

In the January bulletin we introduced a new membership model for financial support of our congregation based on our values of inclusion and community. We are calling this new model “Shalom Commitment.”

In June, you will receive an email asking for your 2022 Shalom Commitment. This is similar to how you have been asked in the past to make a financial commitment to our temple in the form of dues. **What is different this year is that instead of charging a set amount, we are providing information about what it costs to operate our Temple and leaving the amount of your contribution up to you.**

Temple Shalom has members who make contributions greater than their dues. Others do not have the means to pay full dues. With the Shalom Commitment we want people to realize the importance of supporting the Temple community. Temple Shalom is committed to expanding our membership, providing a high level of services and programming, and investing in future generations.

Shalom Commitment Replaces Separate Fees

Another difference in our new financial model is that services for which you have been charged separate fees – such as security fees, sustaining membership, and fees for some Temple programs and events – **will now be included in your Shalom Commitment.**

We feel that these changes are important and represent who we are as a community that seeks to foster inclusion as well as a sense of partnership. Our hope is that your Shalom Commitment is more than transactional, more than “pay to pray,” and is instead a meaningful way for you to engage with and sustain a community that has supported Jewish life since our temple’s founding in 1950.

While there is no required minimum commitment, the recommended Giving Guidelines below explain how your commitment level supports our Temple.

Guidance for your Shalom Commitment

The recommended Shalom Commitment Levels below, FAQ’s and financial information about our Temple’s expenses and sources of revenue will be posted in the membership section of the Temple website for reference when deciding on your household Shalom Commitment.

As the FAQs posted in the Membership section on our Temple website explain, many synagogues have changed from traditional dues systems to models like Shalom Commitment. Research shows that while many congregations feared that members would reduce their support if given the choice to do so, that has not happened; most congregations enjoyed modest increases in both membership and financial support.

Those are the results we believe Shalom Commitment will achieve.

We know that not every member household will be able to contribute at a higher level. That is why it is extremely important that members who are fortunate enough to be able to contribute at or above their current levels continue to do so.

RECOMMENDED SHALOM COMMITMENT LEVELS:

\$5,400+	This amount, if contributed by the majority of households, covers our Temple's operating expenses and provides additional support for the community and for households unable to contribute the suggested minimum amount.
\$4,050	The amount that, if contributed by the majority of households, would cover all of our Temple's operating expenses without additional funding from the endowment.
\$3,600	The amount that, if contributed by the majority of households, would cover our Temple's operating expenses along with funds from our endowment.
\$1,800	Suggested minimum giving. Your support, at any level, is appreciated as your level of giving is not used to determine membership.

These suggested levels are calculated using the preliminary 2022-2023 budget and membership numbers and are rounded to a multiple of Chai.

We are planning several sessions at the Temple and on Zoom where members can ask questions and seek more information about Shalom Commitment.

May 19th and May 24th - Temple Shalom (Room 101) and on Zoom, 7:30pm
May 20th and May 27th - Shabbat Oneg, 7:30pm

In addition, please feel free to contact us or the co-chairs of the Dues Restructuring Committee, Ed Case (ed@edmundcase.com) or Liz Newstadt (liz@newstadt.org), with any questions or concerns.

Best,

Judy Levin-Charns and Carol Berlin
Temple Shalom Co-Presidents