

בית המדרש הצעיר של פיטסבורג

Young Peoples Synagogue of Pittsburgh

CONSTITUTION

Article I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. This Congregation shall be known as the Young Peoples Synagogue of Pittsburgh, a duly organized non-profit corporation, chartered under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Hebrew name of this Congregation shall be K'hillah K'doshah Bonai Israel. (gissrac)

Section 2. The purposes of the Congregation shall be to promote traditional Judaism in all facets of living; to encourage young men and women to participate actively in all phases of the Synagogue service; to stimulate participation in other forms of Jewish communal life; to strengthen the bonds with our brethren in Israel and with the Jewish people everywhere; and to exemplify Judaism by emphasizing the principles of righteousness and brotherhood in society at large.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person of the Jewish faith, eighteen years of age or older, who subscribes to the purposes of this Congregation, may be elected to regular membership on approval of his application by a majority of the Board of Trustees at a regular meeting thereof.

Section 2. A two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Board of Trustees is required to remove a person from membership.

Section 3. Boys from Bar Mitzvah and girls on attaining the age of thirteen shall upon application be eligible to Junior Membership.

Article III. DUES

Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall fix the dues for each fiscal year.

Article IV. PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. A member who has paid his dues is entitled to the following privileges:

- (a) the right to vote at all membership meetings;
- (b) the right of his sons to Bar Mitzvah in the Synagogue in preference to those of a non-member;
- (c) the right to reserve seats for the High Holy Day Services by the payment of the Seat Holder's Fee, which shall be less than the fee to non-members;
- (d) the right to participate in all activities held under the auspices of the Congregation, and the rights to such other benefits as accrue from participating in Synagogue activities.

Article V. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1. Composition of the Board. The Board shall consist of the elected officers of the Congregation and twelve members of the Congregation. The first year, one-third of the Trustees (exclusive of the officers) shall be elected for three-year terms; another one-third shall be elected for two-year terms; and another one-third shall be elected for one-year terms. At subsequent annual elections, one-third of the Trustees shall be elected for three years to replace the outgoing Trustees.** No person shall be eligible for election as Trustee for more than two consecutive terms of three years each, provided, however, that this restriction shall not be deemed to include service on the Board of Trustees as an officer.

Section 2. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the Board from among its members. This election shall take place at the organization meeting of the Board, convened for that purpose by the President of the Congregation as soon as practicable after the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

* Amended October 19, 1958 -- to read (15) fifteen.

** Amended October 19, 1958 by insertion: In addition to the (15) fifteen trustees designated above, the Congregation may elect an out-going President to (1) one three-year term on the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Powers and Duties. The Board of Trustees shall govern the affairs of the Congregation, control its revenue and property, and take such action as shall in its good judgement best promote the welfare of the Congregation subject to the provisions of the By-Laws. In furtherance of that objective, the Board shall have power to:

- (a) elect members of the Congregation;
- (b) determine all dues and assessments of members;
- (c) select such employees as may be necessary, fix their duties and salaries, or remove such employees unless otherwise prescribed by the By-Laws;
- (d) authorize the appropriation and use of funds subject to the approval of the Congregation at its Annual Meeting or a special meeting called for the purpose;
- (e) authorize a special meeting of the Congregation whenever it may be deemed necessary.

Section 4. The Chairman of the Board shall preside at all Board meetings and shall designate the member who will preside in his absence. The Chairman shall prepare the agenda for the consideration of the Board and shall designate the time and place of each Board meeting. He shall serve as a member ex officio on all standing committees and shall appoint the chairmen of all committees.

Section 5. Meetings of the Board. The organization meeting of the Board shall be held as soon as practicable after the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. A regular meeting of the Board shall be held in each of the months preceding Purim, Pesach, Shevuoth, and Rosh Hashonah. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Board upon five days' notice, stating the purpose thereof; and must be called by him upon the request of three Trustees.

Section 6. At least seven members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7. Decision of the Board shall be by majority vote of the quorum present, except as otherwise prescribed. Any action of the Board may be vetoed by a two-thirds majority of the Congregation present at a special meeting called for that specific purpose.

Section 8. The office of any Trustee absent without good cause for three successive meetings of the Board may, within the discretion of the Board, be declared vacant.

Section 9. Should a vacancy occur in any office, the Board shall fill such vacancy until the next annual election by the Congregation. At such election, the Congregation shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

Section 10. The Board of Trustees shall prepare a budget for the fiscal year next succeeding, which shall run from one Shabbos B'reshis to the next. This budget shall be presented to the Congregation at its regular meeting as set forth in Article VIII. At said meeting, the proposed budget may be adopted, altered or amended by a majority vote of the members present. Funds so appropriated by favorable action on the budget may be disbursed by the Board without further authority for such amounts and items as may be specified in said budget.

Section 11. All actions of the Board of Trustees shall be accurately recorded and reported to the Congregation at its Annual Meeting.

Article VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees shall consist of (a) the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, (b) the President, (c) the Vice President, (d) the Secretary, and (e) the Gabbai.

Section 2. When, in the opinion of the Chairman or, in his absence, the President, a matter of great urgency arises which does not allow the time required to convene the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee shall be convened by the Chairman of the Board or the President.

Section 3. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, the President, and at least one other member of the Committee. In the absence of either the Chairman or the President, one other member of the Executive Committee may serve to fill the quorum.

Section 4. The Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, but must report its deliberations and decisions to the Board as soon as practicable but in no event more than two weeks after its meeting.

Article VII. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Congregation shall be: (a) a President, (b) a Vice President, (c) a Secretary, (d) a Treasurer, and (e) a Gabbai.

Section 2. The officers together with the Board of Trustees shall be elected by ballot of the members at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

Section 3. The duties of the officers shall be:

- (a) The President shall preside at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and shall carry out the policies adopted by the Board of Trustees. He shall execute documents and contracts when authorized by the Board. He shall serve as member ex officio on all standing committees. He shall sign the checks for the disbursement of funds held jointly with any other organization when he is satisfied that such disbursement is being made for the purposes for which such fund was created.
- (b) The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President during his absence.
- (c) The Secretary shall keep minutes of the Annual Meeting as well as those of each Board meeting. The Secretary shall also be the custodian of all reports from the officers and from the standing committees. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as the office demands.
- (d) The Treasurer shall receive all monies belonging to the Congregation and give a receipt therefor and keep them in a bank or depository selected or approved by the Board of Trustees. He shall co-sign checks with the President or the Secretary for authorized disbursement of the funds of the Congregation. He shall give good and sufficient bond at the discretion of the Board. Disbursement in excess of ten dollars shall require approval by the Board. He shall secure a detailed list of receipts and disbursements of funds held jointly with any other organization, and submit such statement to the meeting of the Board next preceding the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall designate the Chairman of the Auditing Committee who, together with the Vice President and the Secretary, shall review the Treasurer's accounts before each Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The Treasurer shall submit all his records to this Auditing Committee.

The Treasurer shall file a written report with the Secretary at each regular Board meeting. At the expiration of his term, he shall deliver to his successor, when duly qualified, all monies and other property of the Congregation in his custody, as well as all papers and records pertaining to his office.

- (e) The Gabbai shall consult with the President and Vice President in the assigning of "aliyahs" and other honors on Saturdays and Holy Days. The Gabbai shall represent the Congregation in all dealings and arrangements with the families of Bar Mitzvah boys and other Baalei Simchah.

Article VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. The meeting of the Congregation shall be held annually at a time preceding or shortly following Shabbas B'reshis, as designated by the Board of Trustees. At this meeting, reports from the officers and standing committees and the recommended budget shall be presented. The election of officers and members of the Board of Trustees shall take place at this meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Congregation may be called at any time by (1) the vote of the majority of a quorum of the Board; (2) the call of the President; or (3) a petition signed by at least ten members of the Congregation in good standing, addressed to the Secretary and stating the purpose thereof.

Section 3. The number of members present fifteen minutes after the scheduled time for the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided that not less than fifteen members are present.

Article IX. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The following standing committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the first meeting following the annual election:

- (a) Budget and Finance Committee
- (b) Membership Committee
- (c) High Holy Day Seating Committee
- (d) Public Relations Committee
- (e) Ritual Committee

Article X. NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1. Nominations of all officers and trustees, after the first election of officers, shall be made by a Nominating Committee appointed by the President with the consent of the Board. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members of the Congregation; ~~two~~ ^{three} of the members of the committee shall be from the membership at large.

Section 2. Number of Nominations. The slate of nominees shall consist of at least one nomination for each office and for each Board vacancy.

Section 3. Nominations for any office may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

Article XI. RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. The rules of procedure at meetings shall be determined by Robert's Rules of Order, latest revised edition.

Article XII. PRACTICES

Section 1. The Congregation shall be guided by the Shulchan Aruch in matters of worship.

Article XIII. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

Section 1. Before any contract for the purchase, lease or sale of real estate for or by the Congregation shall be entered into, the Board of Trustees shall ascertain all the relevant and material facts and submit them to the Congregation at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose. It shall require a vote of two-thirds of the members present to authorize the purchase, sale, alienation or lease of real estate. Acquisitions by gift or devise shall be within the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

Article XIV. AMENDMENT

Section 1. Any proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be submitted in writing by a member to the Secretary not less than thirty days before the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Such proposed amendment shall be presented to the Board for its consideration. At a meeting of the Board, a vote shall be taken as to whether the amendment is recommended. The amendment, together with the recommendation of the Board, shall be submitted to a meeting of the Congregation.

Section 3. The amendment shall become a part of this Constitution only if approved by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at the meeting.

* Amended 10/11/64.