**Handout For Congregational Meeting: Context For Small Group Discussion**

**Solidifying Social Justice as a Key Pillar**

OZ has a rich tradition of social activism rooted in Jewish values, and it's imperative to strengthen and expand this commitment. Providing learning and hands-on experiences within the community will deepen our understanding and value of being Jewish. Here's how we can enhance our dedication to social justice:

**Establish a Social Justice Leadership Team**

• Create a dedicated team responsible for driving social justice initiatives within the community and beyond, working closely with clergy and staff.

**Integrate Social Action Initiatives**

• Continue to incorporate social justice themes and activities into all educational programming, events including preschool, Hebrew School, and adult learning

**Enhance Programming and Engagement**

• Develop consistent and compelling programming, communication, and engagement strategies to mobilize congregants - especially young families – and foster meaningful involvement in social justice efforts.

**Strategic Focus Areas**

• Prioritize critical areas such as hunger/poverty, combating antisemitism/discrimination/anti-racism, and environmental issues to effectively focus the community's social justice efforts.

**Deepening Our Spiritual/Prayer Services as a Key Pillar​**

The spiritual dimension of OZ plays a central role in fostering connection, meaning, and belonging for its members.  we can deepen this key pillar by :​

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**Celebrating Diversity** by continuing to embrace and celebrate the diversity of religious and spiritual practices within the community, led by the Rabbi and Cantor, honoring tradition while exploring innovative approaches to prayer and spirituality.​

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**Welcoming Spaces** that support the Rabbi and Cantor in making prayer and spiritual spaces more welcoming and inclusive, ensuring that all members feel comfortable and valued in their religious observance.​

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**Community Engagement** to **f**oster greater awareness and participation in prayer services, minyanim, and lifecycle rituals, inviting congregants to deepen their connection to Jewish learning, tradition, and community.​

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**Inclusivity and Innovation** that encourage the Rabbi and Cantor to explore new entryways for participation, especially for those less inclined to traditional synagogue practices, by offering diverse and accessible spiritual experiences.​

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**Collaboration and Retreats** with other Jewish organizations and clergy to offer joint services, learning, and spiritual retreats, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose within the broader Jewish community.​

**The Center for Jewish Life as a Key Pillar​**

*The continuing evolution of OZ into a vibrant community and cultural center requires continuing with our intentional efforts to foster engagement, connection, and celebration of Jewish identity. Here's how can solidify this pillar of community ethos:*​

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* **Prioritize Focus Areas to Support Vision** ​
* **Provide Dedicated Staff Resources** ​
* **Physical Enhancements** ​
* **Collaboration and Outreach**

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**Prioritize Focus Areas to Support Vision** and organize programming around key cultural areas such as education, arts and culture, outdoor life, and OZ community events to cater to diverse interests and preferences.​

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**Provide Dedicated Staff Resources** to support developing and implementing processes, policies, and communications for the Center for Jewish Life.​

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**Physical Enhancements of** the physical space to create a welcoming and inviting environment conducive to meaningful interactions and connections, including establishing an OZ Café.​

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**Collaboration and Outreach** with other Jewish organizations and venues to expand the use of technology and other methods to reach new audiences beyond the synagogue walls.​

**Questions for the group:**

* What would be different in your life if OZ was not here?
* What questions or impediments do you see in our reaching our Imagine 2030 goals?
* What do you see as the most important goal/objective for 2030?