

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 13, 2011

**UNITED SYNAGOGUE ISSUES STATEMENT ON BOARD VOTE  
SUPPORTING STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT**

NEW YORK – Today, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism’s board of directors overwhelmingly voted to accept a new strategic plan. Work will begin immediately on forming a committee to lay out its implementation.

The plan was produced by a joint commission representing United Synagogue and Hayom: The Coalition for the Transformation of Conservative Judaism. In February, the group released a draft strategic plan designed to chart a new course for United Synagogue that will change and strengthen the experience in Conservative congregations and in the many kehillot that share their values. Since making the draft public, Rabbi Steven Wernick, United Synagogue’s chief executive officer and executive vice president, and other members of the strategic planning commission have discussed it with Conservative congregations across North America. The plan accepted Sunday reflected those discussions.

Rabbi Wernick released the following statement:

This is a historic moment both for United Synagogue and for Conservative Judaism. This vote recognizes that the future requires a different focus and declares boldly that we’re prepared to meet the challenges.

*The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism was founded in 1913 as the association of Conservative synagogues in North America. Today it serves as a resource to its 650 affiliated congregations across North America, helping them to enrich the Jewish lives of their members and fulfilling religious, educational and communal responsibilities. More information on the strategic planning process is available at [www.uscj.org/4tomorrow.html](http://www.uscj.org/4tomorrow.html).*

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