Cantor Pro Seminar
CE CANTR 553
Fall 2014-2015/5775

Time: Mondays 11:15 a.m.-- 1:15 p.m.
Dates: Sep. 8, 15, Oct. 6, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15
Instructor: Cantor Ken Richmond
Contact Info: 508-650-3521, ext. 107 (Temple Israel of Natick), cantor@gmail.com
Meetings: Can be set up by appointment

Overview: This course is designed to focus on practical issues for the cantorate, including different models for the cantorate, aspects of searching for jobs, a variety of professional issues including getting along with lay and professional leaders, and a holistic look at life as a cantor. The class will include light readings and short writing assignments. We will have a number of guest-speakers who will share their expertise from outside fields or their take on their work as cantors. There may be a slight tweaking of the schedule due to the guest speakers or in response to the needs of the class.

Assignments:
- Weekly readings and assignments: These will be given in class or posted on Schoology. This is a participatory class in which preparation is key, so please come to class prepared to discuss the readings or to bring your work to share (sometimes all together and sometimes in hevruta). The assignments will include writing (or tweaking) a resume and presenting a sound file.

- Rubric for Grades:
  - Class Attendance and Participation: 50%
  - Short Weekly Assignments: 50%

Required Texts:
1. Social Media Guide to Ministry by Nils Smith
2. A number of readings and articles which will be available online.

Class #1: September 8 Overview, Introductions, Discussion of Student-Raised Questions
Class #2: September 15 Calling (& possible guest from funeral home)
Class #3: October 6 Technology & the Cantorate
Class #4: October 20 Resumes, Cover Letters, & Sound Files
Class #5: October 27 Interviews; role playing with Cantor Jeri Robins
Class #6: November 3 Relations with clergy, staff, and lay leaders (guest/s TBA)
Class #7: November 10 SA Cantor’s Spiritual & Psychological Health: “Put Your Own Oxygen Mask on First”! with Dr. Roslyn Heafitz
Class #8: November 17 Contracts & Parsonage: Financial Know-How for a Cantor with Attorney Michael Bohnen & CPA Bruce Gold
Class #9: November 24 Cantor/Educators in the field: Cantor Linda Sue Sohn on working with Special Needs students, and Cantor Jeri Robins on directing a Hebrew School
Class #10: December 1 Cantors & Pastoral Care: w/ guest Cantor Jeff Stock, chaplain (& maybe others)
Class #11: December 8 Concerts & Friday Night Live with guest Cantor Elias Rosenberg (maybe others)
Class #12: December 15 Wrap-Up