

## URJ Updated Vision, Mission, and Values Statements

**Vision (our deepest aspiration):** The Union for Reform Judaism envisions a world in which Judaism enables all people to experience peace and wholeness (*shalom*), justice and equity (*tzedek*), and belonging and joy (*shayachut* and *simcha*).

**Mission (our purpose):** The Union for Reform Judaism creates, connects, and inspires diverse congregations, camps, and other Jewish communities to engage in spiritual growth and to pursue justice and equity.

### Values (our core beliefs):

#### ❖ Shared Humanity

בְּצֵלֶם אֱלֹהִים *B'tzelem elohim (Genesis 1:27)*

“In the image of God.”

We see everyone as created in the divine image and, as such, treat everyone with respect, dignity, and kindness.

#### ❖ Justice

דַּרְשׁוּ מִשְׁפָּט *Dirshu mishpat (Isaiah 1:17)*

“Seek justice.”

We seek justice for all people throughout the world.

#### ❖ Belonging

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם כְּכֻלְכֶם *Atem nitzavim hayom kulchem (Deuteronomy 29:9)*

“You stand today, ALL of you.”

We build, connect, and enrich communities – congregations, camps, programs, social justice work, and more – where youth and adults across all identities, generations, and lived experiences feel a deep sense of belonging.

#### ❖ Learning

וְתַלְמוּד תּוֹרָה כְּנֶגֶד כָּלֶם *Talmud Torah k'neged kulam (Mishnah Peah 1:1)*

“The study of Torah, above all.”

We honor Torah; wrestle with Jewish traditions and beliefs, including God; and engage directly with the difficult questions of our age.

#### ❖ Evolving

וְיָטוּבוּ מִחֲדָשׁ בְּכָל-יוֹם תְּמִיד מַעֲשֵׂה בְרָאשִׁית  
*U'vtuvo mechadesh b'chol yom tamid  
ma'aseh v'raysheet (Yotzeir Or, daily liturgy)*

“With goodness, the Holy One renews creation every day.”

We awaken to new awareness, holding ourselves accountable for changing as we grow.

#### ❖ Israel and Jewish Peoplehood

כֹּל יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲרֵימִם זֶה בָּזֶה *Kol yisrael arevim zeh ba'zeh (Shevuot 39a)*

“All of Israel and the Jewish people are responsible, one for the other.”

We are committed to the safety and vitality of the Jewish people and to a secure and just state of Israel as a home – for all Jews and for all its inhabitants.