

## Reform Synagogue Interfaith Inclusion Policies and Practices

The Center for Radically Inclusive Judaism (CFRIJ) is conducting a survey of Reform synagogues regarding their policies and practices around inclusion of interfaith families. The deadline for responses is Wednesday, November 27, 2019.

In each section of questions (leadership and governance; ritual participation; dual education; lifecycle officiation; and messaging, programming and training) you will have the opportunity to explain your answers.

The survey is being sent to a list of congregational rabbis and presidents compiled by CFRIJ. We are asking for the name and position of the respondent in order to avoid counting any synagogue's responses more than once; when we report on the survey results, we will not identify any particular synagogue's responses.

The report on the survey results will be available at a Biennial Learning Session, Embracing Interfaith Inclusion in Your Congregation, on Thursday December 12 at 9 am.

If you have any questions about the survey, please feel free to contact the Center at [info@cfrij.com](mailto:info@cfrij.com). If you have any questions about the learning session, please contact Rabbi Julie Zupan at [JZupan@urj.org](mailto:JZupan@urj.org).

## Reform Synagogue Interfaith Inclusion Policies and Practices

### Leadership and Governance

\* 1. In our congregational bylaws (please check all that apply):

- we count partners of a different faith as full voting members of our synagogue
- we permit partners of a different faith to serve as officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, etc.) in the congregation
- we permit partners of a different faith to serve as members of our Board of Trustees
- we permit partners of a different faith to serve as chairs of all committees
- we permit partners of a different faith to serve as chairs of some committees
- none of the above

\* 2. We currently have members of a different faith who (please check all that apply):

- serve as officers
- serve as members of the board of trustees
- serve as chairs of committees
- none of the above

3. If you would like to expand on or explain your answers to the questions about leadership and governance, please do so here.

## Reform Synagogue Interfaith Inclusion Policies and Practices

### Ritual Participation

\* 4. We permit members of a different faith to lead the lighting of Shabbat and holiday candles during services.

- Yes
- No

\* 5. During our b'nai mitzvah services (please check all that apply):

- we allow a b'nai mitzvah child's parent of a different faith to have or join in an *aliyah*/recite the blessings before and after the Torah is read
- we allow a b'nai mitzvah child's parent of a different faith to recite a prayer from the bimah
- none of the above

\* 6. During our b'nai mitzvah services:

- a Torah is passed to the b'nai mitzvah child by relatives, including relatives from different faith traditions
- a Torah is passed to the b'nai mitzvah child by only Jewish relatives
- we do not pass a Torah during our b'nai mitzvah services

\* 7. Our congregation celebrates conversions during regular worship services.

- Yes
- No

\* 8. If your congregation has or controls a section of a cemetery, where do you allow partners of a different faith to be buried alongside their Jewish partner?

- anywhere in the cemetery
- in a section of the cemetery designated for interfaith families
- not applicable

9. If you would like to expand on or explain your answers to the questions about ritual participation, please do so here.

## Reform Synagogue Interfaith Inclusion Policies and Practices

### Dual Education

\* 10. Do you have children in your religious school who are receiving formal religious education in another religion?

- Yes
- No

11. If you would like to expand on or explain your answer, please do so here.

## Reform Synagogue Interfaith Inclusion Policies and Practices

### Lifecycle Officiation

\* 12. Some or all of our clergy (please check all that apply):

- officiate at weddings of interfaith couples
- co-officiate at weddings of interfaith couples
- none of the above

\* 13. Our congregation permits weddings of interfaith couples to be held in our sanctuary.

- Yes
- No

14. If you would like to expand on or explain your answers to the questions about lifecycle officiation, please do so here.

## Reform Synagogue Interfaith Inclusion Policies and Practices

### Messaging, Programming and Training

\* 15. On our website (please check all that apply):

- we have a section that addresses interfaith families
- we publish our policies and practices with regard to interfaith families (in terms of leadership and governance, ritual participation, etc).
- we include images of interfaith families incorporating Judaism in their lives
- we regularly translate Hebrew words and "insider phrases" (e.g. AIPAC, Bubbe, etc.)
- we have links that provide Jewish resources specifically for interfaith families
- none of the above

\* 16. Our congregation (please check all that apply):

- has a committee that specifically addresses engaging interfaith families
- has an affinity group for interfaith families
- offers programs that address issues that relate particularly to interfaith families
- has had keynote speakers speak to the entire congregation about issues facing interfaith families in synagogues and Jewish life
- none of the above

\* 17. We advertise outside of our congregation that we welcome interfaith families.

- Yes
- No

\* 18. We provide trainings (please check all that apply):

- for our professional staff on how to serve the specific needs of interfaith families
- for our lay leaders on how to serve the specific needs of interfaith families
- none of the above

\* 19. We have done a community organizing or listening campaign specifically involving interfaith families to better understand their needs and how our synagogue can serve them.

Yes

No

20. If you would like to expand on or explain your answers regarding messaging, programming and training, please do so here.

## Reform Synagogue Interfaith Inclusion Policies and Practices

### Identification

\* 21. What is your congregation's name?

\* 22. In what city or town and state is your congregation located?

\* 23. How many households does your congregation have?

150 or less

151-599

600-999

1000 or more

\* 24. What is your name?

\* 25. What is your position with the congregation?

Rabbi

President

Other (please specify)

\* 26. What is your email address?

27. Would you like to have the report on the survey results emailed to you?

Yes

No

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Thank you!

**Your participation will help to increase and disseminate information about Reform synagogues' practices regarding interfaith family inclusion. The report on the survey results will be available on [www.CFRIJ.com](http://www.CFRIJ.com) at or prior to the URJ Biennial in December 2019.**