

Communal Rabbi

Kehillat Kadimah is an Orthodox community in Sydney, Australia, situated in the heart of one of the most densely Jewish populated suburbs of Australia.

Our community has nearly 1,000 members, representing in excess of 300 families. We are a predominantly Ashkenazi community with the majority of family histories stemming from Australia, Europe, South Africa, Israel, New Zealand and England. Kehillat Kadimah was established in mid-2017, with the objective to energise, invigorate and attract younger families to the community, as well as serve a community which dates back to 1950. In addition to our Orthodox practices, we are proudly Zionist in our values and observances.

While our membership base is currently skewed towards a demographic of 60 years and older, our location and prominence as one of Sydney's oldest and strongest communities positions us well to attract young families who are either unaffiliated with an Orthodox synagogue or who are seeking a family-friendly community. Our community facility contains one large synagogue (seating up to 845), a smaller library/synagogue for daily minyanim, two communal halls, meat and milk kitchens, and male and female mikva'ot.

Within Kehillat Kadimah, we have a Chazan, Baal Koreh, youth group leaders and administrative personnel who collectively support our community's daily, weekly and festival services, as well as general administration, operations and activities.

We are seeking a Rabbi to lead our community in its next stage of development.

Skills, Knowledge and Personal Attributes

Candidates should be able to demonstrate strongly their suitability by possessing the following attributes:

1. The Rabbi should be well-versed in Torah and secular knowledge:
 - He should hold Yoreh Yoreh Semicha from a reputable Orthodox rabbinic authority, as well as possess secular university qualifications.
 - He should have the depth of learning to provide Pesak Halacha on communal and personal issues.
 - He should use his sermons and other teaching opportunities to match Halachic knowledge with contemporary scholarship, demonstrating a worldly understanding of complex issues facing Jews and Jewish life in modern day diaspora.
2. The Rabbi should be a role model for religious observance and practice:
 - He should be a Halachic and spiritual leader who sees the importance of balancing Jewish identity and practice with our role in the modern world.

- Within the framework of Orthodox parameters, he should be an inspiring teacher and mentor. He should be welcoming of people of all levels of religious knowledge and observance, and strengthen our community as we move through life-cycle events that affect individuals, families and the community as a whole.
 - He should be aware of societal issues and prepared to address them.
 - He should inspire the pursuit of education, deepen religious involvement and observances, and work to increase adult participation in educational opportunities and attendance at Minyanim.
3. The Rabbi should be caring, sensitive, flexible, tolerant and approachable:
- He should serve as a pastoral leader helping the congregants through life-cycle events, showing sensitivity to their individual situations and needs.
 - He should offer comfort to those facing hardship.
 - He should provide Pesak Halacha with sensitivity to the diverse backgrounds of the congregation.
4. The Rabbi should help foster a sense of inclusion in the community:
- He should improve cohesion and inclusion by motivating people to get involved in synagogue and community activities.
 - He should engage the youth within the community and help foster their connection to Torah as a relevant force in their lives.
 - He should engage with the congregation to enhance the role of women within synagogue life, including expanding educational opportunities and religious experiences.
5. The Rabbi and his wife should be able to strengthen our community through their presence and approach:
- They should be accessible and welcoming to existing members, as well as establish a rapport and network with those who might be seeking to join the kehillah.
 - They should live a life which is consistent with their position as role models, and be prepared to host smaller groups at home for meals and shiurim.
 - As a family they should build and maintain relationships with children extending from their participation in Shabbat groups, to preparation for Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and through to their high school years where as young adults they solidify their Jewish identity.
 - If the prospective Rabbi's wife is also prepared to take on the role of a Rebbetzin who is willing to provide support to the women in our community, this would add considerable weight to our decision.
6. The Rabbi should be a communal leader:
- He should uphold and foster the aims of Zionism through helping to unite the Jewish people, by upholding the centrality of the State of Israel in Jewish Life, and helping to strengthen the State of Israel through spiritual and cultural practices here in Sydney.

- He should be a strong advocate for Israel and have involvement in communal Zionist activities.
- He should be able to work with like-minded organisations within the Sydney Jewish community, uphold respect for this country, and work towards the improvement of Jewish life in Australia and Israel.
- He should be open to inviting and welcoming visiting guest speakers to the pulpit as part of our informal education programmes.

Applications

An attractive compensation package is available for the right candidate, commensurate with level of experience. The position is full-time, and the successful candidate should be available to start no later than end of May 2018 to ensure an appropriate lead up to the 2018 High Holy Days. The role would be on a contract basis initially, with options to extend.

Applicants are asked to submit a cover letter and resume by Monday 26th March 2018, on a strictly confidential basis to:

Board of Directors

Kehillat Kadimah Limited

apply@kadimahsydney.org

www.kadimahsydney.org