

URJ Names New President: Rabbi Richard Jacobs

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The **Union for Reform Judaism** has just **announced** that it will name Rabbi Richard Jacobs as its incoming President. Rabbi Jacobs has been the senior rabbi of Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, New York since 1991, and serves on the boards of **UJA-Federation of New York**, **American Jewish World Service**, and **Synagogue 3000**.

A number of sermons and other publications by Rabbi Jacobs are available on the **Berman Jewish Policy Archive @ NYU Wagner**:

Synagogues and Federations: From Rivals to Partners (2010)

God's Favorite: Rosh Hashanah 5771

Standing Together for Israel: Yom Kippur 5771 (2010)

Remarks at the Jewish Rally in Support of the Cordoba House Islamic Center (2010)

Mashber: Yom Kippur 5770 (2009)

A Walk in Your Shoes: Rosh Hashanah 5770 (2009)

Nishma (2009)

Chag V'Chesed: Sukkot 5768 (2007)

And You Shall Be A Blessing: Sermon for Baccalaureate Service (2002)

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UPDATE: **The New York Times coverage of this story** quotes BJPA Director Steven M. Cohen:

“He’s the most widely respected senior congregational rabbi in the Reform movement,” said Steven M. Cohen, a sociologist of American Jewry at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, in New York, a Reform affiliate. “His last two predecessors did not come directly from senior congregational roles, suggesting that the movement is concerned about delivering change, value and transformation to Reform congregations.”