

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association**  
**RESOLUTION**

**COMMERCIALISM AND THE RABBINATE**

1992

We regard the rabbinate as a profession with a primary commitment to service to the Jewish community and the larger human family.

As a professional organization, we are concerned with the well-being, spiritual and economic, of our membership.

At the same time, as rabbis dedicated to service, we are aware that in some places individual rabbis and pseudo-rabbis have established themselves in "entrepreneurial" roles which are perceived as primarily self-serving rather than serving the Jewish community.

We note that the 1991 Rabbinic Code of Ethics of the CCAR includes a section beginning, "A rabbi should avoid any actions suggesting the practice of commercialism."

We are concerned that commercialism can bring discredit to the RRA and to the rabbinate in general. Furthermore, our members seeking to act ethically deserve further guidance from their colleagues.

Therefore we resolve:

1. That the RRA Ethics Committee invite comments on this topic from members.
2. That the Ethics Committee submit a statement on commercialism in the rabbinate at the 1993 convention.
3. That such a statement may cover, at the Ethics Committee's discretion: advertising for life cycle and other events, charging fees to members of one's own congregation for life cycle events, and charging fees to gerim for officiating at a conversion ceremony, as well as other topics.