

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS) – KNOWN AS COUNCIL
 HELD ON TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 2020 AT THE MONTAGU CENTRE
 SUBJECT TO SECTIONS 26 -32 OF THE MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF LIBERAL JUDAISM (ULPS)

PRESENT	
PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENTS	Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein (President), Sharon Goldstein, Lucian Hudson, Joan Shopper,
OFFICERS (DIRECTORS)	Ruth Seager (Acting Chair), Jackie Richards, Karen Newman, Graham Carpenter, Amanda McFeeters, Paul Silver-Myer, Jane Drapkin, Robin Moss, Hannah Stephenson,
RABBIS	Danny Rich, Charley Baginsky, Janet Burden, Aaron Goldstein, Rebecca Birk,
COUNCIL	Geoffrey Ben-Nathan (Bedforshire), Janet Berkman (Peterborough), Ariel Chalklin (WCLS), Gerard Geneen (SBJC), William Glassman (ELS), Andy Hoffman (SLLS), Bob Kamall (ELELS), Craig Simmons (KLS), Alan Solomon (Mosaic), Richard Stevens (ELELS), Josie Kinchin (FPS), Jane Greenfield (Southgate), Jane Carpenter (for Reading)
IN ATTENDANCE	Alexandra Simonon, Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Yszi Hawkings, Ben Combe, Rosa Slater, Jacob Swirsky, Becca Fetterman, Rafe Thurstance (minutes)
	<p>OPENING PRAYER Rabbi Danny Rich offered an opening prayer, quoting John Rayner, on the importance of working for peace.</p>
	<p>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES Ruth Seager welcomed all attendees to the meeting, especially to Ariel Chalklin (WCLS), Craig Simmons (KLS), Andy Hoffman (SLLS), Rosa Slater (LJY), and Jacob Swirsky (LJY) who were attending for the first time.</p> <p>Apologies were received for James Krikler (SLLS), Larry Navon (Edinburgh), Nick Silk (Edinburgh), Philip Mackle (Manchester), Peter Whear (Norwich), Susan King (Nottingham), Rabbi Dr Charles Middleburgh (LBC), Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris (LBC), Leslie Isaacs (Stevenage), Ros Clayton (BoNO), Michael Rudolf (ELS), Louise Freedman (VP), Jeromé Freedman (VP), Cathy Burnstone (FPS), Jennifer Lennard (BKY), Jon Burden (BKY), Fran Kurlansky (LJY-Netzer), Tom Rich (LJ)</p>

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	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 2019 AND MATTERS ARISING Pending two amendments, the minutes were signed as an accurate representation of the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bob Kamall (ELELS) was not at the meeting ● Rob Portillo (Kehilla) was at the meeting
	<p>CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SENIOR RABBI'S REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rabbi Danny Rich read out a statement following his decision to step down from his position, which was to be circulated to Council after the meeting. ● It was reported to Council that Simon Benscher is making good progress in the recovery from his illness. ● Rabbi Danny Rich thanked the Board and the Acting Chair for their support. ● Council was encouraged to attend the Biennial conference.
	<p>ACTING CHAIR'S REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ruth Seager read a statement (to be circulated) to Council in which she praised the honour and devotion of Rabbi Danny Rich to Liberal Judaism. ● Ruth complimented Danny on his wonderful ambassadorial skills in his role and commented that for many people he was the 'embodiment' of Liberal Judaism. ● On behalf of the movement, Danny was thanked for his service. ● Council was kindly requested to keep the information from the previous two statements embargoed until Thursday 23rd January 2020. ● Council was informed that DR is in the process of handing over his work to ensure a smooth transition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council was further informed that there would be an 'interregnum' period of approximately six months ● Ruth informed Council that BoNO has set up financial and fundraising committees to ensure that the movement is working as well and as efficiently as possible. ● Council learnt that strategy and budget plans were being closely aligned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ros Clayton is looking at legacies. ● Council was informed that with the 2020 annual dinner being cancelled, the next will be held on 24th June 2021 at Middle Temple. ● It was suggested to Council that RJ, LJ, and LBC might work together on fundraising for specific educational matters.

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- Ruth Seager informed Council that she will be continuing as Acting Chair, but will be covered by Vice Chair Karen Newman during her holiday period 4th February until 18th March.

Josie Kinchin expressed her hope to the Acting Chair that Liberal Judaism will continue to build on the “wonderful work that Danny has done” by saying: "I just hope that Liberal Judaism will continue to build upon the initiatives set up by Danny, the amazing fundraising he has done, some from his own pocket I know - we all know that because he is a Patron, and how much we all appreciate every moment that Danny spent in that 15 years in that chair and I just wanted to say that from myself and from Finchley how we are going to miss him in that office."

REPORTS

- **COLRAC**
 - LJ/RJ has been working for about a year on a joint code of ethics that would advise on relationships between clergy, lay leaders, congregants and how they work together.
 - Following the 2019 Kallah, COLRAC has been devoting 50% of all meetings to liturgy. Outcomes and questions from such discussions will feature at the Biennial.
 - Council was informed that the Siddur Editorial Committee hope to convene the lay panel before the Biennial.
 - Congregational leaders are urged to put forward names should they have not already done so
- **LBC**
 - Report as circulated
- **FINANCE**
 - Paul Silver-Myer (LJ Treasurer) reported that the 2019 accounting year is now closed and accounts were in the process of being prepared to send to the auditors.
 - Congregations were asked to please ensure that CAFs were paid properly and on time.
- **BIENNIAL**
 - Council was reminded that the theme for the conference is ‘collaboratory’ and that the guidelines for the community project would be with communities by the end of the month.
 - Council was informed that the key note speaker will be Matthew Gould.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The conference will take place from 22-24 May 2020 in Daventry.
	<p>LJY-NETZER Council was informed that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the two previous weekend events drew in a total of 35 participants. ● 20 students met in Leeds. ● several communities have been visited since the November Council meeting. ● interest in LJY-Netzer events is growing. ● 30 participants took part in hadracha ● eight Shnat Netzer are currently in Kibbutz Lotan. ● Veidah in the beginning of January voted for an overall education theme of ‘Rainbow Jews’ and for a focus on mental health. ● Kayitz booking is half full ● there is an upcoming sleepover at NPLS. ● Aviv: 14-19 April. ● Kadimah: 10-23 August. <p>Ruth Seager praised LJY for being the feather in the cap of LJ.</p>
	<p>SOCIAL JUSTICE/SOCIAL ACTION DISCUSSION Council was informed that COLRAC is currently challenging itself to consider how it approaches social justice and social action. COLRAC felt that having a voice was important but that individuals can’t always match the nature of collaborative efforts.</p> <p>Rabbi Aaron Goldstein thanked congregations that wrote in with explanations of how they work with social justice/action (notes to be circulated). It was noted that many of our most active congregations are partnered with Citizens UK.</p> <p>Rabbi Aaron praised the ‘amazing nature’ of how congregations work with each other and external organisations.</p> <p>Yszi Hawkings reminded Council that three LJ communities have been nominated for Mitzvah Day awards.</p> <p>Rabbi Rebecca Birk: FPS is really nourished by their social justice work and by the effect it has had on how they see themselves as part of a wider community. She would like to offer thanks to Rabbi Danny Rich for the radical way in which he helps congregations look at how they see themselves.</p>

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	<p>Karen Newman says that drop in mornings at the LJS have really helped people understand that social action is about people and their relationships with one another as well as anything else.</p> <p>Yszi Hawkings asks Council to consider measuring the impact that they are having in order to help their projects grow.</p> <p>Jackie Richards enthused that Jewish values may be at the heart of why so many LJ congregations are involved with social justice/action projects.</p> <p>Rabbi Aaron Goldstein reminded Council that collaboration is key, and that synagogues can really help in tackling loneliness by simply being open.</p> <p>Jane Drapkin stated that Council should not be put off from doing individual actions because of the success of group actions, because 'lots of small actions make a big impact.'</p>
	<p>AOB</p> <p>Geoffrey Ben-Nathan has written a book about the origins of Jewish and Palestinian identities and encouraged Council to read, and offer reviews.</p> <p>Rabbi Andrew Goldstein praised LJ as a 'wonderful movement' and paid tribute to Rabbi Danny Rich for getting LJ to the place it is today as a 'growing, outward looking movement.'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting closed.</p>
<p>DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday 28th April 2020</p>	