



Jewish Educational Wisdom,
Experience & Leadership

Conference Call about Offering Multiple Services in Congregations

Note: Individuals registered for this professional development conference call in advance. Each registrant was then sent a packet with details about the programs that would be more briefly described during the call, as well as more extensive bios of the various presenters than were later offered during the call.

Welcome to conference call. Overview of who is on conference call.

Introduce main topic: why congregations offer multiple services.

Explain why this issue is critical to ensuring an engaging and enjoyable prayer experience for congregants of all ages.

Brainstorm list of different types of services held in participants' congregations (junior congregation, tot Shabbat, learner's minyan, etc.) as well as the functions they serve.

Three primary ways in which congregations hold multiple services.

- Stacking
- Rotating
- Parallel

Presentations:

Stacked

Presenter One explains his congregation's model and addresses the following questions:

- *the needs the structure addresses?*
- *the values structure reflects?*
- *share any history you know of how it evolved?*
- *observations on what is successful about it?*
- *what the congregation still finds challenging with regard to the great balancing act of multiple prayer services and communal needs?*

Presenter Two explains her congregation's model and addresses the same questions.

Discussion comparing the two models above.

Rotating

Presenter Three explains his congregation's model and addresses the same questions.

Parallel

Presenter Four explains her congregation's model and addresses the same questions.

Participants are invited to ask questions about any of the three models or any of the four presentations thus far.

- Process?
- Logistical?
- Structural?
- Financing?
- Staffing?

Additional Topics Addressed after Question Period:

- The ways this issue comes into play in smaller congregations as well as larger congregations. Examples of why larger congregations diversify their services. Examples of why smaller congregations might decide to do the same thing.
- How the idea of multiple services often arises from questions about the role of children and families with young children in the life of the congregation. Examples of how the issue is frequently triggered and how multiple services strive to address those issues.

Concluding Points:

Go over the ten issues that most frequently seem to come into play when determining a particular congregation's service formula.

Go over the three most common/overarching points about *contemplating the possibility* of adopting or modifying a multiple prayer service format.

Speak to the creativity and energy that creating a new and harmonious balance can bring to a congregation.

Thank everyone for participating.