

TBE Board and the Nominating Process

Have you ever wondered how temple board members are chosen to serve and what roles and responsibilities they have? Curious about what work is involved in being on the Board? Last year, in the interest of transparency and to encourage more temple participation, the nominating committee thought congregants might be interested in having some questions answered about the Board and the nominating process.

What does the Board do?

The TBE Board works to ensure the long-term growth and success of TBE as a Reform Jewish home for Jews in the Ann Arbor area and beyond. The board represents the TBE member families in:

- Developing and executing a compelling vision for the future of TBE
- Setting and approving goals that will help us execute that vision
- Setting and approving budgets
- Defining and approving policies for the governance of TBE
- Recruiting and supporting the clergy and professional staff
- Through collaboration with Genesis and St. Clare's, managing the TBE building and grounds
- Approving new members
- Through standing and ad hoc committees, overseeing and facilitating a wide variety of Temple functions and activities

Who serves on the temple board?

As outlined in our Temple By-laws, the voting members of the Board consist of: The current President, the Past President, and the President-elect; the Presidents (or designees) of the Women of TBE, the Brotherhood, and Temple Youth Group; the Vice Presidents for: Administration, Religious Practices, Finance, Membership, Education/youth, Social Action, and Fund Development; a Secretary; a Treasurer; and, one member trustee for every 50 family units (Note: We currently have around 500 family units = 10 Members-at-Large). The Rabbis, the Cantor, and the Executive Director all serve as ex-officio without a vote. The President serves for 3 years – not renewable, while the other Board-nominated members serve for 2 years - renewable for an additional 2-year term. These terms of service are staggered among the VPs and members-at-large, so that there is only partial turnover on the Board every year.

Who is on the nominating committee?

The Temple By-laws state that nominations of all officers and trustees are made by a nominating committee appointed by the president. The nominating committee consists of three members of the Board of Trustees whose terms of office continue after the close of the current year, three members of the congregation at large, and the immediate or another past president as chairperson. The nominating process for determining the Board for the following year begins in January and concludes in June, with final approval at the annual Congregational meeting. Board members begin their terms of service on July 1.

How does the nominating process work?

Our By-laws state: “The nominating Committee will consider the needs of the congregation and the skills needed on the Board when making their recommendations for nominations.

Additionally, they will attempt to choose nominees to the Board who reflect the diversity of age, interests, and stages of life of the members of the congregation.” After compiling the list of Board positions that need to be filled, the Chair of the nominating committee asks current VPs, committee chairs, clergy, and staff to suggest names of congregants who have contributed to their committee assignments or the needs of the congregation in significant ways. These contributions can include organizing a program or event, taking a leadership role on a subcommittee, or demonstrating a specialized skill such as fund development, communications skills, legal expertise, financial expertise, a background in education or youth programming, civic engagement or social activism, etc.

Once a list of potential candidates for the various roles has been generated, the members of the Nominating committee discuss how each candidate contributes to the diversity of the Board in terms of interests, stages of life, and specialized skills. Committee members then begin to call candidates on the narrowed-down list to assess their interest in the position. When the list is finalized, the Nominating Committee presents the slate to the current Board for approval. This slate is then presented at the Annual TBE meeting in June for final approval.

What are the responsibilities of Board members?

- Regular attendance at monthly Board meetings (meetings are the first Wednesday of the month from 7:30pm-9:30pm). Board members are expected to review agenda items and read committee reports (available in Dropbox) prior to the meeting so that they are prepared to discuss and deliberate on relevant issues.
- Remain a member of the temple in good standing, including being up to date on financial commitments.
- Attend and participate in temple life in the following ways, as able:
 - a) Volunteer for Bima honors multiple times during the year
 - b) Be an usher/greeter at Shabbat services
 - c) Act as liaison between the board and congregation, bringing concerns from congregants to the Board and communicating with congregants regarding Board actions or decisions
 - d) Be knowledgeable about the finances of the temple and be able to answer questions
 - e) Make phone calls to temple members shortly before the High Holy Days and other times as needed
 - f) Actively participate at TBE events, including services, Genesis activities, and TBE programs
- Be a welcoming presence to current members and engage with prospective members.
- Become knowledgeable about both the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) and the history of TBE (including Genesis)
- Uphold a high standard of ethical behavior as it relates to Board functions and temple life.

What Board positions are open this year?

We have several people who are eligible to serve a second term in their current positions, including 4 member-at-large positions, VP of Social Action, and Secretary. If they all accept their second terms, the follow positions will need to be filled:

Finishing 2nd term this year, (need replacement):

VP Finance (Stephanie Newell)

VP Development (Margaret Hannon – Pres elect)

VP Membership (Candace Bulkley)

VP Religious Practices (Jack Zaiantz)

Note: The Nominating Committee also finds Temple members to serve on the Genesis Board (4 members from each congregation; 3-year terms, renewable for an additional term of service). We will have an open position on that Board this year as well. If you are interested in helping with the management of our Temple home, please let us know!

Who is currently on the Board?

Click here **insert link** to see roster of Board members and their terms of service.

I'm interested in being on the Board, serving on a committee, and/or have more questions.

Who should I talk to about this?

You can email Ketl Freedman-Doan – Immediate Past President (cfreedman@emich.edu) or Margaret Hannon – President Elect (margaret.c.hannon@gmail.com) or Melissa Sigmond (msigmond@templebethemeth.org).