

## **Rabbi, Part-Time**

### **POSITION-Expectations and Requirements-Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities:**

Beth Israel-The West Temple (BI-TWT) is searching for a part-time (approximately 15-25 hours per week) Rabbi to lead our congregation. We are seeking a dynamic, positive, and engaging individual with strong interpersonal and leadership skills. The new Rabbi will work proactively with both the BI-TWT executive leadership and educational team to foster a welcoming, inclusive community and maintain and grow our membership. The expectation is that the Rabbi will be based in Northeast Ohio to conduct congregational activities in person.

The Religious Services and Educational Duties as well as other items described below necessarily overlap, as education is central to many of the activities of our congregation as we learn and grow as Jews.

### **Responsibilities:**

#### Religious Service Duties:

- Conduct services for the following Jewish holidays and events: *Selichot, Rosh Hashanah, Cemetery Visit, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim, Yom HaShoah, Yom HaAtzmaut, Shavuot*
- Lead Shabbat Services at BI-TWT: *Twice a month on both Friday nights and Shabbat mornings, Bar/Bat Mitzvah services, Bar/Bat Torah services, and all family Shabbaton programs.*
- Lead services and staff for the following retreats: *Bar/Bat Mitzvah Retreat, the High School Trip to NYC, and other occasions as mutually determined.*

#### Educational Duties:

- Work closely with both the Education Director and educational leadership for the benefit of the Religious School on Sunday mornings. This includes participating in Religious School weekly (when in session) and leading a Tefillah service for the students on those dates.
- Meet with the B'nai Mitzvah students and parents at least twice before their respective Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

- Develop and facilitate the Consecration and Confirmation service for students in the Religious School.
- Provide conversion instruction for those wishing to convert to Judaism.
- Create educational programs with the Lifelong Learning leadership for the general congregation.

#### Lifecycle and Pastoral Duties:

- Conduct life cycle events for members of the BI-TWT on a fee basis, including baby namings, weddings, and funerals.
- Provide *bikkurim cholim*, shiva, and bereavement support for community members.
- Offer counseling by phone or in-person to members of BI-TWT.

#### Synagogue Outreach and Membership Development:

- Participate in a weekday lunch and learn at a restaurant with members of BI-TWT approximately once a month between October and May.
- Grow membership by creating an inviting atmosphere for new families, including interfaith and non-practicing community members.

#### Administrative Duties:

- Participate in twice-monthly planning meetings (about four hours total each month) with the staff, education committee, or executive board to conduct temple business. This includes a monthly meeting with the president of the board.
- Write a weekly update for the congregation and an article for the monthly bulletin.
- Maintain office hours at BI-TWT a minimum of two days each week.
- Prepare a D'var Torah and report for the semi-annual congregational meetings.

#### Community Relationships:

- Engage in outreach to foster and develop positive relationships with other Jewish congregations in the area, as well as congregations of other faiths, and the general local community.
- Participate in the Cleveland Board of Rabbis and other community networks to develop connections with the Jewish community.
- Engage in yearly professional development.
- Regularly promote our congregation through social media and local news outlets.

## **Qualifications:**

The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- Rabbinic ordination from an accredited program or seminary.
- Congregational experience is a plus, but recent graduates with relevant skills will be considered. ***We are looking for a leader who will grow with us!***
- Comprehensive religious knowledge.
- Fluency sufficient to speak, read and chant Hebrew from the Torah
- High personal, ethical, and professional standards.
- Positive and strong interpersonal and leadership skills.
- Proficiency in singing or playing an instrument is desirable but not required.
- Ability to engage and work with congregants across all generations and Jewish backgrounds.

**Location:** Cleveland, Ohio

## **Send Resume and Cover Letter To:**

Walter Wright, President

Email: [president@thewesttemple.com](mailto:president@thewesttemple.com)

**Benefits and Compensation:** Part-time position. Approximately 15-25 hours a week, \$42-\$50K, commensurate with experience.

**Application Timeline:** Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2022, and will continue until the position is filled.

**Position Start Date:** July 1, 2023

## **Community Description:**

**About Beth Israel-The West Temple- Cleveland, Ohio**

Beth Israel-The West Temple is a Reform congregation located in Cleveland, Ohio.

We are notable for two important historical reasons: 1) Sally Priesand, the first female American rabbi, grew up and was confirmed in our congregation; and 2) three founding members of Beth Israel-The West Temple formed the Cleveland Council on Soviet

Anti-Semitism, which was a leader in the movement to provide justice for Soviet Jewry, many of whom repatriated to the Cleveland area.

We were established nearly sixty-eight years ago by a small group of individuals, most of whom were NASA scientists, who had a strong desire to create a new Jewish community on Cleveland's West Side. The founding members had a vision to help strengthen the Jewish community in Northeast Ohio and contribute to our duty of *tikkun olam* – repairing the world.

BI-TWT is a vibrant congregation of Jews-by-birth, Jews-by-choice, interfaith families and couples, and people of varying Jewish backgrounds and knowledge of Judaism. We are welcoming of all and are proud of the diversity of race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity represented within our membership.

Our congregation's mission is to provide a center of worship, education, and community for Jews in Cleveland's western suburbs. We have a Religious School that serves our community, as it has for decades. The Religious School provides a positive Jewish education founded on Jewish traditions, values, and ethics, for students in grades PK-12.

Our congregation offers our members a warm, welcoming, and inclusive environment in which to develop their own Jewish identities and supports the continuity of our people's traditions, values, and lives.