

## **KHN POLICY**

### **Title: RITUAL PARTICIPATION POLICY**

**Date Adopted: 3/19/15**

FIRST READING 8/21/14

SECOND READING 1/5/15

We at Kehilat Hanahar are proud of our open and inclusive membership. Interfaith and same-sex families are welcome, and both congregants and guests are encouraged to participate in our services. Participants are encouraged to wear a *kippa* (yarmulke). A *tallit* (prayer shawl) is encouraged during Shachrit (morning services) and on the evening and day of Yom Kippur.

Since we first created our Sanctuary in 1998, we have been dedicated to ensuring that it remains a sacred space--one that acknowledges the rituals and customs of Jewish law while respecting the communal values of the diverse congregation we are today.

Since the service leader is the public, formal representative and facilitator for the Jewish community in prayer, this person must be Jewish. Likewise, anyone chanting Torah or Haftarah must be Jewish. A Jewish person is required for certain tasks on the *bima* but non-Jewish participants are welcome to accompany and/or assist in:

- Opening the Ark
- Reciting the traditional blessing before/after Torah reading (*aliyah*). At least one Jewish adult receiving an *aliyah* must wear a *tallit*.
- Lifting the Torah (*hagbah*)
- Dressing the Torah (*g'lilah*)
- Leading the Prayer for Healing (*Mi shebeirach*)
- Leading the congregation in a public recitation of a blessing: any benediction that 1) includes the words *asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav* ("who has sanctified us with G-d's commandments") and/or 2) asks for the congregation to respond "amen."

Those parts of the service that are of a more universal nature, such as poetry, readings and psalms, may be performed by a non-Jewish participant.

To enhance our experience in the Sanctuary, we refrain from:

- Using cell phones, PDAs, and other electronic devices
- Using flash photography
- Writing, smoking or loud talking
- Eating or drinking
- Entering or leaving when the congregation is standing or when the congregation is being addressed from the *bima*.

Please consult with the Rabbi in advance about photography, videography or recording during services, or regarding any further questions you may have.