Congregation Keneseth Israel

Policies, Practices & Guidelines

Policy, Practice or Guideline:	Tree of Life Membership
Source:	Finance Committee
Date Adopted:	3/1981
Date Revised:	1/2023

I. Introduction: This initiative is expected to motivate congregants to participate in the Tree of Life program.

II. Policy Statement: It is the policy of KI to invite members of the KI congregation to participate in the Tree of Life program without requiring large commitments at one time.

III. History: The original intent of the Fund was to replace the annual dues of its members, reinvest 20% of the earnings back into the principal and to use the remainder of the annual earnings to benefit the Religious School. When the fund was originally started, interest rates were high and there was always a surplus. The Guidelines were proposed when the Endowment was part of KI's governance and not a separate Foundation.

IV. Procedure:

a. The administration of the shall be as follows:
    i. Purchased units will accrue towards full Tree of Life membership (20 times the annual dues in the year final payment is made).
    ii. The maximum time period for making payments towards Tree of Life membership is eight (8) years.
    iii. During the time period that congregant is purchasing a Tree of Life membership, the member is also paying Dues without adjustments.
    iv. A record will be maintained in the Temple office and annual dues statements that are sent to members will provide purchase units as a contributory option.
    v. As units are purchased, appropriate thank you letters will be sent by the President and Sustaining Member Chair.
    vi. Members contemplating membership in the program are granted 90 days after April 1 during which time the base for membership would be the previous year's dues.
    vii. A brochure will be distributed recognizing the names (not the units purchased) of participants.
    viii. When the full Tree of Life membership is completed, the donors name will be inscribed on the plaque.
    ix. Participants' names are listed in the Bulletin.

x. Tree of Life members are not required to pay annual dues; however they can become sustaining members at half the published rate.

b. Use of Income – Goals
   i. Increase the quality of Religious school programs by making funds available without withdrawals from the Temples General Fund.
   ii. Increase stability of the General Funds – When members leave the Temple, their contributions will be earning in perpetuity. The effects of which are long term and not readily available for 5 – 10 years.
c. Distribution of Income
   i. These funds are co-mingled with other Endowment funds and part of the annual allocation requested by KI and authorized by the Foundation.

V. Reference: Tree of Life Fund Guidelines. Board Minutes October 11, 1989

Endowment Committee Report, February 17, 1994