



Policy: Ritual Input, Inquiries, and Concerns

Date Approved: November 15, 2016
(Replaces Policy Dated: New)

Approved By: Board of the Shaar Shalom Congregation

Policy Statement

The Ritual Committee reports to the Board of the Shaar Shalom Congregation. Serving in an advisory capacity to the Board and congregation relative to religious matters, the Ritual Committee is the "spiritual pulse" of the synagogue. It coordinates with the spiritual leader to disseminate information regarding Jewish ritual, worship and synagogue practice.

This policy has been developed to provide members with clarity in the process by which the Ritual Committee receives member input, inquires, and concerns.

Definitions

Member – an individual included in one of the following three classes of membership:

1. Single – a Jewish person over the age of eighteen (18) years who is not otherwise included in a Family Membership.
2. Family – includes:
 - A single Jewish adult with one or more dependent Jewish children; or
 - Cohabiting Jewish adults, with or without dependent Jewish children; or
 - Such other definition as designated by the Board.
3. Such other classes as may be designated by the Board from time to time

The synagogue office retains a list of the specific individuals covered under each class of membership.

Policy Objectives

The objective of the policy is to:

1. Clarify the role of the Ritual Committee of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue; and
2. Clarify the process by which the Ritual Committee receives member input, inquires, and concerns.

Policy Application

The role of the Ritual Committee

The Ritual Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of the Shaar Shalom Congregation to maintain the ritual life of the synagogue, including the policies and practices surrounding services, informal observances, and lifecycle events. Under the guidance of the spiritual leader, the Ritual Committee continually re-examines the practices of the Shaar Shalom through an evolving interpretation of Jewish tradition within the framework of the policies and guidelines of the Conservative movement. The Ritual Committee presents proposals for changes in synagogue ritual to the Board for approval.

Process by which the Ritual Committee receives congregant input, inquires and concerns

The Ritual Committee does not have the authority to receive member input, inquires or concerns directly. Members should direct their ritual input, inquires, and concerns to the Board. The Board then determines how it will be handled and will monitor the process to ensure appropriate action or resolution regarding the member's input, inquiry or concern.

Policy Exceptions

None identified.

Policy Monitoring

None identified.

Forms Included with this Policy as Attachments

None