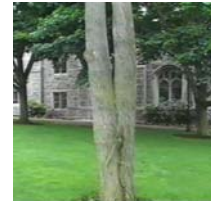




# Walking God's Paths



## 5. Metaphors for a Unique Relationship

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Rabbi Lehmann observes that a distinction needs to be made between images that described the Jewish and Christian relationship in past centuries from those that have emerged in the last third of the twentieth century. For centuries, Christians assumed that the Church had superseded Jews as God's chosen people and this theology of "supersessionism" was reflected in Christian art. Although Jews were censored by the dominant Christian society, how would you imagine Jews pictured supersessionist Christianity, if only in their imaginations? How might Jews, for example, have depicted the relationship of Synagoga and Ecclesia?
2. The video presents a number of different approaches to picturing the relationship between Christianity and Judaism today. These include: mother and daughter, siblings, branches from a common root, First and Second Blessing, study partners, and partners-in-(active)-waiting. What strikes you as the strengths and weaknesses of each approach? Which of these metaphors captures the relationship best for you? Or could you suggest an alternative?
3. Your discussion group is a committee that has been appointed by the president of a secular university. The university is in the process of building on campus a small Christian (or Catholic) chapel and a small Jewish synagogue for religious services for its students. The buildings will be near one another and will be entered by means of a common courtyard or atrium in which it is hoped some common celebrations might be held (e.g., at Thanksgiving). Your committee has the task of developing the concept for a sculpture that will be placed in the center of this common space. It should express a positive relationship between Judaism and Christianity that will inspire Christian and Jewish students to respect each other's traditions and to work together in the world. Role-play that your committee is convening for the first time and is to give a report of whatever conclusions it has been able to reach thus far to the president after the meeting.
4. Reflect back on the conversation your group has experienced this session. Which of the ideas that were voiced are common knowledge among members of your own community? Which would be highly debatable? What do these considerations suggest about future tasks for those concerned about deepening positive Jewish and Christian relations?