Which Model of Jewish Education Is Right For Us?

*Welcome-Since We Were Together Last Hopes and Dreams

*Core Conversation-
  Shop and Shape a Prototype
  Communicate-Manage Expectations

*Reflections and Next Steps
More learning and possible funding

Reconstructionist Clergy Incubator
How might we move bold ideas to action?

Facilitated by Cyd Weissman, Assistant Vice President of Innovation and Impact, Reconstructoinist Rabbinical College and Jewish Reconstructionist Communities, and guest entrepreneurial leaders including Rabbi George Wielechowski, Rabbi Hayim Herring, Toby Rubin, Rabbi Douglas Heifetz and Rabbi Sid Schwarz. Grant awards from $2,000 to $20,000 available.

http://jewishrecon.org/networks/reconstructionist-incubator

Thursdays 12:30p.m.-1:50p.m. EST –
Feb. 16, March 2, March 16, April 6, April 27 and May 4
Core Discussion One: A Path for Change

**Network Gathering One**
November 22, Tuesday, 1-2:15 est.

*Gather Values, Strengths and Priorities*

**Network Gathering Two**
December 20, Tuesday, 1-2:15 est.

*Release Hopes and Dreams*

**Network Gathering Three**
January 24, Tuesday, 1-2:15 est.

*Shop and Shape Model Prototype*

**Network Gathering Four**
February 14, Tuesday, 1-2:15 est.

*Launch Prototype and Collect Data*

**Network Gathering Five**
March 28, Tuesday, 1-2:15 est.

*Learn and Launch Again*

**Network Gathering Six**
May 16, Tuesday, 1-2:15 est.

*Go Big and Grow Home*
Hopes and Dreams Conversations

In the past weeks:

Engage groups of parents in *hopes and dreams* conversations to develop:

- Shared language and values that can guide your “model decisions” and experimentation
- Shared understanding of what and why you are experimenting
- Energy, volunteerism and optimism for the work ahead
Since we were together last-challenges and insights?

- If you were able to engage in conversations about hopes and dreams, what did you uncover?
  - Enjoy as a family?
  - Resonant and Missing from Text Study?
  - Enabling/getting in the way of Reaching your hopes and dreams?

- How do you imagine your model can Help parents reflect What they enjoy doing; and reach their hopes and dreams; overcome barriers?
For Today

*Review models through lens of adaptation and your values, assets, hopes & dreams

*Explore prototypes—what will you try?

Congregational Team will:
*Design prototype
*Communicate-Manage Expectations

Continue with decision makers, teachers, participants
Prototype: what and why you are testing
Ready to go shoe shopping?
Ready to go model shopping?

You are equipped with:

• Values
• Strengths
• Priorities
• Purposes (hopes and dreams
• Style/Comfort
• What else?
Who should go model shopping with you?

“Whew! That was close! We almost decided something!”
### Ready to go model shopping?

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<th>Shabbat Family Model</th>
<th>Home Havurah Model</th>
<th>Social Justice Model</th>
<th>Camp Retreat Model</th>
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Ready to go model shopping?

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2XnIpEDShxenRhi67HcCkWUPFvuLcl1&feature=em-share_playlist_user
Not launch an entire model right away
Rather prototype

- A prototype is an early model or experiment to **rapidly with little to no cost** create solutions to **challenges and problems already** defined and discussed.

- Prototypes often utterly fail; their results may send a team “back to the drawing board.”

- “act of creating forces you to ask questions and make choices. It also gives you something you can show to and talk about with other people. ... a prototype is just an embodiment of your idea. It could be a skit in which you act out a service experience, such as visiting the emergency room at a hospital.”

- Rapid prototyping means translating your ideas into things very quickly. People who spend a long time “building” something often become emotionally attached to the product of their work. Emotional attachment to a thing, like emotional attachment to a pet idea, often complicates the process of finding the best solution to a problem or challenge.
Not launch an entire model right away
Prototype to learn the answer to your questions

Examples

Time: Can we cancel a Sunday to make time for home learning?

Space: Can online learning engage? Home space?

Staffing: Can teens teach? How do we support parents to co-teach?

Learners: Which age group is most ready?
   Can we separate a grade? Can we put grades together?

Content: What’s a month of curriculum look like if it is all about menschen?

Professional Development: How do we link a teacher with a mentor?
Great example and resource

**Space:** Can online learning engage? Home space?

Pilot a new model of Jewish Education for one age group.

**Shalom Learning** has generously offered Reconstructionist Congregations a free spring pilot!!!

The Scholarship Provides: **($500 value)**

1. Lesson plans, videos, resources, activities, and assessment.

2. Consulting to design a new model of Jewish learning (e.g. online learning and in person; all in person learning, and additional options)

3. Teacher training. Teachers will learn to use a new Understanding By Designed values based curriculum.

4. Tools to adjust for a uniquely Reconstructionist Approach (2 of our congregations launched this year)

To learn more
Shalom Learning’s Chief Operating Officer **Debi Himelfarb** debi@shalomlearning.org
Communications: Tell your story and manage expectations

What did you learn from the first phase of your work?

Who did you engage to identify values, priorities, best moments, hopes and dreams?

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

What are you reaching for?

Why has this led you to select this model/hybrid?

What are you testing/why?

How will you test?

How will you decide what comes next? In the spring, the summer, the fall
Reflections and Questions

*Welcome
Since We Were Together Last
Challenges and Insights

*Core Conversation

Shop and Shape a Prototype
Communicate

*Reflections and next steps
Next Steps:

*Go Shopping! Make your selection.

*Name your questions; begin to sketch out prototypes. Look at your calendar for opportunities to experiment in March, April and May.

*Communicate

See you at Network Gathering Four
February 14, Tuesday, 1-2:15 est.
Launch Prototype and Collect Data

Resources:
http://jewishrecon.org/networks/education-models