

# TEMPLE BETH EL

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A PLACE FOR PRAYER, LEARNING & COMMUNITY

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October 2022

Dear TBE Member:

As I discussed in my speech on Yom Kippur, one of my principal goals as president is to focus on building a greater sense of community and connection at Temple Beth El, both among our membership and in our individual relationships to the synagogue. To that end, it's important we take stock of where we stand today and to determine the actions we must take to set us on a continued path of growth. It is a goal that is made all the more important as we consider life without Rabbi Hammerman after June 30, 2024, when he assumes the role of rabbi emeritus.

But this undertaking cannot prove successful without YOUR input. We need to find out what you are thinking. Why are you a TBE member? How satisfied are YOU that TBE is meeting your needs? What changes can WE make to better do so? What do you value most about TBE...that brings you the greatest joy? And of course, what do you consider to be our greatest challenges?

We start today to begin the process of answering these questions, and many others. At the end of this letter is a link to the first of two surveys we are asking you to complete over the next few months. This initial survey focuses on your current relationship with the synagogue and some of the changes you might seek in various areas of synagogue life. It should take 15 to 20 minutes of your time. Please answer the questions as carefully and honestly as you can. Your input is entirely anonymous. No one will know how you answered any of the questions.

While we tried very hard to touch on the many different and important elements that form your relationship with TBE, no survey can address everything. Which is why there are places throughout the survey for you to add comments, including a spot at the end should you wish to share any additional information.

After everyone has had a chance to respond to the first survey, we will send out a second survey. This one will primarily focus on the skills and attributes you would like to see in a new senior rabbi, as well as your hopes and dreams for the future of Temple Beth El.

As an aside, many of you have reached out to me about the rabbinic search process and its timing. You should know that we are governed by the rules and practices of the Rabbinical Assembly, the organization through which the search for rabbis in the Conservative movement normally takes place. Under these rules, the formal search itself will likely not begin until after next year's High Holidays. Please be assured that I, and the TBE lay leadership, will communicate with you regularly about this important undertaking.

In addition to the two surveys, we are also planning to hold a series of focus groups, both in person and on Zoom, where we can have a free exchange of thoughts and feelings. We'll dig deeper into subjects that may be of interest to different demographic groups, such as seniors, young families, and professionals, or those who wish to discuss specific areas, such as ritual, education or social interactions.

As I said, we absolutely want to hear from you. And so, I make a very specific request. Please participate! We want every adult member of TBE to make their voice known. If you know of another member who did not receive this communication, including your spouse or partner, please share this information with them. For those who do not use or have the technology to take the surveys online and want them in hardcopy, just reach out to the office or to me, and I will make sure that happens.

Together, let's move forward as one congregation, paving the way for an exciting and spiritually rewarding future for all of us, and for those who will join us as TBE congregants in the future.

Thank you for your support. Please enjoy this beautiful time of year and, in fact, please come to TBE and enjoy the changing colors of the leaves on our trees and the flowers in our gardens.

Stay well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott J. Krowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "K".

Scott J. Krowitz  
President, Temple Beth El

**Survey Link: <https://tinyurl.com/tbe22a>**

*(PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS LINK WITH ANYONE WHO IS NOT  
AN ADULT MEMBER OF TEMPLE BETH EL.)*