

## **Mishkan Shalom Membership Categories**

*Approved by the Mishkan Shalom board March 24, 2021, Public Text April 2021*

In the fall of 2020, the Membership Team began to consider new membership categories. This initiative was in response to the changes in congregational attendance accelerated by the COVID 19 pandemic and in response to increased on-line offerings and interest from prospective members. In March of 2021, the Mishkan Shalom board unanimously approved these additional on-line member categories in keeping with the Mishkan Shalom Bylaws below:

*Mishkan Bylaws: Section 1. Membership: Any person who is 18 years or older, who seeks to become part of a Congregation committed to the ideals and purposes of this Congregation as expressed in the Mishkan Shalom Statement of Principles, and who is Jewish by birth or choice, the partner of a Jew, or the parent of a Jew may become a full member of the Congregation by making an initial payment toward the established minimum dues. The Board has the authority to establish categories of membership.*

This classification provides access to those who live outside our geographic area. Commitment to our [Brit HaMishkan/Community Covenant](#) and <https://mishkan.org/principles> Covenantal Membership is required for Full and Digital Membership ([www.mishkan.org/join](http://www.mishkan.org/join)).

*One who settles in a community for thirty days becomes obligated to contribute to the charity fund together with the other members of the community. One who settles there- fore three months becomes obligated to contribute to the soup kitchen. One who settles there for six months becomes obligated to contribute clothing with which the poor of the community can cover themselves. One who settles there for nine months becomes obligated to contribute to the burial fund for burying the community's poor and providing for all of their needs of burial- they are a full member of the community. **Maimonides MT 9:12***

### **Full member**

- Welcome to give at any self-assessed level
- See table for benefits below.

### **Digital members**

- People who live outside Mishkan Shalom's geographic area by more than an 1 hour away) and may or may not be members elsewhere.
- Welcome to give at any self-assessed level.
- See table for benefits below

**Online Visitors** (9-month access, for those who are not yet digital members or are local and full members of other congregations.) After the initial period visitors will be asked to join as full or digital members to continue receiving links.

- Receive nonmember zoom links 2x a week.
- Recommended annual donation \$118.
- See table for benefits below.
- Note: On-line access may vary according to the nature of the program or service. However, we expect that on-line programming and services will remain a part of your ability to engage with Mishkan Shalom regardless of your membership designation. Self-assessed donations to join us for the High Holy Days will remain in place for all concerned in all circumstances and since we do not issue tickets for our open services.

<i>x- denotes access</i>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Digital Member</b>	<b>On-line Visitor (9 month access)</b>
<b>High Holy Day Benefits</b>	x	x	x
<i>Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services (with request for voluntary HH contribution for all)</i>	x	x	x
<i>Family High Holy Day Services</i>	x	x	x
<b>Year- Round Benefits</b>			
<i>Shabbat &amp; Holiday Services</i>	x	x	x
<i>Community Programs, Guest Presenter, Member and Rabbi offerings &amp; Classes</i>	x	<i>x (offered at discretion of presenter and leadership)</i>	<i>x (non-member price; at discretion of presenter and leadership)</i>
<i>Weekly Ma Hadash and Kol Shalom Newsletter</i>	x	x	x
<i>Welcome conversation with Rabbi and Membership Team</i>	x	x	<i>Membership Team cultivation</i>
<i>Clergy Access for Lifecycle Events</i>	x	<i>At rabbinic discretion</i>	-
<i>Clergy Access for Pastoral Needs</i>	x	<i>At rabbinic discretion</i>	-
<i>New Member Orientation and Celebration</i>	x	<i>On-line orientation</i>	-
<i>Voting Member</i>	x	-	-
<i>Eligibility to Enroll in Hebrew School</i>	x	-	-
<i>Mishkan Listservs, Acts of Caring</i>	x	-	-
<i>Mishkan Shalom Membership Directory</i>	x	-	-

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

***What is the reasoning behind these initiatives and their strategic significance? What are our real objectives (both financial and other) in offering the digital membership and an on-line visitor contribution?***

- The objectives are to give an additional way into membership for those former members or those seeking more ongoing connection with us who are too far away (120 miles) to access services and programs, or who may be members of other synagogues at a distance.

*Please note this is not to be confused with full local membership that allows for on-line access as well as in-person access, (e.g., for those who are within 120 miles of Mishkan Shalom and are elderly and unable to travel, ill, small children at home, etc.)*

***Do we expect on-line visitors to transition to full membership?***

- We would like all prospective members to transition to either full local or digital member status.

***Are we anticipating online participation once we resume in-person offerings?***

- Yes, some offerings will remain wholly on-line. Other on-line access where we are in person will vary.

***What is the relation of these new ways of connecting to our annual HH services and contributions?***

- Self-assessed donations to join us for the High Holy Days will remain in place for all concerned in all circumstances and since we do not issue tickets this is invited as in prior years for all participants.