

Supplementary Materials for “Jews and Others”

## Additional Questions for Congregational Leadership

1. “Judaism has always sought a balance—between inward focus and outward focus, between the particular and the universal, attention to Jewish needs and attention to human needs, standing apart from the world and being an integral part of the world. The Sinai Covenant requires that Jewish attention be paid to both of these directions.” [p. 26]
  - a. What programs in your congregation have a primary focus that is particularistic (concerned with Jews and the Jewish community)? Consider classes, speakers, children’s programs, social action and social justice initiatives, etc.
  - b. What programs in your congregation have a primary focus that is universalistic (concerned with all people)?
  - c. Are there programs that combine both orientations? If not, what might such a program look like?
  
2. “The world’s need for Torah is urgent right now. Our tradition has something to say—about justice and mercy, about choosing goodness and life—that humanity needs to hear.” [p. 27]
  - a. What Jewish teachings are particularly crucial for humanity to hear, in your opinion? Why?
  - b. Can you think of specific examples of how forming partnerships with other faith communities can help Torah be heard in the world?

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3. “Conservative Jews must declare loudly and clearly that we are proud of being Jews, proud to be faithful to our tradition, and that, precisely because of that loyalty, we insist that Gentiles be seen and treated as partners rather than adversaries.” [p. 27]
  - a. Does your community provide organized opportunities to meet with people from other religious groups? How high a priority is this for your community, and what do you think such meetings achieve?
  - b. How else does your community put Chancellor Eisen’s prescription here into practice?
  
4. Re-read Chancellor Eisen’s seven suggestions for locating and maintaining the balance between “particular” and “universal” in Conservative Judaism. [pp. 28-30]
  - a. Which ones resonate the most for you, and why?
  - b. Which ones are most relevant for your community, and why?
  - c. What are some clear actions that your community could take in order to put those suggestions into practice?