

March 5, 2009

Dear fellow UH members:

I am writing to tell you about a change in our rabbinic search and transition schedule.

As you know, Rabbi Kaplansky was scheduled to retire on June 30, 2010, and to assume emeritus status the following day. However, he recently offered to extend his tenure with us. In recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to our congregation, the Executive Committee has reached an agreement with him under which he will continue as Senior Rabbi for an additional year, until June 30, 2011. He will then become Rabbi Emeritus and a new senior rabbi will begin on July 1, 2011. For the following year, until June 30, 2012, Rabbi Kaplansky will continue to work for us on a full-time basis to assist in the transition and perform other duties that he, our new Senior Rabbi and the Executive Committee agree upon.

Accordingly, we will defer the search for a new rabbi for one year. The work that we have done to this point, including the focus groups that Joan Denison conducted, will be just as useful then as now.

I am sure you will agree with me about what an exciting development this new arrangement with Rabbi Kaplansky is. Not only will we have him as our spiritual leader for longer than we expected, but we will have a much less sudden transition to our new senior rabbi. I hope, when you see Rabbi Kaplansky, you will thank him for agreeing to extend his professional career for us.

Very truly yours,



Richard S. Cornfeld
President