SUMMARY REPORT OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CHS BYLAWS
FOR ADOPTION AT THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
ON MAY 24, 2017

WHY CHANGE THE BYLAWS?
1. It’s time; the last minor changes were in 2013; most of bylaws were written long ago.
2. Clear up inconsistencies with current practice.
3. Incorporate changes requested by the membership.
4. Make the bylaws easier to understand and to navigate.

2016-2017 BYLAWS COMMITTEE:
• Meeting since October 2016
• Jackie Borock, Adam Graber (Board representative), Shelly Hedger (Strategic Planning Committee representative), Andrea Heyman, Mary Davis, Sue Ellen Klein, Judith Jaffe, Ginny Riley (Chair).

SCOPE OF BYLAWS CHANGES FOR MAY 2017 ANNUAL MEETING:
The Bylaws Committee was asked to focus on sections other than those related to the Board, Officers, and Committees. For now, those sections will remain the same as the current Bylaws. The Board will work with the future Executive Director to restructure the Board roles and responsibilities. Additional Bylaws changes will then be submitted to the Congregation.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES DEVELOPED AND USED BY THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE:
1. Bylaws are not easy to change, so include only governance, not operational issues.
2. Written in plain language, clearly understandable by all, short as possible, but should cover what is necessary.
3. Start with what we want to say, then worry about wordsmithing.
4. Use what other synagogues have done in their bylaws when it fits for us, don’t re-invent the wheel.
5. Phrase things in the positive, what we must or shall do, not thou shall not do’s.
6. Consistent formatting throughout.
7. Have a Table of Contents, easy to find things, similar issues located together.
8. Once they are revised, the Bylaws should be available on our web site.
SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES FOR MAY 2017

ARTICLE FIVE – MEMBERSHIP:

- Eliminated requirement that a “couple” in a Family Membership be legally married or domestic partners.
- Added the process for applying for membership and board approval.
- Voting rights changed for adult dependents living at home from maximum age 21 to age 26 to be consistent with ACA and the IRS codes. Board can make exceptions on case-by-case basis.
- Moved section on member dues and fees to the membership section.

ARTICLE SIX – CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS:

- Annual Meeting changed to be required by June 10th of each year to allow for emergencies, but likely will still be in May.
- Adjusted what is needed to call a Special Meeting by 10% of Members representing 10% of Member units, clarified the criteria, and process to call a Special Meeting.
- Added that delivery of notice of meetings can be by postal mail or electronically.
- Eliminated absentee votes, added proxy voting, maximum two proxy votes per member. (Sample proxy form attached at the end of the separate Side-by-Side Comparison document as Appendix A.) Both the person assigning the proxy and the person accepting the proxy must be Members in good standing. Proxy voting allows for voting on changes that might be made at the actual meeting that are not known to the formerly absentee voters.
- Changed the quorum to 25% (from 10%) present at meeting (in person or by proxy) to provide better representation in voting situations.
- Added an option (except for Annual Meeting) for board to develop a policy on having some meetings/votes exclusively by written/electronic ballot, without calling an actual meeting.

ARTICLE EIGHT – RABBI:

- Added a requirement that the Congregation (not just the Board) must approve the appointment of a new Rabbi with a term of 24 months (the Board can still do temporary appointments of less than 24 months).
- Added approval of renewal of a Rabbinical contract with number of years for renewal being a maximum of 7 years. Eliminated lifetime appointment. 2/3 vote of the Congregation required to appoint a new Rabbi or renew a Rabbinical contract. Board makes a recommendation, but Congregations votes on whether to approve the appointment/renewal, not on the Board’s recommendation.
- Eliminated Congregational vote required to approve Rabbi’s voluntary retirement.
- Addressed what happens if the Board and the Rabbi can’t agree on a contract by the beginning of the term.