

Congregation Keneseth Israel
Policies, Practices & Guidelines

<u>Policy, Practice or Guideline:</u>	Membership
<u>Source:</u>	Bylaws & Religious Practice
<u>Date Adopted:</u>	5/1979
<u>Date Revised:</u>	8/2023

- I. Introduction: KI is a place of worship and community for Reform Jews and as such it exists to provide meaningful worship experiences, quality programming and lifelong learning opportunities for its members.
- II. Policy Statement: It is the policy of KI that all who are interested in Reform Judaism are encouraged to apply for membership.
- III. History: In past years, non-Jews who were married to Jews were permitted to share in the life of the Congregation but could not hold any official position. In 2019, the policy to include non-Jewish members was changed to allow for them to become voting members as well as become members of some committees as well as the Board of Trustees.
- IV. Definition:
- a. Member - a Jewish Adult at least 18 years of age and any child of theirs between 18 and 24 years of age, or is or was the spouse of a Jewish member.
 - b. Jewish shall mean Jewish by birth, whether matrilineal descent or patrilineal descent or both, and Jewish by conversion by any Jewish movement.
 - c. Spouse - an Adult person who cohabits with another adult person whether or not in a legally recognized marriage.
 - d. Complimentary Membership is provided to current professional staff (including clergy), their Spouse and children through age 24.
 - e. Honorary Membership is provided to former clergy of the Congregation and their Spouse, and to such others as determined from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

Complimentary and Honorary Members shall be entitled to those privileges of membership in the Congregation except the right to vote at meetings of the Congregation or to serve as an officer or trustee of the Congregation. Unless already specified in the Bylaws, the Board of Trustees may determine if such members are entitled to serve on committees of the Congregation. There are no dues obligations for such members.

V. Procedure:

- a. Any Jewish Adult shall be eligible to apply in writing for membership in the Congregation, or to continue membership if already a member.
- b. Any non-Jewish Adult who: (a) is the Spouse of a Jewish member or applicant for membership, (b) was a member as the Spouse of a Jewish member when the spousal relationship ended due to death of, or divorce or separation from, the Jewish member, or (c) is a parent or guardian raising a Jewish child, shall be eligible to apply in writing for membership in the Congregation, or to continue membership if already a member.
- c. All applications for membership shall be voted on by the Board of Trustees. Spouses applying together for membership shall be voted on together, and if approved each shall be a member.
- d. All members in good standing of the Congregation, except as otherwise set forth in our Bylaws, and subject to the rules and regulations which may be established from time to time by the Board of Trustees, shall be entitled to all of the privileges of membership in the Congregation including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. voting at and participating in Congregational meetings;
 - ii. attending services with family members;
 - iii. having their children enrolled in the religious school of the Congregation;
 - iv. using the services and facilities of the Congregation for life cycle events;
 - v. participating in other activities of the Congregation; and
 - vi. being eligible to serve as a trustee or officer and on Congregational committees,
- e. Non-Jewish members shall be entitled to all of the privileges of membership in the Congregation except that they may not:
 - i. serve as an officer in the capacity of President or Vice President;
 - ii. hold more than one officer position in the capacity of Treasurer, Financial Secretary, or Recording Secretary;
 - iii. hold more than two trustee positions on the Board of Trustees;
 - iv. serve as chair of the Religious School Committee, as a member of the Religious Practices Committee; or serve as a member or chair of such other committees as may be determined by the Board.
- f. Children of members of the Congregation from eighteen (18) through twenty-four (24) years old who are not members of the Congregation in their own right shall be entitled to all of the privileges of membership in the Congregation except the right to vote at committee and Congregational meetings or to serve as an officer or trustee of the Congregation.
- g. Individuals who reside more than fifty (50) miles from the Temple, or who are members in good standing of another Jewish Synagogue or Temple may, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, become an associate member of the Congregation. Such members shall be entitled to those privileges of membership in the Congregation except the right to vote at meetings of the Congregation or to serve as an officer or trustee of the Congregation or as a

member of the Religious School Committee, the Religious Practices Committee, or of other such committees of the Congregation as the Board of Trustees may determine.

- h. The Board of Trustees may establish such other classes of membership in the Congregation as it may deem appropriate.
- i. The Board of Trustees may, upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote, dismiss or suspend a member of the Congregation for failure to abide by the rules and regulations of the Congregation, or to pay dues, fees or assessments of the Congregation, or for any other conduct unbecoming of a member of the Congregation, after giving said member thirty (30) days written notice and an opportunity to be heard by the Board.
- j. If a member has been dismissed by the Board of Trustees, or has resigned, and subsequently requests reinstatement, the request shall be subject to a vote of the Board of Trustees, provided the member has met all requirements for reinstatement as established by the Board.
- k. The Board of Trustees shall be informed of resignations from the Congregation. Resignation or removal shall not relieve a member from payment of any outstanding obligation due the Congregation.

VI. Reference: KI Bylaws, 2022