

## **D'Var Torah Study Leader Guidelines**

Thank you for volunteering to lead a D'Var Torah at Kahal.

### Resources

There are many resources to help you. You can use the Internet – a good resource to start with is the Union for Reform Judaism study site at <http://urj.org/torah/> . You can also find Torah study materials in the Beth Emet Library. And Rabbis Knobel and London are available and willing to help you prepare your D'Var Torah, as are Kahal members who have led D'Var Torah discussions.

### Guidelines for D'Var Torah Leaders

Plan for a 30-35 minute D'Var, which is to include time for Kahal discussion. Generally, leaving 15 minutes for discussion works well.

#### Presentation

- Summary of the Torah portion, with focus on point to be discussed in your D'Var. In other words, create the context for the presentation/discussion that follows.
- Comments, point of view, report on Torah commentaries.
- Present 2-3 questions.
- Discussion based on the questions you present. During the discussion, please try not to call on anyone a second time for comments until everyone has had the chance to comment the first time.

### Timing for D'Var Torah Within the Service

D'Var starts after we return the Torah to the Ark. This is usually around 11:00 a.m.

D'Var should end when the children return from class, or, if the children haven't returned, it should end no later than 11:35 a.m.

### What to Do if the Service Runs Long

As best you can, shorten both your presentation and the time for questions, but do make some time for questions!