

# Congregation Beth Israel

## Annual Financial Membership Commitment Policy

**Effective Date: July 1, 2022**

**Replaces: Policy and Procedure Regarding Membership Status (04-11-2011)**

**Date Approved by Board of Directors: May 10, 2022**

**Reference: CBI Bylaws Article 2**

### Policy

Annual financial support of CBI is expected from each member household. However, no person shall be disqualified from enjoying the privileges of Membership in Good Standing solely because of inability to pay. Responsibility to grant appropriate financial relief rests jointly with the President and the Treasurer.

1. Each membership unit (individual, couple, or family) is expected to contribute annually to the congregation's operational needs. This is typically referred to as a "membership commitment" and is a requirement for being a Member in Good Standing at CBI.
2. Each year, the Board determines a "target commitment amount" based on the current CBI budget, and this information is provided in an annual letter to all members.
3. Each membership unit then determines their annual contribution according to their unique financial resources (income and/or assets), keeping in mind the average "cost of membership" reflected in the "target amount". As a general guide, in the "fair-share" nature of this system, a commitment of 2% of annual income is suggested. While voluntary and adjustable, the annual commitment is critical to CBI's existence.
4. The annual letter requests each member to renew & pledge their annual amount before Rosh Hashana AND select a payment plan: either pay the full amount by December 31st or make arrangements for monthly/quarterly/bi-annual payments over the course of the fiscal year. A Member in Good Standing is one who keeps current with their selected arrangement.
5. In this day of remote connectivity, we offer an **Affiliate Membership** to supporters who participate from a distance (outside the Puget Sound Region) yet want to maintain a connection with CBI. Affiliate Members receive the Shofar Newsletter, the weekly Timbrel, and zoom access to services, programs, and events at membership pricing.

Affiliate members may also be listed in our membership directory. An annual contribution of \$500 or greater is suggested.

6. An annual financial commitment is waived for full-time students and active military personnel.
7. In addition to the annual membership contribution, other donations to CBI's various endeavors such as the Building Fund, Keshet (religious school), various Committees, the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, etc., are strongly encouraged. A full list of donation opportunities is detailed at [www.bethisraelbellingham.org](http://www.bethisraelbellingham.org).
8. All financial information including the dues commitment amounts is strictly confidential. Only the President, Financial Sustainability Director, Treasurer, and bookkeeper have access to this information. CBI operates on the "honor system": no formal income documentation such as tax returns is ever requested.