

CONSTITUTION OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

LOCATED IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA

ARTICLE I- NAME AND AFFILIATION

The organization shall be known as TEMPLE ISRAEL CONGREGATION (TI), located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and shall be affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, or its successor or assigns.

ARTICLE II- PURPOSE

TI serves its members as a BET-TEFILAH, a House of Prayer; BET-MIDRASH, a House of Study; BET-KENESET, a House of Assembly. TI is its members' spiritual home, a center of Jewish communal life, and an active participant in the religious life of the general community. TI should promote enrichment and growth of Judaism, foster the vibrancy of Reform Judaism through Torah (lifelong Jewish education), Avodah (worship of God through prayer and observance), and G'milut Chasadim (the pursuit of justice, peace and deeds of loving-kindness). The purpose of this congregation is to promote the fundamental and enduring principles of Judaism, to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people, and to apply the principles of Reform Judaism to the values and conduct of the individual, the family, and the society in which we live.

ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person who is Jewish and eighteen years or older, may be elected to membership upon approval by the TI Board of Trustees (BoT) of a written application. "Jewish" when used in this Constitution shall mean Jewish according to Reform Jewish Rabbinic criteria. The membership unit shall be either the individual or the family. For purposes of this article, family includes the Jewish applicant, the applicant's spouse, and their dependent children. The applicant shall indicate which family members, Jewish or non-Jewish, are to be included in the congregational membership. Family members who identify with Messianic Judaism or Jews for Jesus, or with any group inimical to the Purpose of this congregation, as determined by the Senior Rabbi of TI, are ineligible for TI membership. Exceptional circumstances will be addressed by the BoT as they occur.

Section 2. On all matters requiring a vote of the Congregation, each Jewish adult eligible under Section 1 above, eighteen years of age or older in a membership unit in good standing, shall have one vote on issues relating to the religious life of the congregation as determined by the BoT; adult members eighteen years or older shall have one vote on all other issues.

Section 3. Good standing shall be defined by the BoT.

Section 4. Members of the congregation shall have all the privileges of membership, subject to the rules and regulations established by the BoT.

Section 5. Death shall not terminate the membership of the surviving spouse or other family member in the membership unit.

Section 6. The BoT may establish special membership classifications.

Section 7. The membership of any person who had been considered a member prior to the effective date of this Constitution will not be affected by Sections 1-6 of this Article III.

Section 8. In exceptional circumstances, the BoT may vote to terminate the membership of an individual or family whose affiliations or conduct are deemed harmful to the health or safety of TI or any member or are contrary to the Purpose of TI.

ARTICLE IV- DUES AND FEES

Dues shall be determined according to policies adopted by the BoT. Such policies shall address methodology for setting dues amounts and adjustments, when payments are due, the effect of arrearage on membership, and other related and additional matters, such as fees. Such policies shall reflect a concern that every Jew should find TI membership possible.

ARTICLE V- MEETINGS

Section 1. An annual meeting of the Congregation shall be held no later than the end of June in each fiscal year at a time and place to be fixed by the President of the Congregation. Special [additional] meetings shall be held as determined by the BoT, or upon the written application to the Board of 10 percent of the members of the Congregation in good standing.

Section 2. One hundred and twenty persons eligible to vote on all issues, or no less than twenty percent of persons eligible to vote on all issues, shall constitute a quorum at any annual or special meeting of the Congregation.

Section 3. The election of Officers and Trustees shall take place at the annual Congregational meeting. The Nominating Committee will present its slate for election and other nominations, if any, will be taken from the floor. Elections will be determined by a majority of those present and eligible to vote.

Section 4. The report of the Nominating Committee and written notice of any meeting shall be provided to each member at least 10 days before the date of the meeting. The notice shall specify the purpose of the meeting and no business shall be transacted except as provided in the notice.

ARTICLE VI- NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee composed of nine Jewish members of TI shall be selected annually and consist of:

- (a) the President-Elect, who shall chair the Committee
- (b) the President
- (c) the immediate Past-President
- (d) three members of the Congregation, none of whom shall be Officers or Trustees of the Congregation, and first, second, and third alternate members in the event of the inability of an elected member to serve, elected by the Congregation at each annual Congregational meeting
- (e) three members of the BoT, elected annually by the BoT
- (f) Vacancies in members elected by the BoT shall be filled by the BoT

The committee shall nominate Officers and Trustees to be offered for election at the annual Congregational meeting.

ARTICLE VII- BOT

Section 1. The Government of the Congregation shall be vested in a BoT of up to twenty-seven members compromised of:

- (a) President,
- (b) President-Elect,
- (c) Vice President,
- (d) Secretary,
- (e) Treasurer,
- (f) fifteen Trustees elected by the Congregation as hereinafter provided,
- (g) two immediate Past-Presidents of the Congregation,
- (h) Brotherhood President & Sisterhood President or a designee as appointed by those Presidents from those auxiliaries for that Trustee's term,
- (i) Up to two Trustees appointed by the President for a maximum of two consecutive years,
- (j) the Office of the Honorary President

Section 2. The President of the TI Foundation shall be an ex-officio member of the BoT. Any member of the Congregation sitting on the North American Board of the Union for Reform Judaism (or its successors or assigns) may serve on the BoT ex-officio. "Ex-officio" when used in this Constitution shall mean without vote.

Section 3. The Senior Rabbi, Cantor, and Educator shall be non-voting members of the BoT and shall have the right to attend all meetings of the BoT and the Congregation, except when requested for some special reason to be absent.

Section 4. Any member of the BoT, except the Honorary President, who is absent from three consecutive regular Board meetings, may be subject to forfeiture of his or her position on the BoT by vote of the BoT.

Section 5. In the event of a vacancy in the elected members of the BoT, other than the Officers, a successor shall be designated by a majority vote of the remaining Trustees to serve until the next annual Congregational meeting, at which time the

vacancy shall be filled by the Congregation for the remainder of the unexpired term. Other vacancies shall be filled as follows: (a) if the vacancy is in a member appointed by the President, the President shall appoint a successor; (b) if the vacancy is in the representative of the Sisterhood or Brotherhood, the organization shall designate a successor; and if the vacancy results because of the inability to serve of one of the immediate past presidents of the Congregation, the next available Past-President shall succeed to such office.

Section 6.

(a) At each Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM), the Congregation shall elect five trustees for a term of two consecutive years.

(b) Unless appointed as a Trustee or serving as an Officer, no Trustees shall be elected for more than three consecutive terms.

Section 7. Any elected Trustee may be removed by a majority vote of the membership of the entire Congregation at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 8. The BoT shall schedule regular meetings at least once every month throughout the year, except that meetings during the month of July and August shall be at the discretion of the President. Each Trustee shall receive at least five days' written notice of any meeting.

Section 9. Twelve voting members of the BoT shall constitute a quorum at a regular meeting. Fifteen voting members of the BoT shall constitute a quorum at a special meeting.

Section 10. If authorized by the Congregation at a regular meeting or a special meeting for such purpose, the BoT may: (a) Acquire a site for the House of Worship; (b) Sell, lease, exchange, or mortgage the site of the House of Worship. Employment of the Rabbi shall be governed by Article IX of this Constitution. With the foregoing limitations or exceptions, the BoT shall have general power to govern the affairs of the Congregation, to control its revenue and properties, to sell, lease, exchange, assign or mortgage any property, to contract with all employees of the Congregation and to fix the term of their employment, and to take such action as shall, in its judgment, best promote the general welfare of the Congregation.

Section 11. Members of the BoT, as the chosen leaders of the Congregation, shall individually and collectively set the example for the membership by regular attendance at worship services, and by active participation in the life and activities of the Congregation.

ARTICLE VIII- OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Congregation are the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary and together shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Rabbi and an administrative staff person shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. In addition to the Officers elected by the Congregation, the President shall nominate a Parliamentarian, an Assistant Secretary, and an Assistant Treasurer from the membership of the BoT who, upon confirmation by the BoT, shall serve in such offices.

- (a) The rules of procedure at meetings shall be determined by Roberts Rules of Order, latest revised edition, and, in the event of a question as to a ruling of the presiding Officer or as to procedure, the Parliamentarian shall rule upon the same.
- (b) In the event of the absence or inability of the Secretary to serve, or in the event of a vacancy in such office, the Assistant Secretary shall perform the duties of the Secretary.
- (c) In the event of the absence or inability of the Treasurer to serve, or in the event of a vacancy in such office, the Assistant Treasurer shall perform the duties of Treasurer.

Section 3. The Congregation may elect to the Office of Honorary President a member(s) whose years of devoted service to TI merit this recognition. The occupant(s) of the Office shall serve for life and shall be a voting member(s) of the BoT. When a vacancy occurs, the President shall convene a Special Nominating Committee consisting of all available living Past-Presidents which shall meet and report to the BoT in recommendation for Honorary President, if any, for vote at regular or special meetings of the Congregation. If no recommendation is made, the Special Nominating Committee shall meet again per call of the President.

Section 4. The Congregation shall elect the Officers designated in Section 1, and such elected Officers shall serve for a term of two consecutive years. The President of the Congregation shall be succeeded by the President-Elect subject to Section 5.

Section 5. In the event of the death, inability to serve, or resignation of the President:

- (a) The President-Elect shall succeed to fill the remaining term of the then current office of President of the Congregation.
- (b) The eligibility of the new President (former President-Elect) to be re-elected President, and the length of such additional term, shall depend upon the length of time remaining of the term of the former President to which the President-Elect succeeded. If the number of full months remaining in such term (excluding the month in which the term expires):
 - (1) Is less than 6 months, the President shall be eligible for election to a term of 2 full years;
 - (2) Is more than 6, but less than 18, the new President shall be eligible for election to an additional term of 1 full year;
 - (3) Is 18 months or more, the new President shall not be eligible for election to an additional term.
- (c) At the Congregational meeting ending the initial term of the new President, the Congregation shall elect a President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, whose terms shall run concurrently.

ARTICLE IX- RABBI

Section 1. Rabbis must be ordained graduates of an accredited seminary and shall be elected by the Congregation at an annual or special meeting called for that purpose. The salary of the Senior Rabbi and other staff rabbis shall be determined and fixed from time to time by the BoT per recommendations of the Personnel Committee.

Section 2. In the event of a vacancy or contemplated vacancy in the position of Rabbi, the President shall select a Pulpit Search Committee composed of an appropriate number of members of the BoT and of the Congregation, who shall investigate all applications for the position of Rabbi and who shall contact all persons who might be candidates for such position. The Pulpit Search Committee shall report its findings to the BoT, which shall, after considering the report of the Pulpit Search Committee, adopt a Resolution recommending a candidate for the position of Rabbi. This Resolution shall be submitted to the Congregation at the annual meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The recommendation of the BoT shall be deemed to be a nomination.

Section 3. Term and Conditions of Service

- (a) Initial term not to exceed three years
- (b) A Personnel Committee assembled by the President shall engage with other committees and report on the Rabbi's performance to the BoT prior to offering an extension of the term.
- (c) The term of service may be extended by the BoT for any identified period on expiration of the current term.

Section 4. Retirement normally takes place at or after age 65. It is expected that retirement will occur not later than age 70. Other times for retirement may be specified by contractual agreement. Upon retirement the title of "Emeritus" may be conferred upon the Senior Rabbi. The BoT will determine the relationship of an Emeritus Rabbi with the Congregation.

Section 5. Rabbis and professional Cantors and Educators shall constitute the TI Clergy

ARTICLE X- CEMETERY

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Congregation to provide a consecrated burial ground to be administered by the BoT through the Cemetery Committee. The Cemetery Committee shall issue rules and regulations which, when approved by the BoT, shall govern the cemetery.

Section 2. All interments in the cemetery shall be under the supervision of, and conducted by, a member of the Jewish Clergy or an authorized representative, or, in the absence of both, a qualified lay member of the Congregation.

ARTICLE XI- COMMITTEES AND AUXILIARIES

Section 1. Immediately upon taking office, it shall be the duty of the President to constitute the following standing committees:

- a. Adult Education
- b. Budget
- c. Cemetery
- d. Finance
- e. Membership
- f. Ritual
- a. Youth Education
- g. Personnel Practices (Personnel)

The following Committees (and others) may be established by the BoT pursuant to Section 3 of this Article XI:

- b. Archives
- c. Art
- d. ARZA
- e. Audit
- f. Caring TI
- g. College Activities
- h. Facilities
- i. Fund-Raising
- j. Inter-religious
- k. Jewish Federation
- l. Leadership Development (Lead TI)
- m. Legal
- n. Library
- o. Long-range Planning
- p. Museums (Judaica)
- q. Music (Music and Choir)
- r. Outreach
- s. Public Relations (Communications/PR)
- t. Social Action (Social Justice)
- u. UAHC Liaison
- v. Youth

The number of members of each committee shall be at the discretion of the President and all committee members and those chairing committees shall serve at the pleasure of the President. Each Trustee shall serve on at least one committee. All committees should be headed by a member of the BoT and/or should be under the supervision of an Officer. The committees shall perform such functions and duties as have heretofore been assigned to them, or as may in the future be delegated to them by the BoT. It shall be the duty of each committee to formulate and issue rules and regulations governing the TI functions entrusted to them, which rules and regulations shall be subject to the approval of the BoT.

Section 2. The President may, from time to time, appoint special committees for specified purposes and duties.

Section 3. There shall be an Executive Committee as designated in Article VIII, Section 1. The Executive Committee shall receive reports from persons chairing committees and shall determine which reports require submission to the BoT for appropriate action. A committee chair shall, however, have the right to submit any matter to the BoT, whether previously considered by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may perform such other functions and shall have such other duties as may from time to time be delegated to it by the BoT.

Section 4. All members of the Cemetery, Adult Education, Ritual and Youth Education Committees must be Jewish. Committee Chairs and those who appoint members to committees should endeavor to assure that at least two-thirds (2/3) of the membership of each committee is Jewish.

Section 5. Auxiliary organizations, including Brotherhood and Sisterhood, serving the needs of the congregation shall be authorized by the BoT. The bylaws of the auxiliaries shall be subject to acceptance by the BoT.

ARTICLE XII- FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall begin annually on July 1.

ARTICLE XIII- AMENDMENTS

This Constitution shall be subject to alteration, revision, or amendment at regular or special meetings of the Congregation, provided that the proposed alteration, revision, or amendment has been submitted in writing to the Congregation at least ten days prior to such meeting. Upon the presence of a quorum pursuant to Article V, Section 2, the adoption of any proposed alteration, revision or amendment shall be by the affirmative votes of two-thirds of the eligible voting members at the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV- EFFECTIVE DATE

This constitution shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the Congregation as amendment to the prior Constitution adopted June 6, 2021, replacing the prior Constitution adopted February 23, 1997 and amended on May 2, 1999.

Jon Stolper, President

SEAL
ATTEST

Gwen Savitz, Secretary