**Key Messages of Reconstructing Judaism**

**Adapted For Your Use**

These messages tells the story of why the world needs a Reconstructionist approach, what that approach is, and why and how people can get involved. Feel free to skip around or change emphasis based on context or audience. It’s unlikely that you’ll deliver every message in every context.

[Brackets] indicate edits to our version to make it more suitable for your use.

**Navigating our world:**

We live in a moment when people are more connected to each other than ever, yet isolated—socially, geographically and spiritually—making our search for community and ultimate meaning difficult.

* Many struggle to understand what it means to be Jewish today as our societies, technologies and lives continuously—and rapidly—evolve.
* The world faces challenges that seem insurmountable—from the rise of hate groups to worldwide environmental devastation—and creating a sustainable world for all people can feel overwhelming without a supportive community.
* In the pursuit of truth, justice and meaningful Jewish life in a post-denominational era, many modern Jews reject putting a static label on their evolving practices and changing beliefs.
* The journey toward spiritual fulfillment is a deeply personal one, yet without the guidance and support of community, many people reach an impasse they cannot bridge alone.
* As actual person-to-person contact wanes and people feel more removed from community, people lack the optimism and support needed to build resilience and turn challenges into opportunities.
* When dealing with death, illness, and other perennial challenges of life, people often seek out spiritual and communal support.

**What a Reconstructionist approach offers:**

Reconstructionists approach Judaism—and life—with deep consideration of the past and a passion to relate it to the present. In a rapidly changing world, Reconstructionist communities share and create new ways of being Jewish to connect us to the divine and ensure our lives are filled with purpose.

* We view Judaism as the evolving civilization of the Jewish people in an ongoing relationship with God. Our shared culture—rituals, traditions and practices—reflect over 3,000 years of that evolution, and we continue to share and shape it today.
* We break down the walls that divide us—demonstrating what it means to be Jewish today—standing up for justice and creating a better world for all.
* We experience—and discover—God through our daily acts of ritual, creative expression and humanity, which leads to individual spiritual fulfillment.
* We have originated many of the core innovations within American Judaism and lead efforts to make our community an even more forward-thinking, inclusive and relevant.
* We are committed to democratic practice in Jewish life and believe that people hold the right—and obligation—to reconstruct Judaism in order for it to remain relevant in our lives.

**Why you should join us:**

[Name of Congregation/*Havurah*/Community] welcomes your voice, questions and participation in something larger—creating a boldly relevant Judaism for today and tomorrow.

* Donate to [Name of Congregation/*Havurah*/Community] to make [us] even more groundbreaking, inclusive and relevant.
* Explore our resources to bring greater connection, learning and growth to your life and family.
* Learn about the cutting-edge expressions of Jewish community that we’re constantly exploring.
* [Join Congregation/*Havurah*/Community and tap] into our special programs and services. You and your peers will discover the comfort and inspiration of belonging to the larger Reconstructionist community.
* Attend an event—an upcoming Shabbaton or join us at our conventions and days of learning to engage in challenges, questions, and opportunities.

[Consider sending your child to a Reconstructionist camp:]

* Give your child a magical summer at Camp Havaya or Havaya Arts, where Reconstructionist values come to life and your child is celebrated and challenged to become the best possible version of themselves.

**About Our Movement’s Central Organization, Reconstructing Judaism:**

Reconstructing Judaism is a vibrant, imaginative and intellectually curious organization that trains the next generation of rabbis, supports and uplifts congregations and *havurot*, and encourages young people to be their best selves—while shaping what it means to be Jewish today and defining the Jewish future.

* We support congregations and *havurot* rooted in tradition and inspired by their lived experiences, where people—of all identities and backgrounds—have the power to cultivate a deeply personal Judaism that is at once relevant and meaningful.
* We foster imagination, supporting the bold doers and thinkers creating what Judaism looks like today and planting the seeds for the Judaism they want to see tomorrow.
* Together, we debate, discuss and open our hearts and minds to difference, while providing opportunities for every individual to find their own truth on their own terms.
* Our College for Reconstructing Judaism takes a unique approach to educating the next generation of Jewish leaders, integrating academic and traditional study, field work and reflection to help students develop the knowledge, skills and spiritual insights to become the rabbis they hope to be -- and to reflect and respond to the experience of today’s diverse Jews in congregations, on campus and in all the places Jews find themselves, including social justice organizations, hospitals and hospice care and many more.
* Our learning networks bring together experts and laypeople who explore the powerful ideas driving us forward and to address the most urgent questions of our time.
* Through Ritualwell and other resources, we offer rituals and teachings to deepen learning and connection to the sacred and to help us mourn and celebrate at powerful moments—those traditionally recognized and those contemporary Jews identify as holy.
* We are open to Israel’s wonders and complexities, creating opportunities for all people—youth and adults—to learn about and connect with Israeli society. We have also been on the record for a two-state solution for Israel since the late 1960s.
* Camps Havaya and Havaya Arts bring young people from all walks of life together to a celebratory environment where they can be and express who they truly are—and explore Judaism on their own terms.