

**BNAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION  
CEMETERY POLICIES  
“ANNEX”**

**Background**

In 2015, additional land located at 18th St and Princess Place in Wilmington, NC., (the “Annex”) was donated to Bnai Israel Congregation (“Bnai Israel”) by the Freedland Family and Walter Pancoe. The intention of Bnai Israel is to use this gift to serve the needs of a non-traditional population associated with Bnai Israel. The Annex will be physically separated from the Old Cemetery and separate rules and procedures for the Annex are stated herein.

**1) Eligibility for Burial in the Annex**

- a) Jewish people and the spouses and children of Jewish people may be buried in the Annex. A *Jewish* person is defined as a person whose mother was Jewish or who has been converted through a duly ordained Jewish Rabbi.
- b) Fees for burial spaces in the Annex are determined by the Board of Directors of Bnai Israel and must be paid prior to a burial. The fee schedule is attached.
  - i) Members of Bnai Israel as of January 1, 2019 with sustained membership of at least five (5) years may be buried in the Annex free of charge. If membership at Bnai Israel has been less than five (5) years, the member will pay one-fifth the price for a Member of Bnai Israel Joining after January 1, 2019 for each of the missing years.
  - ii) Members who join Bnai Israel after January 1, 2019, may purchase a plot and be buried in the Annex in accordance with the fee schedule.
  - iii) Non-Jewish spouses and children of Members may purchase a plot and be buried in the Annex in accordance with the fee schedule. However, in the event that a non-Jewish spouse of a Member purchases a plot in advance and then, at a later date, the relationship with the Member is discontinued, that non-Jewish person’s interest in the plot will be terminated without refund.
- c) The Rabbi of Bnai Israel (the “Rabbi”) must approve all burials in the Annex.
- d) The term Member shall apply to members of Bnai Israel in good standing as determined by the Board from time to time.

## 2) **General**

- a) Upon the death of a person eligible to be buried in the Annex, the family of the deceased should contact the Rabbi for guidance through this process.
- b) Additional arrangements should be made with a local funeral home. Recommendations are available from the Cemetery Committee.
- c) A person eligible to be buried in the Annex who has completed the purchase of a plot will be given a Certificate evidencing his or her interest in the plot.
- d) Plots will be assigned and Certificates distributed by the Cemetery Committee. Although plots may be assigned for future use, Certificates are non-transferable.
- e) In the event that a Certificate remains unused for 25 years after issuance and it can be reasonably determined that there is no family member who is eligible to be buried in the Annex that will be buried there, the Certificate will revert back to Bnai Israel without refund.

## 3) **Traditional Preparation for Burial**

- a) Bnai Israel has a Chevra Kadisha committee that can perform rituals. People who are interested in the traditional preparation of the body and guarding of it until burial should contact the Rabbi directly. Chevra Kadisha can be arranged for non-members. (See attached Fee Schedule)
- b) Embalming and cosmetology are forbidden except when required by state law.
- c) Cremation is forbidden by Jewish law.
- d) There will be no public viewing of the body and open caskets are prohibited.

## 4) **Aron – Casket**

- a) Our preference is that the casket be a plain pine box or other organic material.
- b) No part of the casket may be metal.
- c) A concrete vault is required by State law.
- d) Above ground burial is not permitted.

## 5) **Religious Service**

- a) Only the Rabbi or a person designated by the Rabbi may officiate at any religious services in the Annex. If the Rabbi is not available to officiate or to designate a substitute, the President of Bnai Israel (the “President”) may designate an individual to officiate.
- b) No clergy of any other religion may officiate or participate in any capacity.
- c) All rituals or ceremonies performed at the Annex must be approved by the Rabbi. If the Rabbi is not available, approval may be obtained from the Rabbi’s designee or the President.
- d) American military honors, such as the presentation of a flag to survivors and the playing of “Taps” are appropriate.
- e) The date and time of funerals and/or unveilings shall be arranged directly with the Rabbi. In the event the Rabbi is unavailable, arrangements may be made with the Rabbi’s designee or the President.

**6) Markers and Stones**

- a) All markers and/or stones for cemetery spaces in the Annex shall be granite or marble.
- b) Efforts shall be made to place markers and/or stones within one year of the date of burial.
- c) Any marker or flat stone shall be placed at the head of the applicable plot.
- d) All lettering, symbols or insignia (whether temporary or permanent) must be consistent with Bnai Israel standards and with the teachings of Judaism. Absolutely no other religion’s symbols are permitted. All such markings shall be approved in advance by the Rabbi. If markings in violation of this clause are found, the Cemetery Committee shall have the right to remove the markings or the marker at the Member’s expense.
- e) In general, the marker should include the Hebrew name of the deceased, including the names of father and mother in Hebrew if known, and the date of death according to the Jewish calendar.
- f) Pictures are not permitted on grave stones.

- 7) **Plantings**: No plantings are permitted without written permission by the Cemetery Committee or the Rabbi. Any person who plants without permission will be given notice that the planting(s) must be removed. If, one week after the notice, the planting(s) have not be removed, Bnai Israel will have the right to remove the planting without further notice and charge the Member for such removal. . This applies to real or artificial flowers or plants.

- 8) **Benches:** If a family desires to place a bench in memory of an individual, it must be approved by the Cemetery Committee. Fees may be charged.
  
- 9) **Maintenance of Grounds:** The Cemetery Maintenance fee assessed at the time of the funeral includes mowing and care of the cemetery grounds but not individual gravesites. It does include the annual cleaning of the stone markers and coping. The repair of a stone marker is not included.
  
- 10) **Amending these Policies:** These policies may be amended or changed without notice by the Board of Directors of Bnai Israel in its sole discretion.
  
- 11) **Request for Variance:** Any request to deviate from the rules set forth in this document must be sent in writing to the Cemetery Committee who will decide in its sole discretion.

## Annex Fee Schedule

### **Member of Bnai Israel (as of Jan 1, 2019) for five (5) or more years**

Plot in Annex	No charge
Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500
Chevra Kidusha	\$200
Rabbi Honorarium*	

### **Member of Bnai Israel (as of Jan 1, 2019) for less than five (5) years**

Plot in Annex	Prorated Fees (See Para 1(c))
Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500
Chevra Kidusha	\$200
Rabbi Honorarium*	

### **Member of Bnai Israel Joining after January 1, 2019**

Plot in Annex	\$5,000
Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500
Chevra Kidusha	\$200
Rabbi Honorarium*	

### **Jewish Non-Member of Bnai Israel**

Plot in Annex	\$8,000
Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500
Chevra Kidusha	\$200
Rabbi Honorarium*	

#### **\*Rabbi Honorarium**

It is customary to give the Rabbi a discretionary honorarium if you are pleased with the spiritual guidance and services the Rabbi provided. Feel free to contact the President for recommended amounts.