

BY-LAWS
SISTERHOOD, MAIN LINE REFORM TEMPLE, BETH ELOHIM
WYNNEWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA, 19096
As Proposed 2022

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the SISTERHOOD OF MAIN LINE REFORM TEMPLE, BETH ELOHIM. Hereafter referred to as MLRT Sisterhood or Sisterhood.

ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT

Section A MLRT Sisterhood is an organization of women who come together to further the values of Jewish life, to support the goals and needs of our temple and to provide spiritual, educational, social, and cultural programs. As an individual Sisterhood and as a part of Women of Reform Judaism we support humanitarian causes locally, in Israel and around the world. We also work to promote fellowship and understanding with our community.

ARTICLE III - AFFILIATIONS

Section A MLRT Sisterhood shall be affiliated with Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), which is the women's agency of the Union for Reform Judaism. Sisterhood shall also be affiliated with WRJ Atlantic District.

ARTICLE IV - OBJECTIVES

Section A To bring Sisterhood members into closer association and cooperation with one another through programming and activities.

Section B To serve and promote Jewish and humanitarian causes of the Reform Jewish Movement.

Section C To support and further the goals of Main Line Reform Temple.

Section D To cooperate with, and to support the goals, programs, and projects of, Women of Reform Judaism.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

- Section A Any woman who is committed to the goals and objectives of this Sisterhood, its congregation, and the Jewish community shall be eligible for membership. Membership requires the payment of dues annually.
- Section B Female members of the temple clergy or partners of the temple clergy shall be honorary members of Sisterhood for the duration of their tenure.

ARTICLE VI - DUES

- Section A Membership dues shall be determined annually by the board of directors. Per capita dues shall be remitted annually to Women of Reform Judaism and to Women of Reform Judaism Atlantic District.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

- Section A The Leadership Council shall consist of the President, Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. The number of Vice Presidents shall be determined by the board (by virtue of approving the slate from the nominating committee). The retiring President, or the most immediate Past President available, shall automatically become Counselor, and shall serve on the Leadership Council until the term of her successor expires. If the President position cannot be filled, the Leadership Council shall collectively fulfill the duties of the President. Additionally, if there's no retiring President, then any past President can be nominated as Counselor.
- Section B All officers must be MLRT and Sisterhood members.
- Section C The Sisterhood president must be Jewish.
- Section D All officers shall be elected for a term of one year but shall be eligible for re-election. The president and vice presidents may not hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms unless deemed necessary by the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VIII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Section A The Board of Directors, also referred as the General Board," shall consist of the officers, chairpersons of all standing committees, past presidents, those members of the WRJ Board of Directors, and officers of the WRJ Atlantic District who are members of this Sisterhood.

- Section B The directors are appointed by the president, shall serve for a term of one year, and shall be eligible for reappointment. Board members who are inactive will be dropped from the board at the discretion of the Leadership Council and shall be notified accordingly.
- Section C The immediate past president and her predecessor shall have the power of vote. All other past presidents shall have the power of voice not vote, unless they actively participate on the general board or chair a standing committee. Active participation is determined by attendance of at least 50% of the board meetings.
- Section D The duties of the board of directors are to chair standing committees and to assist and advise the elected officers in carrying out the functions of the Sisterhood.
- Section E All members of Sisterhood are eligible for appointment to the board. Elected officers and appointed chairpersons must be members in good standing of Sisterhood.
- Section F One-third of the board shall constitute a quorum.
- Section G All vacancies, in any elected office, shall be filled by the president after approval by a vote of the board of directors. The board members shall be notified that such a vacancy exists before a proposed candidate is recommended by the Leadership Council.
- Section H All past presidents, shall constitute a Past Presidents' Advisory Board and will be available for consultation with the Leadership Council upon request. A chairperson for the committee shall be chosen at the discretion of the advisory board if necessary.

ARTICLE IX - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- Section A The president shall preside at meetings of: The Leadership Council, the Board of Directors, and the general membership. She shall appoint chairpersons of standing and special committees. She shall act as the representative of Sisterhood at functions within the temple and community, and act as ex-officio on all committees except on the nominating committee. The President shall represent Sisterhood on the congregational Board of Trustees and its Executive Committee. She is encouraged to attend the WRJ Atlantic District and Women of Reform Judaism conventions/biennials.

Section B The Vice Presidents shall assist the President in the discharge of her duties and shall perform the duties of the president in her absence or inability to serve in whatever order they deem appropriate.

Section C The Recording Secretary shall record the minutes of the general board meetings and distribute meeting agendas and other pertinent materials prior to said meetings.

Section D The VP Membership shall work with Temple staff to compile the membership of Sisterhood and handle all matters pertaining to attracting new member and retentions, as needed.

Section E The Treasurer shall handle the funds of the Sisterhood. She shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and disbursed. She shall deposit all funds in banking institutions in which the accounts bear the name of the Sisterhood. All checks disbursed shall be co-signed by the President and Treasurer. The Treasurer is the chair of the Budget Committee and is responsible for preparing and presenting a budget to the Board at the May general board meeting. A Treasurer’s report shall be presented at each board meeting and an annual report for the previous fiscal year shall be presented at the September meeting. The Treasurer shall adhere to temple policies and shall submit her records to the temple as required.

ARTICLE X - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section A Potential Nominating Committee members will be identified at the December meeting and will be contacted by the chair to see if she able/willing to serve on the committee. The Nominating Committee ballot will be distributed to the Board of Directors prior to the January general board meeting.

Section B The final nominating committee slate will be presented at the January general board meeting and voted on.

Section C The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine members.

1. The immediate past president shall serve as convener and chair.
2. Six members elected from the following:
 - a. Four from the Leadership Council and/or appointed board, including past presidents.
 - b. Two from membership at large.
3. Two members appointed by the president.

4. No honorary members shall serve on this committee.

Section D The slate of nominees for election as officers shall be announced at the March board meeting and voted upon. Immediately following the meeting, the approved slate will be distributed to the general membership via email. All general board members will be encouraged to attend the April Board meeting when a final vote will be taken. Immediately after that meeting, the Temple will be given the elected slate of officers for inclusion in a temple-wide communication. (See Section E for inclusion in the notification).

Section E One third of the general membership, or a number not less than thirty, may nominate by petition. The nominee's consent, in writing, must accompany the petition. Said petition must be presented to the recording secretary & President at least one week before the April meeting.

ARTICLE XI - COMMITTEES

Section A Standing and special committees may be created by the Board of Directors and/or president, as required to meet the needs of the Sisterhood.

Section B Committee activities shall function through the departments, each headed by a vice president.

Section C The Leadership Council, consisting of the officers and immediate past president, shall act as a committee and shall function at regularly scheduled intervals to expedite the work of the board. In addition, this committee shall function in emergencies, and during the interim, between June and September board meetings.

ARTICLE XII - MEETINGS

Section A The meetings of the organization shall be determined annually by the officers and Board of Directors.

Section B Special meetings of the Sisterhood may be called upon the request of the president and must be called upon the request of five board members.

Section C Special meetings of the Sisterhood may be called upon the request of the president and must be called upon the written request of thirty members from the general membership.

Section D One-third of the members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors or Leadership Council.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

Section A These by-laws may be amended or altered by a two-thirds vote of members present at a general meeting, after approval by the board, provided that such amendments have been proposed in advance, the membership notified, and a copy of the proposed amendments be available to the membership ten days prior to the meeting at which action is to be taken.

Section B These by-laws shall be reviewed every five years.

ARTICLE XIV - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section A The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the proceedings of all meetings.

ARTICLE XV - AUTHORIZATION

Section A No individual or group of individuals shall represent or officially speak for the Sisterhood without the authorization of the Board of Directors or the president.

Section B No individual or group of individuals other than the president shall commit the Sisterhood to an expenditure of funds, without the consent of the board. The president shall be authorized to expend up to \$200 per year for non-budgeted expenditures.

Section C No individual or group of individuals shall commit the Sisterhood to the endorsement of a policy without the consent of the board.

ARTICLE XVI - DELEGATES TO WRJ CONVENTIONS

Section A The constitution of the Women of Reform Judaism, article 5, section B states that each Sisterhood shall have delegates to the assembly in proportion to their membership:

1-99 members	5 delegates
100-149 members	6 delegates
150-199 members	7 delegates
200-299 members	8 delegates
300-399 members	9 delegates
400- 599 members	10 delegates
600-799 members	11 delegates
800 members and over	12 delegates

Alternates in equal number to delegates may be appointed. There is no limit on the number of official visitors without power of voice or vote.

Section B The order of eligible delegates from the Sisterhood of Main Line Reform Temple shall be:
President
Leadership Council members
Board of Directors

Section C Delegates must be members in good standing and subject to the approval of the board of directors.

Section D Subvention for delegates is as follows:

1. President – registration, travel, and housing
2. Women of Reform Judaism Board Member(s) elected from Main Line Reform Temple Sisterhood - registration, travel, and housing
3. All other delegates to share budgeted amount