

**Temple Sinai  
Pittsburgh PA**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
(Via Video Conferencing)  
March 19, 2020**

**In attendance:** Marc Adelsheimer, Morgan Faeder, Elizabeth Collura, Laura Fehl, Nancy Gale, Shirley Goldstein, Suzan Hauptman, Stephen Jurman, Mara Kaplan, Jerry Katz, Ellen Katzen, Rachel Kubrick, Josh Lederer, Philip Lehman, Brianna McDonough, Paul Pitts, Carol Rosenthal, Lynn Rubenson, Frank Schwarz, Samantha Skobel, Saul Straussman, Bill Taxay, Katie Whitlach, Lynda Wrenn, Alison Yazerk, Joe Weinkle, Todd Miller, Laura Fehl, Rabbi Gibson, Rabbi Gorban, Cantor Laura Berman, Drew Barkley

President Saul Straussman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

**Corona Virus Update: (Saul Straussman, Rabbi Gibson, Drew Barkley)**

Temple Sinai will follow CDC protocols and has cancelled all programs at the synagogue including services, classes, Next Dor. Services are being live-streamed, including the Saturday morning minyan. The staff and clergy team are working together to get classes and programming up and running online. Clergy have set hours when they are available online. Communications, updates, changes will continue to be distributed via email. Board members will be asked to assist the clergy in making phone calls to members. Rabbi Gibson stressed that we are still working to create community out of chaos. Drew reported that the staff is doing well and (at this meeting) are still working at Temple but practicing safe distancing. Anyone who wants to work from home can do so.

**Corona Virus Update – Meetings & Programs: (Saul Straussman, Rabbi Gorban, Nancy Gale, Drew Barkley)**

The team is discussing rescheduling some of the programs such as Dan Nichols. Torah Project: Nancy Gale reported that Linda Coppleson's March visit will be rescheduled and in regard to her May visit, we are "playing it by ear."

**Nominating Committee: (Philip Lehman)**

The nominating committee has received about 30-40 suggestions for new board members.

**Rabbinic Transition Update & President's Report: (Saul Straussman)**

The last focus group was held Thursday, March 12 and the remaining four were cancelled. Co-chairs and Saul are discussing finishing them via video conferencing. Saul reported that Lynn Lazar and Rick Rosenthal have agreed to co-chair the Settled Rabbinic Search committee. They will ask about 16-20 people to be on the committee. Alison & Saul have been meeting with Rabbi Crystal via telephone. He was scheduled to come in April 23 and 24 but cancelled this trip.

**Executive Director's Report: (Drew Barkley)**

Drew presented new members for approval. They are:

- Jon Richter and Molly Weiss, who will be married this May.
- Joshua Stein and Danella Hafeman, young family with two children
- A motion to accept them as members was made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Drew also reported:

- Temple Sinai was not awarded the Homeland Security state grant. We will reapply for a similar grant from Federal Homeland Security.
- Brianne accepted the URJ Community Leadership fellowship for young adults, which is to be held virtually over a weekend.
- Rabbi Rick Jacobs, URJ president who was going to visit in honor of Jamie on April 3 has cancelled his travel; working on a way to include him via live stream on the April 3 Shabbat.
- Nefesh Mountain, scheduled for May 31 is in a “wait and see” situation.
- Federation has cancelled the Legacy dinner planned and Temple Sinai has cancelled our Legacy dinner.
- Security has been cancelled through the end of March.
- Essentially, Drew and his team, along with clergy are dealing with each day as things develop and are ever-changing.
- Funerals are grave side only and no shivas are formally planned.

**Clergy Reports: (Reports will reflect new activities since last meeting)**

**Cantor Berman:**

- She is working with bar/bar mitzvah candidates to continue their study online. To date, there is one postponement
- Choir is rehearsing online

**Rabbi Gorban:**

- Rabbi Gorban is working with the teachers and organizing the online, Zoom classes for Next Dor as well as Hebrew classes. She is conducting virtual services on Sundays for students; although not well attended, the kids who did participate enjoyed them.

**Rabbi Gibson:**

- Rabbi Gibson noted that all three clergy are conducting online office hours.

Following Good & Welfare, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Following, an executive session of the Board of Trustees, without staff in attendance was held. .

***Submitted by Lynn Rubenson, Secretary***

***March 31, 2020***