## ANNOUNCEMENT

## Board Elects Rabbi Richard Jacobs as Next URJ President

On June 12, 2011, the Union for Reform Judaism Board of Trustees unanimously elected Rabbi Richard Jacobs as the URJ's next president. Rabbi Jacobs, who currently serves as senior rabbi at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, New York, will assume the post in 2012, succeeding Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie.

Following the vote, Rabbi Jacobs told the Board: "Everywhere we look there are dramatic challenges facing our people; yet each is a phenomenal opportunity to revitalize Jewish life. Only very rarely has Jewish history known an era of so much creativity or innovation; no previous generation has possessed our resources and potential....It's time to reinvent the architecture of Jewish life....



Rabbi Richard Jacobs delivering his acceptance speech, June 2011.

"In 25 years," he added, "I see our Movement flourishing with a wide network of energetic religious communities of depth and passion stretching throughout the Jewish world. Together we will catalyze innovation and excellence so that our expression of Judaism will attract the widest cross section of 21st century Jews and

seekers who have yet to find their faith. Congregations with purpose and imagination can do great things....As URJ president, it will be my honor to help lead and journey with you to that future we are just beginning to envision."

Rabbi Yoffie called the board's decision "extraordinary and inspired.... Rabbi Jacobs is a great leader who takes Torah seriously, speaks from our tradition with authority, and has been endlessly creative in applying it."

Board Chairman Peter Weidhorn declared: "I believe that today marks a new beginning for the URJ. With Rick's extensive work on synagogue transformation and his remarkable success as a congregational rabbi, I am excited by the promise [he] represents to support congregations in their sacred work."

To read Rabbi Jacobs' entire acceptance speech, his biography, writings, and more: **urj.org/rabbijacobs**.