

## **Rabbinic Covenants**

By Michael Remson

It is important to work in conjunction with the CCAR Placement Director to teach the congregant about the stages in which the covenant with the next settled rabbi will develop. The rabbinical-congregational relationship will begin with a period of adoration. Both congregation and rabbi will be delighted with each other. This honeymoon, however, is followed by disillusionment. It is one thing to know that no rabbi or congregation is perfect, but it is something else for the congregation to discover the flaws of their new rabbi and vice versa. Disillusionment always comes, no matter who the rabbi or congregation. Fortunately, if the search process was properly carried out and if the congregation has calm, mature leadership, they can get past this second stage. Stage three can be a warm, mature covenant. This covenant is not based on the perfection of the two parties, but on mutual respect, admiration, shared vision and above all, their acceptance of each other's faults.