

**Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation**  
Steering Committee Policy Statement: Values in Action  
APPROVED January 4, 2018

**Background**

Some members desire the Congregation to be more active in matters of public, community and social concern. Such activity can be consistent with the principles of Humanistic Judaism and appropriate for the Congregation. This document provides guidelines for such activities, whether conducted in the name of the Congregation or by the members with the facilitation of the Congregation.

**Policy**

A. Action by the Congregation

The Congregation may, where approved by the Steering Committee: (1) formally adopt and advocate positions, and engage in activities, regarding matters of public, community or social concern; and (2) plan, present and/or host services, speakers, forums and other events about such topics. This may be upon the Steering Committee's initiative or at the request of members. Any such activities may be publicized outside the Congregation in a manner determined by the Steering Committee.

The Rabbi is encouraged to include matters of public, community or social concern in remarks or discussions at services and other events from time to time, consistent with these guidelines, in the Rabbi's discretion.

Guidance on Appropriate Matters

Matters generally consistent with the principles of Humanistic Judaism, and therefore appropriate for Congregation action, include:

- protection and promotion of religious freedom and diversity;
- separation of religion and government;
- expansion and defense of civil rights;
- protection of persecuted or oppressed people;
- prevention and remedying of anti-Semitism or other manifestations of prejudice, bigotry and discrimination;
- security and existence of Israel;
- the promotion of peaceful debate and prevention of violence or intimidation in public spheres;  
and
- health of the planet, climate and environment.

Within these broad categories, the Steering Committee and Rabbi should consider carefully whether any particular position or action would be divisive or offensive among the membership. The Congregation should NOT endorse, support, oppose or criticize any (1) political party or holder of or candidate for governmental office or (2) legislation not related to matters specified above (such as tax policy).

Approval of Activities

Actions in the name of the congregation must be approved by the Steering Committee with the support of at least 75 percent of those voting at a Regular or Special meeting in which at least 10 (ten) members are present.

## B. Action among Members

The matters above suitable for action by the Congregation should also be generally suitable for member announcements.

The Congregation may provide space in its various communications channels for members to post announcements for other members about community service projects, organizational efforts, groups, meetings, speakers, debates, forums, walks, marches, rallies, readings, concerts, movies and other performances and activities. Congregational resources include its public events, website, Facebook page, Twitter feed and direct communications (newsletter and email).

Members are free to self-organize to participate in any matter but may not use congregational resources to do so or represent themselves as acting on behalf of or with the approval of the Congregation without express approval.

Member announcements should briefly describe the nature of the subject and activity, logistical details and how to find out more information. Such announcements should not: (1) engage in detailed advocacy or argument; (2) be contrary to the principles of Humanistic Judaism; or (3) advocate or involve violent, hateful or offensive content or conduct.

Member announcements regarding events or activities should NOT endorse, support, oppose or criticize any (1) political party or holder of or candidate for governmental office or (2) legislation not related to matters specified above (such as tax policy).

All postings by members must be reviewed and approved in writing (email acceptable) by a designated subcommittee of the Steering Committee for objectionable, offensive or inappropriate content. The subcommittee may give a member the opportunity to modify the announcement if it is deemed to be unsuitable for publication or refer to the full Steering Committee.

If Steering Committee action on a member posting is required before the next regularly-scheduled meeting, voting may be done online or by email.