

CONGREGATION HOUSE OF ISRAEL CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ADOPTED: JUNE, 1989 - AMENDED: *JUNE, 1995* HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK, ARKANSAS

ARTICLE I - NAME

This congregation shall be known as **CONGREGATION HOUSE OF ISRAEL (BETH ISRAEL)**

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this congregation is to promote the enduring and fundamental principles of Judaism and to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people; to enable its adherents to develop a relationship with God 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. In consideration of the above, we hereby adopt the following Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE III - NATIONAL AFFILIATION

This congregation shall affiliate with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). It shall pay dues to the UAHC and be entitled to all services as well as privileges prescribed in the UAHC Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV - RITUAL AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICE

Section 1

This congregation shall interpret Judaism in the tradition of Reform Judaism.

Section 2

The official ritual of worship shall be according to the "Union Prayer Book" or the "Gates of Prayer" or other appropriate services.

Section 3

This congregation shall be guided in its religious practices by its Rabbi as well as by the interpretations of the CCAR and in its congregational programs by resolutions adopted by the UAHC Biennial Assemblies.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Any person of the Jewish faith, eighteen (18) years of age or over, may be elected to membership upon approval of his/her application by a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees. a non-Jewish spouse, in the event of the death of the Jewish spouse, may continue to be a member of the Congregation and is entitled to vote as defined in Section 2 of this Section.

Section 2

In the case of married persons, the unit of membership shall be the family. For the purpose of this article, the family shall be construed to mean husband, wife, and their unmarried children, *under 25 years of age*, and who are not self-supporting and/or residing in another community while attending an educational institution. A non-Jewish spouse shall be considered a member in good standing and welcome to share in the fellowship of the congregation. *Voting privileges and the holding of office in all facets of congregational life, the Board of Trustees, and committees shall be reserved to Jews by birth and Jews by choice.*

Section 3

Members shall have the right to vote on all matters coming before meetings of the congregation and the privilege of voting shall be vested in the individual where the membership unit is the family. One vote per *family unit* will be allowed.

Section 4

The Trustees may establish special membership classifications with such provisions as it shall deem advisable.

Section 5

Members shall be responsible for support of the congregation through payment of dues, assessments and other fees as shall be determined by the Board of Trustees. A member who fails to pay any financial obligation within three (3) months may be suspended and deprived of all privileges upon vote of the Board of Trustees after he/she shall have been notified by certified mail of the impending suspension. The Board may waive, extend or modify any financial obligation due from a member.

Section 6

The resignation of any member shall not relieve him/her from payment of any obligation due at the time of resignation.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1

The Board of Trustees shall govern the affairs of this congregation, control its revenue and property, and take such action as shall, in its judgment, best promote the welfare thereof.

Section 2

Nominations for new Board members shall be made by the nominating committee. The nominating committee shall be appointed by the President and shall consist of the immediate past President and four (4) members of the congregation at large. If the immediate past President is unable to serve, then an additional member of the congregation at large shall be appointed. Nominations from the committee shall be presented to the Board of Trustees prior to thirty (30) days before the annual congregational dinner each year.

