

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS TERUMAH?

Terumah is the name of Beth Tikvah Synagogue's innovative approach to membership dues which began in 2015. In the Torah, terumah indicated a "free-will" offering, not a required one. Your terumah is your membership pledge, an annual voluntary financial commitment that is used for our operating budget. It is pledged each spring for the fiscal year that begins July 1st.

How does this Terumah: Voluntary Financial Commitment work?

Terumah has no singles/family dues distinction. It is not based on how many in a household are active at temple, or how often they use it. It is based on how much one's heart is moved to strengthen, celebrate and grow Jewish life at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, and a household's own financial capacity.

We pride ourselves on removing barriers at Beth Tikvah Synagogue as we welcome those of all backgrounds. Allowing members to set their own financial commitment opens the doors even wider to all, regardless of financial situation. Everyone gives as much as they are able and no one has to ask for reduced dues.

How should I determine my voluntary commitment?

We suggest you look back at what you gave to the Synagogue this past year, evaluate your own capacity to share your financial resources, and consider that in a small congregation every contribution is essential. Keep in mind that although we are requesting \$2,600/household to fund our operating budget, we understand that not all of you are not able to contribute at that level. If you need to give less, please do so, and know that your gift is equally appreciated. For those of you who can afford more, please share your blessings and be as generous as possible.

What about the Building Fund, Religious School Tuition, and B'nai Mitzvah Fees?

New members who have not previously fulfilled a building fund obligation at another synagogue are still expected to make their contribution to the Building Fund, but this can be spread over a number of years or deferred, if necessary. We will continue to charge fees for specific items, such as school tuition, guest High Holy Day seats and B'nai Mitzvah fees. Scholarships are available for tuition.

What if my circumstances change during the year?

We understand that people's financial circumstances sometimes change unexpectedly. Just let us know what your new pledge amount will be. Also, please let us know if there is any way we can help you and your family during a stressful time.

How else can I help?

Your time and skills are also a precious gift to us. Your participation in activities and on committees benefits both you and our growing congregation in many ways. Contact our synagogue president, EJ Dotts, president@bethtikvahsynagogue.org, to find the right fit for you, or to offer your professional expertise in any way.

Why Should I Join Beth Tikvah

When you join Beth Tikvah, you get more than a Jewish community, you become part of our family. Together as part of our family we celebrate joyous occasions like Bnai Mitzvah and Jewish holidays. As a congregation we are here to support one another through good times and bad. As a member you and your family will become part of a truly warm and inclusive synagogue, a place where everyone is welcome and really do know your name. Your membership will include the services of Rabbi Mike Swartz (aka Rabbi Mike), High Holiday seats, opportunities to volunteer, spiritual services, stimulating educational classes and programs, and much more. We also offer a dedicated Hebrew School from Kindergarten through post-Bnai Mitzvah.

When and how do I make my commitment?

We request returning members submit their Terumah form before July 1. You may break your Terumah payments into amounts that are more comfortable for you. You can make these payments via check or online by credit card. If you choose to pay by credit card a small convenience fee of 3% will be charged. We only request you fulfill your pledge before the end of the pledge year, preferably by June 1.