



SYNAGOGUE 3000

Report on the Jewish Emergent Initiative, August 27-29, 2006

The second gathering of the Synagogue 3000 Leadership Network's Working Group on Emergent Sacred Communities took place in New York City August 27-29, 2006.

Most of the core group from January returned, along with a few additions, including three Israeli Emergent leaders. They significantly deepened their connections and interest in one another. The successful integration of the new attendees (both Israeli and American), the enthusiasm they expressed publicly and privately, and the excellent work they did to plan for their future together make it clear that a cohesive network is developing, one in which leaders are encountering one another as fellow experts and fellow learners. The lessons Synagogue 3000 learns from Jewish Emergents will provide both inspiration and practical ideas for mainstream synagogues and other Jewish sacred communities.

The new Israeli members came to S3K via our relationship with RIKMA, a rabbinic leadership development organization in Israel headed by Rabbi David Lazar. The presence of the RIKMA Fellows was one of the most compelling aspects of the gathering, not only because it offered evidence that the Jewish Emergent phenomenon is not limited to the U.S., but also because it offered unique insights into the development of Jewish religious pluralism in Israel. Perhaps most importantly, the relationship with Israeli Emergents opened the possibility for U.S.-based Emergents to find new ways to explore their relationship with Israel. Because research and experience have shown that a connection to Israel is increasingly problematic for Jewish GenXers and GenYers, this concern has challenged a number of Emergent communities. Personal connections between American and Israeli Emergent leaders may inspire new approaches to engaging American Jews with Israel. Indeed, at least one Emergent leader was inspired to write a Yom Kippur sermon calling for new and re-envisioned relationships with Israel.

At the conclusion of the gathering, we introduced a proposed framework for future meetings, based on the portions of S3K's developing Jewish Emergent Initiative which have received generous funding from the Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds. The group refined that framework into four meetings centered on four discrete areas where Emergents are innovating: education, worship, organizational leadership, and social justice. The first of these gatherings will be held in January of 2007 in California.



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S3K Leadership Network Working Group on Emergent Sacred Communities

Rabbi Daniel Alter	DAT	http://datminyan.org/
Rabbi Julia Andelman	Congregation Shaare Zedek	http://sznyc.org/
Rabbi Andy Bachman	Brooklyn Jews/Beth Elohim	http://congregationbethelohim.org/
Rabbi Sharon Brous	IKAR	http://ikar-la.org
Jeremy Burton	Darkhei Noam	http://dnoam.org/
Rabbi Menachem Cohen	Mitziut Jewish Community/Black Rock JCC	http://mitziut.org/
Rabbi Dov Gartenberg	Panim Hadashot	http://panimhadashot.com/
Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann	Kol Tzedek	http://kol-tzedek.org/
Rabbi David Ingber	Kehilat Romemu	http://romemu.org/
Elie Kaunfer	Kehilat Hadar	http://kehilathadar.org/
Margie Klein	Kavod House	http://kavodhouse.com/
Rabbi Darren Kleinberg	KiDMa	http://kidma.org/
Rabbi Jamie Korngold	Adventure Rabbi	http://adventurerabbi.com/
Amichai Lau-Lavie	Storahtelling/RitualLAB	http://storahtelling.org/
Rabbi David Lazar	Kehilat Tiferet Shalom/RIKMA	http://rikma.org.il/
Rabbi Shoshana Leis	Congregation Tehillah	http://congregationtehillah.org/
Rabbi Asher Lopatin	Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation	http://congregationtehillah.org/
Rabbi Ayala Miron	Kehilat Bavat Ayin/RIKMA	http://kbyonline.org/bavat-ayin/index.html
Rabbi Jeremy Morrison	The Riverway Project/Temple Israel	http://riverwayproject.org/
Rabbi Rachel Nussbaum	Kavana	http://kavanaseattle.org/
Rabbi Ofer Sabath Beit Halachmi	Kehillat Tzur Hadassah/RIKMA	http://joinkby.com/tzurhadassah/index.html
Rabbi Marc Soloway	Congregation Bonai Shalom	http://bonaishalom.org/