

## CONGREGATION TIFERETH ISRAEL AND TEMPLE ISRAEL

### PROPOSED ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT OF MERGER

#### 1. MEMBERSHIP

Only the Jewish spouse can serve as an officer of the Congregation, a member of the Board of Directors, a member of the religious committee, and the chair of any standing committee.

Standing committees include religious (which shall include administration of Hebrew school); Sunday school; building, finance, membership; two (2) cemetery; and Sisterhood. Only Jewish persons may be members of the religious and Tifereth Israel Cemetery committees.

In order to vote, a member must be in good standing in the minutes and records of the Congregation with dues paid to date, based on (1) vote per adult Jewish member.

#### 2. DEFINITION of a JEWISH CHILD

A Jewish child for purposes of participation in the Congregation shall be defined as follows:

- a) one who is defined as Jewish under Jewish Law; or
- b) one who meets all of the following criteria:
  - 1) has at least one Jewish parent;
  - 2) is being raised in a home in which Judaism is practiced; and
  - 3) will become or has become a bar or bat mitzvah.

#### 3. DEFINITION of a JEWISH ADULT

A Jewish adult for purposes of participation in the Congregation shall be defined as follows:

- a) one who is defined as Jewish under Jewish Law; or
- b) one who meets all of the following criteria:



- 1) is at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- 2) has been born to a Jewish parent or has converted to Judaism in accordance with either UAHC, United Synagogue or traditional Jewish law; and
- 3) actively practices Judaism.

#### 4. FINANCE and DUES

A joint finance committee shall formulate a budget for the new congregation with all costs of relocating memorabilia from Temple Israel not to exceed 70% of the marketable value of assets of Temple Israel.

The board will vote to approve the budget.

Differences in dues structures will be reconciled by the joint finance committee.

#### 5. LEADERSHIP

##### A. Board membership

For at least four years, the board will be composed of an equal amount of members from each former congregation not to exceed 12 plus officers, with the stipulation that the Pres. and First VP will not be from the same former congregation, if possible.

##### B. The officers will be:

President  
First Vice President  
Second Vice President  
Secretary  
Financial Secretary  
Treasurer

##### C. Committee membership:

The membership of the committees will consist of equal members of both former congregations for two years, if possible.



**6. RABBI**

A Rabbi will be hired by the new congregation. The full congregation will vote on the hiring of a Rabbi.

A committee composed of equal members of each former congregation may interview candidates, but no Rabbi will be hired by the merged congregation until a new corporation has been formed. Subsequently, the termination of the Rabbi's contract shall be decided by the board.

**7. LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS**

One set of Articles of Merger will be agreed upon by the two separate congregations for the creation of a new non-profit corporation which will include new articles of incorporation and bylaws.

All of the assets of each separate congregation shall become the property of the new corporation, and the new corporation shall be responsible for all debts and liabilities of the two former congregations.

For IRS purposes the 501(c)(3) ID number of Congregation Tifereth Israel shall be used.

**8. NAME**

To be determined by the new congregation.

**9. BUILDING**

The building of former Congregation Tifereth Israel shall be used as the new corporation's house of worship.

A joint building committee shall determine relocation of memorial boards, stained-glass windows and other memorabilia from the former Temple Israel building, with a cost of relocation not to exceed 70% of the marketable value of assets of Temple Israel. Major memorial boards, stained glass windows and other memorabilia from Temple Israel shall be used in the building retained by the new Corporation. Net proceeds from the sale of the building will become part of the general fund of the new corporation.



#### 10. CEMETERY

All cemeteries owned by both Congregations will become the property of and will be under the jurisdiction of the new Congregation. All funds that were specifically paid, given, or bequeathed to one of the separate cemeteries for its maintenance or support will remain the property of that specific cemetery and will not be co-mingled with the funds of any other cemetery nor shall such funds be available for use by the new Congregation. New funds given or bequeathed to the cemeteries of the new Congregation will be available for use in any of the cemeteries owned by the unified Congregation, unless specifically earmarked by the donor for use in a particular cemetery.

The administration of the three cemeteries owned by the new Congregation shall be handled by two committees, to be appointed by the President of the new Congregation, and subject to administration of the board of Directors.

1. All previous lot purchases will be honored.

2. Each cemetery shall continue to be operated under the religious principles, practices, and by-laws in use in that particular cemetery; and the Rabbi will abide by the rules and ritual of that particular cemetery.

#### 11. AFFILIATION

The new Congregation will not affiliate with any of Judaism's national denominations.

#### 12. KITCHEN

The kitchen shall be maintained according to the rules of Kashrut. Kosher caterers may be used. Other caterers may be used as long as they are supervised as to the required kosher practices. Only Kosher food products may be brought into the building.

#### 13. RITUAL OBSERVANCE and PRACTICE

- a. Friday Night Sabbath Services.

1. The Service will include a Torah reading in Hebrew, an English translation of the Torah reading and a Haftorah reading in English. Those Torah and Haftorah readings may be just part of the full passage of the week.



2. The Service will include organ accompaniment to congregational singing. A choir or soloist comprised of non-members will be permitted.

3. On occasions, such as services involving the youth group, guitars and other instruments will be allowed to accompany congregational singing.

4. The Service will be organized to run no longer than 70 minutes.

5. Emphasis will be given to English translations of prayers and readings.

b. Saturday Sabbath Services

1. The Torah Service will include the full or 1/3 rd Torah passage for the week to be read in Hebrew with seven Aliyot included.

2. The Haftorah reading will be in Hebrew.

3. No instrumental accompaniment of congregational singing.

4. Emphasis will be given to Hebrew language versions of prayer and reading.

c. Bar or Bat Mitzvah Sabbath Services

1. The content and conduct of the service shall follow the wishes of the Rabbi and the family, within the context of the regular Friday night and Saturday morning services.

2. The family shall have the choice of conducting the ceremony on either Friday night, Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon (Minchah).

3. The extent of any child's participation in or conduct of services shall be determined by the Rabbi, based upon the child's level of ability.

4. A non-Jewish parent may have a role in his/her child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony.



d. Erev Rosh Hashanah

1. Emphasis will be given to English translation of prayers and readings.

2. A cantor will be retained.

e. Erev Yom Kippur

1. The service will be a traditional Kol Nidre service. Emphasis will be given to Hebrew language versions of prayers and readings.

2. A cantor will be retained.

f. First Day of Rosh Hashanah

1. The schedule of services will be designed in "modules" or "segments".

2. A traditional Shacharit service, emphasizing the Hebrew language versions of prayers and readings will be conducted first.

3. From 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, a module or segment with the following characteristics will be conducted:

It will use as much English as possible.

It will include the Torah Service.

The Torah portion will be read in Hebrew. The Torah service will include the reading of the English translation of at least a part of the Torah portion or a summary of the Torah portion explained by the Rabbi.

The Haftorah portion will be read in Hebrew. The English translation of at least part of the Haftorah portion will be read or a summary of the Haftorah portion will be explained by the Rabbi.

4. A cantor will be retained.

g. Second Day of Rosh Hashanah

Traditional services emphasizing the Hebrew language versions of prayers and readings will be conducted.



h. Yom Kippur Morning

1. The schedule of services will be designed in "modules" or "segments".

2. A traditional Shacharit service, emphasizing the Hebrew language versions of prayers and readings, will be conducted first.

3. From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. a module or segment with the following characteristics will be conducted:

It will use as much English as possible.

It will include the Torah Service.

The Torah portion will be read in Hebrew. The Torah service will include the reading of the English translation of at least part of the Torah portion or a summary of the Torah portion explained by the Rabbi.

The Haftorah portion will be read in Hebrew. The English translation of at least part of the Haftorah portion will be read or a summary of the Haftorah portion will be explained by the Rabbi.

4. A cantor will be retained.

i. The Yizkur service will be conducted after the Torah service.

j. Yom Kippur Afternoon/Evening.

1. Traditional services emphasizing the Hebrew language versions of prayers and readings will be conducted for the duration of the Holiday.

2. There will be two (2) concluding services conducted separately. One will take place from 4-5 p.m., and the other will begin after 5 p.m. and conclude after sundown.

3. A cantor will be retained.

k. Other Holiday Services

Services for Erev Simchas Torah, Erev Chanukah and Erev Purim will have a content and a length designed to encourage attendance of young children.



1. Weddings, confirmations, and other celebrations that are not Jewish holidays

1. The families and Rabbi shall decide the form and content of the service.

2. Instrumental music shall be permitted.

m. Kipot and Talitot

1. Kipot and Talitot will be required for men who are seated on the Bima or who read or speak from the Bima. Women on the Bima may wear Talitot if they wish.

2. Kipot will be required for all men in the sanctuary.

n. Other Ritual Issues

1. Prayer book for use during High Holidays shall be determined.

2. Prayer book for Festivals and Sabbath services shall be determined.

3. High Holiday seats.

Open seating available to all members at no charge.  
Adult, out-of-town guests, will be charged a fee as approved by the Board. This fee will be waived for members in good standing of other Jewish Congregations.

Non-member students will be admitted at no charge.  
Local residents who are not members will not be permitted to attend.

o. There will be no restrictions on the full participation of Jewish women in the Holiday, Sabbath and other observances of the Congregation, including aliyot.

p. Open seating is available throughout the year.