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Dear Fellow Congregant

Because of the flurry of news reports and rumours over the past week, I would like to bring you current information regarding our search for a new home for Temple Israel. As you are aware, our Building and Renewal Implementation Committee (BRIC) has been working towards this goal for the past two years and the preferred site is the Jewish Community Campus.

Informal conversations with representatives of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, the owner and custodian of the Campus, began two years ago regarding our potential relocation. We presented our vision and preliminary business plan to the JFO board in March of this year. In April they sent us their principles for partnering on Campus.

Formal discussions began in June between the JFO lead Neil Zaret and Brian Gold who is again representing us. Progress has been slow.

As you have probably heard, this past week Beth Shalom completed a sale of their Chapel Street building. They have communicated their desire to move onto the Campus and have indicated their willingness to partner with other synagogues in a shared building.

The JFO has written to us to confirm that they will continue our negotiations. Our commitment to continue in these negotiations remains. If we are approached by Beth Shalom to consider partnering with them in a building, we will certainly explore that with them to determine the benefit to Temple. On a parallel track, we continue to seek a satisfactory alternate location off Campus and BRIC is in the process of a SWOT analysis on potential sites they have identified.

Our goal continues to be to find a place for Temple Israel in which we feel comfortable as a liberal congregation and which is both affordable and sustainable. The relocation project will be addressed again at the General Meeting scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, November 29 at Temple.

L'Shalom
Lorne Rachlis
President

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