

Proposed Update to the Temple Beth-El Constitution

PURPOSE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- TO BALANCE THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ITS COMMITTEES WITH THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF TEMPLE BETH-EL AND THE PRECEPTS OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
- TO STREAMLINE BASIC RULES AND POLICIES LOGICALLY TO ENSURE EFFICIENT, RESPONSIVE AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE
- TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK TO PROVIDE THE FLEXIBILITY TO ADAPT TO EVOLVING PRACTICES AND CIRCUMSTANCES, CHANGES IN LAW AND ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

Proposed ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose; Guiding Principles of Religious Services

Section 1 This Congregation will be known as TEMPLE BETH-EL.

Section 2 The purpose of the Congregation will be to: a) maintain a synagogue for divine prayer and for religious observance according to the tenets and precepts of egalitarian Conservative Judaism b) to encourage Jewish education of its membership, and in particular, of children; and c) to cultivate an environment that supports and encourages Jewish culture and religious observance, the welfare of the Congregation and our community and acts of social responsibility and loving-kindness.

Section 3 The Ritual Committee, in consultation with the Rabbi, will establish the practices to be adhered to by the Congregation in respect of the conduct of religious services, which will be guided by *Emet v'Emunah* (the statement of Conservative Jewish principles). In particular, the Ritual Committee will respect the traditions of the Congregation, which include:

- 1) an egalitarian approach to services;
- 2) a requirement that men wear headcoverings; and
- 3) the inclusion of a meaningful use of Hebrew prayers during religious services.

In addition, the Congregation wishes to be a welcoming place for people of all religions, and persons who are not of the Jewish faith are invited to attend services and to participate in the services to the extent provided for by the Rabbi or the Ritual Committee.