

Clergy working in JCCs opening Network Gathering November 21, 2016

How do we enact the prophetic voice?

In the present political climate, some questions:

- *How to discern that which is ethical and moral and that which is political?
- *How do we live out b'zelem elohim, compassion and love for people we may disagree with?
- *Our role in a JCC is not to take positions on political issues or to do advocacy. How do we enact our ethical and moral responsibilities?
- *How appropriate is it to bring my political views to the conversation?
- *How do we make Judaism relevant in people's lives within a JCC setting?
- *How do we talk to children in the community?

Text study when Samuel was challenged by the Israelites having a King-Saul insights:

- The voice of the minority (Samuel) is included in our history. We need to include the minority and majority voices. We don't shut down dissent. Stay engaged.
- We need to listen –even when it is hard. Listen to the pain. Have a prophetic ear. Like read Hilbilly Elegy (<https://www.amazon.com/Hilbilly-Elegy-Memoir-Family-Culture/dp/0062300547>)
- Hillel prevailed over Shammai in the majority of cases because he spoke in the name of Shammai when he began. We are not Hillelites or Shammmites-remember to be Israelites.

Actions to Take:

- *Professional Development for staff. Provide them time and place to reflect and raise their questions and needs.
- *Use the text study from our session with staff or use the prayer from our country
- *Identify, study and communicate core values to guide interactions
- *Make opportunities to express what people are feeling (e.g. Jar of Hopes)
- *Talk to your rabbinic colleagues for emotional and practical support
- *Look at resources online for how to talk to children now (e.g. <http://www.azcentral.com/story/entertainment/kids/2016/11/11/how-talk-to-your-kids-about-election-results-trump-win-clinton-loss/93545140/>)
- *Time for radical acts of kindness
- *Meet in person in March in Florida