

CONSTITUTION OF CONGREGATION BETH HAMIDBAR

Yuma, Arizona

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The name of this organization shall be YUMA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL.
The operating arm of the Yuma Jewish Community Council shall be known as Congregation Beth HaMidbar (House of the Desert).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this congregation is to promote the enduring and fundamental principles of Judaism; to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people; to enable its adherents to develop a relationship to God and knowledge of our Jewish heritage through communal worship, study, and assembly; and to apply the principles of Reform Judaism to the values and conduct of the individual, family, and the society in which we live.

ARTICLE III. NATIONAL AFFILIATION.

This congregation shall affiliate itself with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ.) It shall pay dues to the URJ and be entitled to all services as well as privileges prescribed in the URJ Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. RITUAL AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICE.

Section 1. The congregation shall interpret Judaism in the tradition of Reform Judaism.

Section 2. The official ritual of worship shall be according to rituals recommended by the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Section 3. The Congregation shall be advised in its religious practices by its rabbi, as well as by the interpretations of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and its congregational programs by the resolutions adopted at the URJ Biennial Assemblies.

ARTICLE V. OPERATING RULES.

The operating rules of this congregation shall be the BYLAWS OF CONGREGATION BETH HAMIDBAR.

Bylaws of Congregation Beth HaMidbar

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. Any individual of the Jewish faith, or anyone desiring to practice the Jewish faith, shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Membership shall be as follows:

A. Household Membership: Available to adults, age 18 or older, married or in a committed relationship with or without dependent children.

B. Individual Membership: Available to an adult age 18 or older.

C. Associate Membership: Available to those with a primary membership at another synagogue or those who live outside of the geographic region more than six months of the year.

D. Anyone outside of these definitions (e.g. a person under the age of 18 who is not a dependent of a current dues-paying adult) is welcome to discuss membership options on a case-by-case basis with the President and Treasurer.

The household unit shall reside in the same residence. It shall consist of (1) one or more adults with one or more dependent children or other dependents or (2) two adults. Unmarried children up to the age of twenty-five shall be included in the household unit wherever they reside.

Section 3. Privileges of members in good standing include, but are not necessarily limited to, attendance at all regular and special events, High Holiday seats at no extra charge and the use of congregational facilities as defined by the general guidelines. All members must attain age 18 or older to vote.

- Household membership units shall have one vote per eligible adult member but in no event more than two votes.
- Individual membership has one vote.
- Associate members have no voting privileges.

Absentee ballots are permitted. Proxy votes are not permitted. All voting may be done electronically.

Section 4. A member in good standing is a household or an individual who is less than 90 days in arrears for the current year or is current on periodic payments as per arrangements with the President and Treasurer.

ARTICLE II. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS.

Section 1. The fiscal year for this organization shall be June 1 through May 31.

Section 2. The Congregation Board is authorized to establish dues and assessments. Changes in dues and assessments shall require a vote of the majority of the Congregation Board.

Section 3. The Congregation Board shall have the authority to establish a charge for High Holiday seats for non-members. The Board shall also have the authority to establish other fees as necessary for Congregation-sponsored events and services. A majority vote of the Board shall be required.

Section 4. The resignation of any member shall not relieve that individual from the payment of any monies due the Congregation at the time of resignation.

Section 5. Membership dues are due on Rosh Hashanah unless other payment arrangements have been made with the President and Treasurer. Members shall be included on the membership roster.

ARTICLE III. CONGREGATION MEETINGS.

Section 1. The Congregation shall be composed of all members in good standing.

Section 2. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation shall be held in March, April, or May at which time the election of officers or trustees shall take place along with the regular business meeting. The officers and trustees shall be elected by a majority vote of the Congregation.

Section 3. Written or electronic notice of the time and place of the Annual Congregational meeting shall be sent to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. In addition, notice of the Annual Meeting shall give the names of the candidates for office and an agenda for the meeting. The election of officers and trustees, as well as the adoption of amendments to the Bylaws, may be conducted electronically.

Section 4. For voting purposes, a quorum shall be those voting members present and those who have submitted absentee ballots.

Section 5. General or special meetings of the Congregation can be called by the Congregation Board or by a written or electronic request of four (4) or more voting members of the Congregation. The notice must state the purpose of the meeting, and shall be sent to the membership at least five (5) days prior to the meeting. Meetings may be in person or conducted virtually.

Section 6. All members of the organization shall be bound by these bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS.

Section 1. The officers shall be elected for two-year terms. They shall consist of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers shall be elected in odd-numbered years. Their term of office shall commence at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Section 2. Duties of Officers.

PRESIDENT: The President presides at all Congregation and Board meetings; represents the Congregation at all events; appoints all committee chairmen; and is an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall appoint special and temporary committees as required for the proper functioning of the Congregation. In the event of a vacancy of any Board position, the President shall appoint a person to fill the position for the unexpired term with the approval of the majority of the Board of Directors.

VICE-PRESIDENT: In the absence of the President, the Vice-President assumes the responsibilities of the President. Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice-President shall assume office until the next regular election. The Vice-President shall perform all duties assigned by the President incidental to the office.

SECRETARY: The Secretary keeps and distributes minutes of all meetings of the Board and Congregation; keeps records of individual attendance at all meetings; performs all duties incidental to the office. At the request of the President, the Secretary shall attend to all official congregational correspondence; send out notices of reminder of events, and keep on file correspondence of the Congregation.

TREASURER: The Treasurer receives all dues, fees, assessments, donations, and keeps a strict account of all monies. The Treasurer prepares monthly and annual financial reports reflecting income and expenses and verifies all expenditures, keeps a current register of Congregation members, mails dues notices. The Treasurer advises the Board when a member's dues and assessments are 90 days in arrears. The Treasurer will present a financial report at the Annual Meeting. The financial records of the Congregation may be audited at the discretion of the Congregation Board.

ARTICLE V. TRUSTEES.

The number of trustees shall be established by the Board. Trustees shall be elected by the Congregation to the Board for two-year terms and shall be elected in even-numbered years. Their term of office shall commence at the beginning of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VI. CONGREGATION BOARD.

Section 1. The Board consists of officers and trustees. All officers and trustees shall be of the Jewish faith and members in good standing of the Congregation.

Section 2. The Board manages the affairs, funds, investments, records, and property of the organization; formulates policies, and has the power to enter into contracts not herein otherwise specified.

Section 3. The Board shall be authorized to spend up to two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) beyond any budget items. Such expenditures shall require the approval of a majority of the Board present. Expenditures in excess of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) shall

require the approval of at least 60% of the number of eligible votes present at any meeting of the Congregation called for such purpose and subject to Article III, Section 5, of the Bylaws.

Section 4. The Board shall meet monthly. Special meetings can be called by the President or by the written or electronic request of at least two (2) members of the Board. The Board will be notified at least 24 hours in advance of a special meeting. The notice shall include the meeting's purpose.

Section 5. Any member absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without notice may be removed from the Board. The Secretary shall send written or electronic notice to members who have missed two (2) consecutive meetings without notice.

Section 6. Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed in the conduct of the Board meetings.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES.

Section 1. The standing committees shall be:

- Budget & Finance
- Nominating
- Bylaws

Other committees deemed necessary and appropriate may be established.

Section 2. The President shall appoint all committees except for the Budget & Finance Committee and the Nominating Committee.

Section 3. Budget & Finance Committee. This committee shall consist of the officers of the Board. It shall be their duty to prepare an estimate of the income and expenses for the coming year, and to submit a budget to the Board no later than the July meeting for their review and approval.

Section 4. Nominating Committee. This committee shall recruit and nominate members to serve as Officers and Members of the Board. This committee shall be chaired by the most recent Past-President available, or another board member appointed by the President. The Nominating Committee shall include the Chair, one board member, and one member of the Congregation at large. The committee shall be appointed no later than the Board meeting two (2) months prior to the Annual Meeting. The committee shall notify the membership of the proposed slate in the notice of the Annual Meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall review the Bylaws on an annual basis and recommend any changes to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. These bylaws may be revised by a majority vote of present and absentee votes at the Annual Meeting by those entitled to vote. Written or electronic notice of proposed changes must accompany the Annual Meeting notice.

Section 2. Permanent copies of these bylaws are to be kept on file with the President and Secretary.

Section 3. All previous bylaws are null and void upon adoption of revised bylaws.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION.

In case of dissolution of the organization, funds remaining after final expenses shall be distributed by a vote of the Congregation.

Revised May 7, 1999

Revised May 12, 2002

Revised May 4, 2008

Revised May 22, 2011

Revised May 27, 2014

Revised May 22, 2016

Revised March 18, 2018

Revised March 29, 2019

Revised March 19, 2023