

Affinity WhatsApp Groups Coming Your Way!

One of the biggest takeaways of ARJE Listens was a resounding desire for members to connect in affinity groups based on similar roles and circumstances. The ARJE Member Engagement Committee has been reflecting on what we know about how and when our members connect and support each other.

Beginning now, we will be piloting member-only WhatsApp groups for two of our most requested affinity spaces: [Clergy Educators](#) and [Youth Professionals](#). If you identify as either a clergy educator or a youth professional, we invite you to join the ARJE Members community and request to join that group. (WhatsApp instructions are [here](#).)

The three goals that emerged from our listening campaign—and that are at the center of ARJE’s work this year—include:

1. Strengthening our Culture of Belonging
2. Celebrating our Members
3. Cultivating our Members’ Creativity

We hope that these new WhatsApp groups will enable members who identify specifically as youth professionals or clergy educators to feel celebrated, foster creativity together, and strengthen their unique identity within our organization.

At the same time, our leadership is committed to evaluation and experimentation prior to offering widespread change within our organization. If you have an idea for a future affinity group, please contact Molly Levy, Member Engagement Chair, so she can keep a list and identify where we might want to expand the WhatsApp effort if it meets our goals.

These groups are not meant to replace our existing forms of communication—[Instagram](#) stories highlighting #Whateducatorsdo, our [Facebook Page](#) for public messages, our weekly ARJE Achshav email for events and reminders, our [website](#) for resources on negotiations, volunteer roles, and organizational initiatives, and our private, members-only Facebook group for member-to-member communication and sharing.

Rather, these WhatsApp groups are meant to support individual sub-groups in navigating the unique opportunities and challenges of their roles. We also trust that—just like our Facebook group—these sub-groups will remain grounded in ARJE’s values and [uphold the ARJE Ethics Code](#) at all times.

If you aren’t a youth educator or clergy educator and have made it to the end of this article, please share this exciting news with a colleague who might benefit from this new affinity group.

With gratitude,

Molly Levy

ARJE Member Engagement Chair