

To the Trustees of the Young Peoples Synagogue:

In accord with the instructions given us at the February 19 meeting of the Board, your Ad Hoc Committee on Relations with the Shaare Torah Congregation has prepared the following list of issues, pro and con, relating to the question before us.

In preparing the attached lists, we have tried to capture the essence of opinions that have been expressed at the two prior meetings on this subject. We have not tried to structure these lists as a paper debate, although we recognize that each of the statements made below can elicit a rebuttal from adherents to the contrary position.

We hope that the systematic definition of issues, which the Board will probably want to refine or expand, will help to focus debate on that which is primary and avoid energy-consuming debate on side issues which are not relevant, thus helping us to converge more quickly to a rational decision. Furthermore, in the event that negotiations with Shaare Torah proceed to the next phase, the list of "con" statements will serve as a list of challenges which require solution if the jointure is to be a success.

Sidney Deutsch

David Fax

Frank Sadofsky

Joseph Trattner

Walter Vogel, Chairman of the
Ad Hoc Committee

Statements on the Affirmative Side of the Question :

1. Jointure with the Shaare Torah Congregation will relieve us of the continuing uncertainty that hangs over our occupancy of the Hebrew Institute premises and will relieve us of the burdensome negotiations relating thereto.
2. Shaare Torah appears to be in a financially healthy condition, and jointure with them will pose no financial burden on us. *at the present time*
3. By converting to a full-service congregation, we shall be able to attract members whom we now do not, and thereby reverse the aging process that YPS is now experiencing.
4. Through jointure and the infusion of new blood and talent into S.T., we can reverse the apparent decline in the utilization of the S.T. complex, thus averting the conversion of that complex to commercial purposes, thereby rendering an important service to the Jewish Community of Pittsburgh.
5. We shall be spared the burden of being associated, in the minds of some sectors of the Jewish community, with the actions of the H.I. management. We shall also be spared the uncertainties attendant to negotiating for space for kiddushim, both by individuals and by the congregation.

Will we all continue to file petitions and jointure

Statements on the Negative Side of the Question :

1. YPS has been successful primarily because it has encouraged participation, both in the administration of its affairs and in the conduct of its services, by many persons who, in a more formally-structured synagogue, would have been discouraged from such participation and would have been deprived ^{of} ~~from~~ that learning experience. Jointure will change the essential character of YPS:
 - a. Many of our members will not be willing to expose themselves in competition with the Rabbi in the giving of the sermon or in leading the Mincha class, despite invitations to participate.
 - b. The presence of a Rabbi will impose a chilling effect on constructive debate of issues, especially those that have (or appear to have) religious overtones.
2. One of our advantages has been the freedom we have enjoyed from the management of property, a full-time staff, and the accompanying budgetary considerations. All this will change. *Financial burden will increase*
3. The presence of a physical mechitzah and the current separation of men and women in the administration of the affairs of S.T. will have a discouraging effect on many of our YPS members.
4. Jointure will be a irreversible step -- the ~~disbanding~~ ^{transformation} of the current YPS will be certain, but the success of the new organization will be uncertain until tested.
5. The Hebrew Institute, as well as beneficiaries of our Tzedaka and Educational Fund, will be deprived of our annual contributions; some of these organizations may have come to depend on those contributions.
6. *Apprecial not
Some members will not wish to transfer*

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