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David A. Schwartz

PORAT Response to Recent OU Statement

February 5, 2018

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PORAT applauds the Orthodox Union's desire "to maximize the participation of women within the ranks of synagogue professionals" while "[d]eveloping appropriate titles for women of significant accomplishment, holding professional positions within the synagogue, educational and communal structure, thereby acknowledging their achievement and status" (OU statement, Jan. 31, 2018). We are pleased that the OU decided not to take action against the synagogues that employ women in clergy positions, but we are disappointed that this is not a permanent decision. PORAT is similarly disappointed that the OU's stance prevents additional OU synagogues from benefiting from having learned and sincerely dedicated women serve in clergy roles. PORAT hopes that the OU will continue its role as an organization open to the entire breadth of the Orthodox community and encourages its members to work to ensure this future by advocating within the OU and by creating a future in which women in clergy positions are respected and valued.

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About PORAT (People for Orthodox Renaissance and Torah): PORAT is a Modern Orthodox organization that works to create a tolerant and inclusive Jewish community by bringing together lay and religious leaders, by promoting open dialogue, and by advancing Torah values. PORAT recognizes that Orthodoxy supports a variety of halachic opinions, including Orthodox synagogues employing women in clergy positions. For more information regarding PORAT, please visit <http://poratonline.org>.

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