

Dear BEKI community,

During Hanukkah, we celebrated the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. Now we turn our thoughts to renewing and revitalizing our own sanctuary, here at BEKI.

The Sanctuary Redesign Committee will host a **congregational [Zoom meeting](#)** on **December 16** at 7:30PM. Everyone is welcome to join the meeting, which will be at the usual BEKI Tefilla [Zoom link](#).

At this meeting we will introduce ourselves, tell you what we heard you say in the recent online survey, and answer your questions. **Please send your questions in advance** by no later than **Friday, December 10**, to sanctuaryredesign@beki.org. This will give us a few days to review your questions and to make sure we have the information to respond.

We will also hear from Rabbi Woodward and President Yaron Lew about their visions for redesigning our sanctuary to strengthen our BEKI values of warmth, inclusivity, accessibility, and community. And we will introduce the architect who will help us turn our communal values and priorities into feasible design proposals.

As you think about questions, we want to give you a brief summary of the survey results.

The survey ran from November 14-21 and got a great response from 183 people, 95 percent of whom are BEKI members. The committee thanks everyone who responded to the survey.

The results help identify major priorities for the sanctuary redesign. Those priorities include:

- **Accessibility.** Members want to make sure that the bimah and the ark, in particular, are accessible to everyone.
- **Seating.** Respondents want to change the **layout** of our seats. People also want more **comfortable** seats, with more room between rows.
- **Acoustics.**
- **Climate control and air quality.**
- **Amount of natural light.**
- **Intangible priorities** include a **warm atmosphere**; fostering a **sense of community**; creating a space conducive to **participatory prayer and singing**; and facilitating a **spiritual experience**.

These survey findings dovetail with BEKI's values and the redesign committee's mission statement.

Accessibility supports BEKI's egalitarian and inclusive values. The redesign committee will consider accessibility and inclusivity in *every* aspect of the sanctuary's design and function.

Changing from our current hierarchical, audience-style **seating** arrangement (facing a stage in front) to a more inclusive layout will better fit our participatory, member-led services.

Acoustical improvements will also promote inclusivity, accessibility, and the participatory nature of our services.

For **climate control and air quality**, part of the committee's charge is to determine what HVAC improvements are needed in the sanctuary and to incorporate those changes into the redesign. The upgrades should bring less noise (thereby improving acoustics), better air quality, and improved energy efficiency—potentially reducing BEKI's carbon footprint and operating costs.

And replacing the single-pane sanctuary windows with energy-efficient glass will offer many design possibilities for increasing **natural light** in the room.

Other themes, including financial questions, emerged in response to the open questions at the end of the survey. We will review the survey results at the congregational meeting on December 16.

We hope this summary will help you frame your questions for us. **Please submit them to sanctuaryredesign@beki.org by Friday, December 10.**

Thank you.

Carole Bass, co-chair

Rick Saltz, co-chair

Eric Dunsker, board liaison and House Committee chair

Lynn Brotman

Jonathan Gordon

Howard Gralla

Marga Hirsch