

Consultation

UPDATE #2

Dear friend,

Thank you for planning to join us for the 2017 Consultation on Conscience in Washington, DC this April. In these challenging times, the Reform Movement remains committed to bringing about the world we want—a world in which all people experience compassion, justice, and wholeness.

I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on the deeper meaning of Consultation, and why I am so glad we will have this time together in April.

In the opening verse of *K'doshim*, the Torah portion we will reflect on at Consultation, God instructs Moses to gather the whole Israelite community and tell them: "You shall be holy, for I, your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:1-2). To ensure the Jewish people remain a holy community, God presents the Holiness Code, a series of directives that entreat us to share our bounty with those less fortunate, support people with disabilities, and find the strength to love and protect our neighbors.

The holiness described in *K'doshim* is dynamic, earned and re-earned through meaningful action. In the months and years ahead, we must constantly strive to meet this challenge of being a holy community through the sustained pursuit of social justice. The 2017 Consultation on Conscience provides a powerful opportunity to come together as a Movement of strong, networked individuals and congregations ready to organize and advocate for the values we hold most dear at the local, state and federal levels.

Practically speaking, this means that Consultation provides an opportunity to engage deeply with some of the most complex and exigent issues facing our nation. Joining in congregational Delegations, you will strengthen your capacity to make lasting change in your home community. You will have the opportunity to build relationships with others in your congregation, your state, and across your areas of interest. Together, we will meet with members of Congress to call for the robust protection of rights and responsibilities for all Americans.

This is how we act as a holy community. This is how we build the world we want.

I look forward to sharing this experience with you in just a few short weeks.

L'shalom,



Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner
Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

