



**TEMPLE
BETH EL**

MY TEMPLE COMMITMENT

Belong and Become

At Temple Beth El, we try to make a big place feel like family. Each person's story becomes part of our people's story. We are a community where children laugh and sing, where students young and old see the glimmering sparks of the Torah. At Temple Beth El, kids grow up and adults keep growing up. We do the energizing work of lifting up the voice of the Hebrew prophets in our own day. We are restless for justice and committed to compassion. We are here for one another in sorrow and in joy. We are a community of sacred encounter, a home to healing and hope.

Welcome home. This is your Temple. Each of us make Temple Beth El what it is. The building we worship in, our history, and our traditions serve as sources of pride. It is our members who come and give of themselves that make Temple Beth El home to so many. We are partners in a rich history. We are co-creators of a bright Jewish future. **Temple Beth El is a place to belong and become.**

Membership at Temple Beth El adds a unique dimension to our lives.

There are lots of ways to access Judaism without joining a Temple. Membership helps us to connect with clergy, staff, and a caring community.

Through Temple, we find paths to give back, participate in stimulating learning, connect with new friends, and feel proud and safe expressing our Jewish lives. We go through life's most special moments with a community of friends.



*We pray together.
We play together.*



Benefits of Membership

- From Shabbat to holiday celebrations to all access High Holy Day admissions, membership includes vibrant worship and a center for growth of personal spiritual practices.
- We help members mark life cycles. From birth to death, marriages to bar/bat mitzvah, in the good times and the difficult, our clergy are a resource for support and guidance. Members can avail themselves of our clergy for life cycle ceremonies and religious instruction.
- Members can enroll their children in Charlotte's largest and most dynamic Religious School and youth experience environment. Members can also enroll their children in the Charlotte Jewish Preschool and our Hebrew High School and benefit from member rate pricing.
- Learning is a lifelong endeavor. We provide many formal and informal learning opportunities for members of all ages. Many of our adult education courses are offered free of charge. Those that do incur additional costs are always at a lower cost for members.
- Temple Beth El has a long history of championing social justice. We are a congregation that empowers our members to partner across lines of difference to achieve world repair and participate in acts of loving kindness locally, nationally, globally, and in Israel. Members can avail themselves of opportunities to learn about the root causes of social inequity and can work together to make a difference.
- Members receive support from our Clergy and our Hineynu Care team, which brings our members together to console one another in times of hardship, support each other in times of need, and celebrate together in times of joy.
- Find your people. We work hard to build a relationship-based community, where you will be known, loved, and cared for – just as you know, love, and care for others.

My Temple Commitment

For any community to thrive, we must all do our part. The Temple Beth El Board unanimously voted to adopt a new commitment model which we are calling *My Temple Commitment*. This new model replaces the Sacred Gifts voluntary dues. **My Temple Commitment is Temple's primary source of revenue.** Our annual commitments pay for our clergy and staff salaries, portions of youth and adult education, cover our day to day operating expenses, care for our building, and underwrite many of our programs. While Temple's leadership is committed to keeping membership accessible, we are also dedicated to financially supporting the congregation in ways that serve our membership and helps us uphold our mission.

What does it cost?

Age Level*	Family	Monthly	Individual	Monthly
Base Commitment 37+	\$2,200	\$183	\$1,500	\$125
34-36 Years Old	\$1,500	\$125	\$800	\$67
30-33 Years Old	\$1,000	\$84	\$500	\$42
26-29 Years Old	\$500	\$42	\$250	\$21
25 and Younger	\$118	\$10	\$118	\$10
Security Fee**	\$72			
Associate Membership	\$540			

*Age is determined by the oldest member in the family

**A security fee of \$72, will be assessed to each membership

What if I can't afford the Annual Financial Commitment?

We do not want finances to be a barrier. Temple Beth El provides accommodation to those who demonstrate financial need, have special life circumstances, or have other recognized Jewish commitments. We truly appreciate those who are able to contribute more to do so. Our ability to make Temple Beth El accessible to all is critical as we aspire to never lose anyone due to an inability to afford membership.

- You can request an accommodation by filling out the *Commitment Review Form*

Become a Sustainer

Sustainers are congregants who give more than is required to operate the Temple. The base level commitment covers only a portion of the Temple's total operating expenses. **It is through the generous donations of our Sustainers that we are able to fully meet our financial obligations.**

Because of Sustainers, Temple Beth El takes pride in never turning away an adult from membership or a child away from a Jewish education due to financial hardship or inability to meet the base level commitment.

If you are able, please consider becoming a Sustainer.

How do I pay?

Support Temple with your 2019/2020 Annual Financial Commitment. All necessary links will be emailed to you. There are two ways to pay:

- *Make your 2019/2020 Annual Financial Commitment online*
- *Print your 2019/2020 Annual Financial Commitment Form and mail it in*

Sustainer Level	Annual Contribution
Guardians	\$18,000+
Matriarchs & Patriarchs	\$10,000 - \$17,999
Supporters	\$7,000 - \$9,999
Master Builders	\$5,000 - \$6,999
Builders	\$3,000 - \$4,999

Questions

Why is there a security fee?

Temple Beth El has added a security fee of \$6 per month or \$72 a year for all membership categories due to the increase in security at our Temple. This year security costs for Temple Beth El's building will reach \$84,000. The increase in security is critical given the dynamics in our world today. Your safety and that of your family is our highest priority. This fee does not cover the security for Shalom Park. We will continue to receive the annual appeal from the Foundation of Shalom Park.

What is the time frame of the Temple Commitment payments?

Our fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends June 30th of the following calendar year. We hope to receive all 2019/2020 commitments as soon as possible. If you can pay at once, great. If you need to set-up a payment plan, we will help you do it. We hope to receive all 2019/2020 commitments by mid-June. New members that join after January 1, will have their dues pro-rated based upon the month you join.

Will the Commitment Review process be confidential?

Yes. The only person who will see the name on the Commitment Review form will be our Director of Member Services. When the form is sent to the Commitment Review Group, all identifying personal information will be removed.

Are Religious School and Hebrew School fees included in our Annual Commitment?

No, these fees are separate and cover the expenses related to teachers and supplies for your children. Even so, these fees do not completely cover school operating expenses, which are subsidized from the congregation's operating budget.

What is an Associate Membership?

This is membership when someone has a primary synagogue to whom they pay full membership and Temple Beth El is the secondary synagogue. We will verify your primary membership with the other congregation. Associate membership is \$540.

Why make an annual commitment when I don't come to Temple regularly?

Membership at Temple should not be evaluated with the same criteria as membership at a health club. We are here for you, your family, and other congregants every day. Our clergy are on call, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We do not charge fees based on regularity of attendance but ask members to make an annual financial commitment to ensure our Temple will always be here for your family and all Jews in our community now and in the future.

High Holy Day Admissions and Congregational Meetings

In order to receive High Holy Day Admissions or vote as a member of the congregation, commitments need to be made before the High Holy Days.

- High Holy Day Parking for Sustainers is on the Shalom Park campus. We do this to thank them for their generous contribution to Temple Beth El and to help manage our limited parking, which we share. We provide parking for all of our members at two offsite locations for the High Holidays.

Religious School and B'nei Mitzvah

All financial commitments must be current to register for Religious School and B'nei Mitzvah.

Renewing Membership

My Temple Commitment will automatically renew each fiscal year, with possible modest inflationary increases, which will be communicated well ahead of time. If your situation changes and you need financial accommodations, please contact our Director of Member Services, Candace Naliboff.

Temple Beth El is a vibrant and inclusive Reform Jewish community that values warm welcome, meaningful relationships, and inspirational personal growth. We are a congregation where learning, prayer, and deeds help to transform people's understanding of themselves, channel the power of community, and inform our responsibilities to the world.



We do this in a sacred community where

We learn together - השכלה - We engage in mindful learning and the pursuit of Jewish wisdom, which brings values to our daily lives.

We pray together - רוחניות - We develop Jewish personal spiritual practices and inspiring communal worship that uplifts the soul and helps us reach out to God.

We act together - צדק וחסד - We lead significant acts of loving kindness and world repair. We value being an integral part of and contributor to the greater Charlotte community.

We care for each other - עמיות - We open our doors to all, we value and support one another in times of joy and sorrow, well connected to Jews in greater Charlotte, Israel, and across the world.

We play together - שמחה ואושר - We create fun social settings where we can relax, laugh, and be ourselves.

We are accountable to each other - אחריות - We believe that each person is valued and has unique contributions. As stakeholders, we financially support the congregation and make sound governance decisions that serve our best strategic interests, reflect shared Reform Jewish values, and uphold our mission.