Board of Trustees Orientation

June 21, 2017

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VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Temple Sinai will be a congregation whose members feel a binding sense of Jewish community; are building a strong foundation for the future; enjoy a personal connection with the temple and their clergy; are intellectually and spiritually engaged; and are inspired, stimulated and challenged by the Reform Jewish tradition.

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Welcome 2017-2018 Officers and Trustees

Overview

- Learning about our history
- Board member roles & responsibilities
- Committees and program groups
- Financial oversight
- Tachlis – nuts and bolts
- Strengthening our mission and vision

Temple history through our members' voices

Oral History Project
- Inspired and led by the Temple Sinai archives committee, supported by the Harris Jewish History Fund
- Segments can be viewed through the temple web site:
  http://www.templesinaidc.org/about-us/our-history/oral-history-project

Sinai Stories
- Members write about their meaningful experiences and connections in the Temple Sinai newsletter
- Past Sinai Stories are archived on the temple web site:
  http://www.templesinaidc.org/about-us/sinai-stories

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Board member engagement

Characteristics of an effective board
- Literacy in the financials and operations of the temple
- Comfortable speaking up, disagreeing, challenging issues but then fully supportive of final decisions outside of the room
- Committed, passionate advocacy for Temple Sinai as an institution, and for its clergy and staff
- Giving . . .
    - Time according to each board member's capacity, interests and expertise
    - Resources (access to services, donors, dollars) according to each board member's capacity, interests, and relationships

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Board member engagement

Roles and responsibilities

1. Attendance – Attend and participate in board meetings
2. Literacy – Be familiar with board materials
3. Involvement – Work on a committee, task force, or project
4. Representation – Serve as the board rep at services
5. D'var Torah – Give the D'var Torah one time
6. High Holiday Calls – Participate in the annual phone-a-thon of well wishes to members
7. High Holiday Bimah – Volunteer for bimah duties
8. Giving – Give to the Annual Fund . . . any amount
9. Disclosure of Conflicts – Sign annual statement

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Committees and program groups

- Committees and program groups are important avenues for member engagement

- Committee, task force and special project chairs are appointed by the president

- Opportunities 2 times/year for leaders to come together for sharing, collaboration and planning

- A member of the clergy/staff team serves as liaison

- Annual report highlights accomplishments, using the framework of the strategic plan

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Financial oversight

Overview
- Board plays an important role in financial management of the temple
- Regular financial reviews provide information about what is going on at a high level
- Planning insures we can afford to accomplish goals consistent with the strategic plan

Finance Committee
- Strategic leadership for financial planning and policies
- Reviews monthly year-to-date financial dashboard and fund reports
- Develops annual budget – it is always a balanced operating budget
- Oversees annual audit and temple investments

Board Oversight
- Reviews monthly financial scorecard – year-to-date, and projected year-end results
- Reviews and approves – budget, audit, proposed policy changes

Tachlis – nuts and bolts

Your Toolkit for Accessing Important Information and Getting Support

- Board web site - password required to access on-line board book, board calendar, by-laws and other documents

- Temple Sinai DC app – information about calendar, member directory and contact information at your fingertips

- Board meeting materials – link to Dropbox

- Sign-ups for congregational representative at Shabbat Services – link to Sign-Up Genius

- Temple staff support

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Strengthening our mission and vision

The Big Picture

- Development program goals and board participation
  - Annual Fund
  - Capital Campaign

- Strategic plan 2016-2019

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Thank you for serving!

Q&A