you have any questions, please be in contact with Rabbi Alan Berlin, CCAR Director of Search Services, or Rabbi Dvora Weisberg, Ph.D., HUC-JIR Rabbinical School Director. Rabbi Berlin can be reached at aberlin@ccarnet.org or (212) 542-8781. Rabbi Weisberg can be reached at deweisberg@huc.edu or (213) 765-2103.