

Modified from ritual text written and crafted by Rabbi Karyn Kedar

Eloheinu v'Eilohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, God of our ancestors, at this sacred moment, the congregation of B'nai Chaim accept as part of our community our new spiritual leader, Cantor Kim (Harris). As such, we ask her in the days and years to come to teach us in the ways of Torah, Avodah and G'milut Hasadim.

Congregation:

Cantor, teach our children with kindness and respect.

Michelle:

Teach them the sweetness of the Hebrew language, and implant within their minds and within their souls the love of Torah. May they become committed to living a Jewish life based values, ethics, a love of Israel and a sense of obligation to repair the world.

Cantor:

Eloheinu v'Eilohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, God of our ancestors:
Guide me as I strive to teach, to encourage, and to inspire the children of this congregation.

Congregation:

Cantor, be our spiritual guide and our comfort.

Board Members:

As we celebrate and as we grieve, as we rejoice with bride and groom and as we accompany the bereaved, as we bring our newborns into the covenant, and as we search and yearn to understand, guide us, embrace us, support us.

Cantor:

Eloheinu v'Eilohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, God of our ancestors:
Guide me in ways of compassion, empathy and wisdom as I embrace the people of this holy community.

Congregation:

Cantor, inspire us with song.

Board Members:

Sing *with us*, that melody within our soul can find its voice and we can join together in longing, in joy and in prayer that touches the Divine and creates a sense of community and belonging. Sing *to us* that our spirits may transcend the daily routines of life. Soften our hearts with

sacred song so that our lives may become a prayer to God.

Cantor:

Eloheinu v'Eilohei avoteinu v'imoteinu, God of our ancestors
May my heart and soul feel the music of Your universe, that I may be
an inspiration.

Congregation:

Cantor, be our leader.

Buddy and Susan and past presidents:

Join us, the past, present, and future presidents of Congregation B'nai Chaim, as we guide our congregation into the future with vision and courage, with foresight and patience. May we nurture a caring community based on compassion, tolerance and understanding. Help us to walk the path of justice and of righteousness, the path of gentleness and of peace.

As the spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Chaim, join with us and the lay leaders of our congregation in the commitment to a Brit Kodesh, a sacred partnership, based on mutual respect, honesty and direct communication. May we support one another in the understanding that our work is to serve God and the Jewish people. May this partnership be dedicated to fulfilling the sacred mission of our community: to create and maintain a *Beit T'fillah*, a House of Prayer, a *Beit K'neset*, a Place of Gathering, and a *Beit Midrash* a Place of Study.

Cantor:

Eloheinu v'Eilohei avoteinu v'imoteinu God of our ancestors:
Plant wisdom within my heart that I may be a leader of this community, ever gentle and strong, courageous and patient. As I enter into this Brit Kodesh, this sacred partnership, may my steps be firm and my heart steadfast to the mission of our people.

Board:

Cantor, be our partner in the sacred work we do here.
Join us as we create a community of mutual support. May we urge one another to stretch and grow, experience and create. May we enjoy a sacred synergy of creativity and learning. May we strive, daily, to become *Klai Kodesh*, Holy Vessels filled with the love of God, inspired by the wisdom of Torah and dedicated to serving our people.

All:

Dear God, Divine Spirit of the universe, help us to be strong, and

resolute, that we may strengthen one another. And say we all together, Amen