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| POLICY NAME:         | <b>Beth Israel - Membership</b> |
| STATUS:              | Adopted 2012                    |
| DATE of last REVIEW: | Adopted Feb. 12, 2013           |
| Next Review:         | Annually                        |

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Subject to the By-Laws of Beth Israel, this policy governs membership eligibility, rights and responsibilities

## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

- Reason: This policy was created to describe the parameters of membership.
- Intention: The intention of this policy is to delineate types of membership, and the process of membership.
- Goal: To provide membership opportunities to all members of the community by delineating eligibility for the types of membership available.

## **DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATION**

Define:

- *Beth Israel* refers to the incorporated organization, Beth Israel Synagogue.
- *Members* are members in good standing according to Beth Israel's by-laws.

## **BACKGROUND**

The By-Laws of Beth Israel describe eligibility for voting members who are afforded full privileges in performing Jewish ritual. While specific criteria remain for this type of member, this policy creates new membership categories in order to be inclusive of all members of our community.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Any interested parties who agree to the Constitution, By-Laws and aims of Beth Israel are welcome to become members of Beth Israel. All members will be kept informed of Beth Israel activities, and welcomed to all events.

In order to become a member, an individual must complete and return a Membership Application form. A membership form may include up to two adults and their children, who all live at the same address.

The Board must respond to all membership applications within a reasonable time period. The Board must inform applicants of what type of membership they have been granted, and what rights and responsibilities they have as a member.

The Board may appoint a committee or sub-committee to process membership applications.

Once an applicant becomes a member, they become subject to the Membership Dues policy.

There are two types of members: Voting Members and General Members.

## **VOTING MEMBERS**

Primary Applicants who are eighteen years of age or older, and who identify as Jewish, are eligible Voting Members of Beth Israel Congregation.

To be eligible as a Voting Member, an applicant need only self-identify as Jewish. For this purpose, there is no universal definition of Judaism, or specific criteria.

Only Primary Applicants receive voting privileges. If the second adult in a family would like voting privileges, they may apply with a separate form as a Primary Applicant. They will be charged membership fees separately.

**GENERAL MEMBERS**

All interested parties who are not eligible as Voting Members, are welcomed as General Members of Beth Israel.

**A NOTE ON RITUAL PRIVILEGES**

Certain ritual privileges are conferred only to those who:

- *are of matrilineal Jewish descent OR who have legally converted to Judaism, AND*
- *who have been called to Torah at their bar/bat mitzvah.*

Such privileges will be determined by the Ritual Committee in consultation with religious leadership.

**MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING**

Once an applicant has been accepted as a member, they will remain as a member year to year, unless they request in writing to have their membership revoked.

To be considered a member in good standing, an applicant must be up to date in paying their membership dues. Members are responsible to notify the Beth Israel Membership Committee of any change in address or pertinent details on record.

The Board shall determine who is a member in good standing, in accordance with the By-Laws and the Membership Dues Policy.

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AUTHORITY

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SIGNATURE

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DATE