

JOHANNESBURG JEWISH REFORM CONGREGATION.

(Affiliated with the South African Jewish Religious Union for Liberal Judaism).

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Adopted by a General Meeting of members held at the Freemason's Hall, corner of Main and Clain Streets, on Wednesday evening, 7th March, 1934.

NAME.

1. This congregation shall be known as the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation, and in these rules shall be referred to as "the congregation." Its House of Worship shall be called Temple Israel.

2. The Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation is automatically an affiliated body with the South African Jewish Religious Union for Liberal Judaism and is guided by its objects.

OBJECTS.

3. The main object of this congregation shall be the advancement of Reform Judaism, by which we mean the vitalization of Judaism.

As Reform Jews:

(a) We believe that Judaism is an ethico-religious system of thought, and that the genius of the Jewish people has not only evolved the idea of Ethical Monotheism but has also interpreted its spiritual values in the spheres of philosophy, art, literature and music. Thus Judaism is also a culture.

(b) We accept for all departments of the Jewish religion the principle of change, and therefore reject the unlimited authority of tradition.

(c) We maintain the right to regard as no longer binding or valid those laws and ideas which do not accord with the historical knowledge and the developed moral sense of mankind.

(d) We believe that through changes in the life of the Jew many traditional practices have lost their meaning, while through the development of ideas many traditional beliefs have become untenable.

(e) We believe in Progressive Revelation. Though the teachings of our ancient Prophets and lawgivers supply us with the foundation of our religious ideas, we would further add to them, modify, adapt, or re-interpret them, in accordance with the knowledge which has come into the world since their time through many channels.

(f) We believe that ceremonies and rites are necessary in so far as they help us individually and collectively to follow the tenets of Judaism and in so far as they work to sanctify and enrich the life of the individual Jew and the Jewish community. But we do not believe in retaining any observance simply because it is commanded in the Codes.

(g) We retain from the Jewish tradition those institutions which are religiously expressive, beautiful, and helpful but, above all and first of all, we must strive to maintain a harmony of belief and practice.

(h) We believe that Judaism is based on the spirit of absolute truth, and pure justice: to actualize in life these principles of the Jewish people is the Mission of Israel.

PUBLIC WORSHIP.

4. Divine Service will be performed in the Temple by the Rabbi, or, when necessary, by a layman, with the accompaniment of an organ, choir, and string instruments. The vocalists and instrumentalists shall be selected by the Choirmaster. Engagements or dismissals of the vocalists and instrumentalists entered into by the Choirmaster, shall be ratified by the choir committee. The Choirmaster shall be an ex-officio member of the choir committee.

5. All music during Divine Services shall be of a solemn and sacred nature which will help to evoke a religious fervour and enthusiasm amongst the worshippers. The music shall consist of traditional Jewish items arranged by or composed by modern Jewish masters. Coloratura hazanuth shall not be used.

6. Preferably Jewish vocalists and musicians should be engaged in order to interpret best Jewish music during the services.

7. A copy of all music composed or arranged for the congregation shall be kept by the Secretary.

8. The service shall be performed partly in Hebrew, the language of Judaism, and partly in the English language, the Hebrew part to be pronounced according to the custom of the Sephardim.

SEATS.

9. All seats in the Temple shall be unassigned in the spirit of true religion.

10. It shall, however, be the duty of the committee, whenever required by special occasions, to make a reservation sufficient to accommodate the membership, it being understood that no specific assignments to individuals shall be made within such reservation, with assignments the exception of old age or people otherwise physically incapacitated.

MEMBERS.

11. The unit of membership of this congregation shall be the individual.

12. Any person of the Jewish faith, twenty-one years of age and over, may be elected to membership by the committee.

13. Young people up to the age of twenty-one shall be eligible to Junior Membership in the congregation. Junior members shall have no right to vote or to hold elective office.

14. Members of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation are automatically members of the South African Jewish Religious Union for Liberal Judaism, and are guided by its objects.

15. A member shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership.

16. Family membership shall entitle husbands and wives as individual members.

17. Women members of the congregation shall have complete equality; they shall have the right to vote and to be elected to the committee or any of the constituent bodies of the congregation.

18. The fiscal year of the congregation shall commence on August 1st each year.

19. A member shall pay such dues as shall be determined by the committee.

20. Dues shall be paid not later than one month before the High Holydays.

21. Any member who is in arrears for dues for a period of six months will automatically cease to be a member.

22. The committee shall have power to admit or continue as a member on any terms they may think proper, any person unable to pay the full membership fee.

23. New members shall transmit membership affiliations together with their application forms.

24. Every salaried official of the congregation, being a Jew shall be deemed a member of the congregation so long as he shall retain his office, and shall enjoy all the rights of a member except that he shall not be entitled to take part in the government of the congregation or to be summoned to meetings.

THE COMMITTEE.

25. The congregation shall annually elect a committee which shall consist of not more than twenty members, nor fewer than fifteen members, inclusive of ex-officio members.

26. The committee shall elect a President and Vice-President from amongst its committee members.

27. The committee shall appoint Treasurers, Secretaries, and Trustees of the property of the congregation.

28. The committee shall govern the affairs of this congregation, control its revenue, and conduct action as shall, in its judgement, best promote the welfare thereof.

29. All members of the committee shall be elected by secret ballot at each Annual General Meeting of the congregation to serve a term of one year.

30. The committee's interpretation of this Constitution and Rules shall be final.

31. The committee shall have power to:

(b) Determine all dues and assessments of members of the congregation.

(a) Elect members in accordance with the Constitution.

(c) Remit the whole or any portion of such dues according to its best judgement.

(d) Elect such employees as may be necessary and fix their duties and remuneration.

(e) Order a meeting of the congregation whenever it may be deemed necessary.

(f) Remove any member of the committee or congregation for cause provided $\frac{2}{3}$ (two-thirds) of all committee members vote for such removal.

(g) Appoint sub-committees consisting of members of the committee and other members of the congregation, and may delegate to any sub-committee the power to appoint thereon members from the members of the congregation.

(h) In the event of the number of members of the committee (other than the President) being or falling below fifteen as provided in rule 25, the committee shall have power to elect a member or members of the congregation to serve on the committee, provided that the number of members of the committee (other than the President) shall not thereby exceed twenty.

32. The committee shall meet at least once every month.

33. Seven members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

34. The Sisterhood of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation shall be entitled to representation of one member on the committee as an ex-officio member.

35. Any other constituent body of the congregation shall also be entitled to representation of one member on the committee as an ex-officio member.

36. The committee shall appoint representatives from the congregation to all bodies wherein the congregation may be entitled to representation.

37. The committee shall appoint, at its first meeting, the sub-committees, on each of which the President and Rabbi are to be ex-officio members.

38. The committee shall appoint two members to represent it on the school committee of the congregation as well as the Burial Society and any subsequent congregational constituent body which may be created in the future.

OFFICERS.

39. The officers of this congregation shall consist of President, Vice-President, elected by the committee by secret ballot, and Secretary and Treasurer appointed by the committee.

40. The President shall preside at all meetings of the congregation and committee, and shall enforce the constitution and by-laws. It shall also be his duty to:

(a) Decide questions of order subject to appeal by any member.

(b) Call a meeting of the committee upon receipt of a request signed by three members of the committee; the request shall state the subject matter to be brought before the committee.

(c) Call a special meeting of the congregation whenever ten members in good standing shall make a written request for same, setting forth the purpose of such meeting. On the refusal or failure of the President, to act within ten days after receipt of such a request, the Vice-President or in his absence or refusal, the Treasurer shall call a special meeting.

(d) Call a meeting of the congregation or committee whenever, in his opinion, necessity therefor exists.

48. The Trustees shall sign any inventory, retaining one copy in their possession, the other copy to remain in the custody of the Secretary. All additions to such property shall duly be entered by the Secretary in the said inventory, and he shall only notify such additions to the committee and the Trustees.

49. The Trustees shall do all such other acts and things as the committee shall from time to time deem necessary. To raise, borrow, and secure the payment of any sum or sums of money, and to purchase, take on lease or agreement, and hire any land or interest therein, or any property of any kind, and to sell, mortgage, charge, grant leases or agreements in respect of and in any other manner deal with, or turn to account any land or interest therein, or any other property of any kind belonging to the congregation.

50. Two Trustees shall be sufficient to put into effect the above acts.

51. The congregation may sue or be sued in the name of any two Trustees thereof.

AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS.

52. The members of the congregation shall, at each Annual General Meeting appoint a chartered accountant to audit the accounts for the ensuing year.

53. The auditor shall inspect the books, and receipts of the congregation and investigate its accounts, and certify as to their correctness, and shall audit for them the Balance Sheet and the account of income and expenditure of the congregation prepared by the Treasurer and shall sign them when found correct.

RABBI.

54. The Rabbi, or, whenever necessary, an associate Rabbi shall be appointed by the committee from time to time.

55. The Rabbi shall be an ex-officio member of the congregation as well as of the committee and of its sub-committees.

56. The Rabbi shall perform all duties incumbent upon and in accordance with his office.

57. The Rabbi shall not accept fees for the performance of his official duties from members of the congregation.

58. The Rabbi shall have absolute freedom of speech in the pulpit.

59. The pulpit of Temple Israel is a Liberal pulpit and therefore it can be occupied by any layman or minister selected by the Rabbi and approved by the committee.

60. As a matter of principle neither the committee nor the congregation can object to its officiating Rabbi accepting any invitations to speak to, or participate in the work of, any Jewish or non-Jewish organization or body.

61. The Rabbi shall retire on attaining the age of sixty, but may be invited by the members to continue in office for such further period or periods as may from time to time be arranged. On retirement the Rabbi shall be entitled to a pension to be fixed by the members of the congregation at a General Meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEES.

62. The following sub-committees shall be appointed by the committee at its first annual meetings:

- (a) Finance committee.
- (b) Ritual committee.
- (c) Building committee.
- (d) Choir committee.
- (e) Membership committee.
- (f) Usher committee.
- (g) Any other committee which may be necessary.

MEETINGS.

63. The Annual General Meeting of this congregation shall be held at such place and on such date in the month of October as shall be designated by the committee. At this meeting the reports ~~of~~ of all retiring officers, whose duty it is to make reports, shall be submitted, and all ~~active~~ officers shall be elected; provided, however, that if no election be had the meeting shall stand adjourned to be called again for such election at a time to be designated by the committee.

64. Every member of the congregation (not being more than two Calendar months in arrears with any payment due by him to the congregation) shall be invited by post at least five days prior to the holding of the Annual General Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

65. Special meetings of the congregation shall be called by the President at the request of the committee or on written application of ten members. The call for such meeting shall state forthwith the purpose of the meeting and written notice thereof shall be posted to each member at least five days prior to the holding of each meeting, and no business shall be transacted except that specified in the call.

66. The President of every General Meeting or Special Meeting shall in case of equality of votes, have a double or casting vote.

67. Twenty members of the congregation shall constitute a quorum.

68. If the meeting has to be adjourned owing to the necessary number not being present to form a quorum, at any meeting adjourned to a subsequent date the members present shall form a quorum.

69. The matters dealt with at the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- (a) To receive from the committee and deal with the Report, Balance Sheet, and Statement of Accounts for the preceding Financial Year, and an estimate of the Income and Expenditure for the current year.
- (b) To elect the members of the committee.
- (c) To appoint an auditor.
- (d) Any other business which may arise out of the meeting.

NOTICES.

70. Any notice required to be given to any member of the congregation or member of a committee shall be deemed sufficiently given by leaving same at, or sending it prepaid through the post,