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April 7, 2024

Dear Congregants:

It is time again for Beth-El to bring its By-Laws up to date. The Congregation, the Union for Reform Judaism, and the wider community have changed since our By-Laws were last revised in 2003. Rather than attempt to amend obsolete By-Laws from a bygone era, Beth-El hired an outside attorney with experience in the governance of non-profit organizations to create a first draft of new By-Laws. Subsequently, Russ Schultz and I made revisions to better fit the needs of this congregation. After we completed our initial revision, the Board of Directors collaboratively reviewed and further revised. At the end of the extensive review and editing process, the Board approved the final draft of the new By-Laws on March 18, 2024. Our current By-Laws, which are still in effect; require that any amendments or revisions to the By-Laws be approved by the Congregation as a whole at the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting called for that purpose.

The Board will present the proposed By-Laws for review and approval by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 19, 2024. The Business Meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m. The document is over 20 pages long, and the expense of mailing it to the congregation is substantial. Therefore, the proposed By-Laws are posted on the Beth-El website for your review and consideration. The Beth-El office can mail a paper copy to you upon specific request.

Please review the proposed By-Laws and be prepared to vote on them at the May 19th Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors has worked long and hard on this important document and recommends approval. If anyone wishes to discuss the new By-Laws with me privately, I would be happy to do so. I look forward to seeing you on May 19 for the Annual Meeting.

L'Shalom,

Robert A. Simon
President