

# Congregation Beth Israel Bellingham Ritual Committee

**Board Approved**  
*September 10, 2024*

**Name:**     **Ritual Committee**

**Purpose:** To provide a sounding board for the congregation and the Rabbi pertaining to religious needs and desires of both the congregation and the Rabbi with regard to worship experience, music, liturgical, and spiritual expression and ritual/halakhic practices reflecting past traditions and exploring new rituals to meet the constantly evolving needs of this diverse community.

## **Role and Responsibilities:**

1. Serve as the High Holy Day Cantorial Search Team.
2. Responsible for assigning (with the Rabbi) all aliyot and other honors during the High Holy Days.
3. Provide guidance to all congregants who might serve as High Holy Day liaisons/schleppers, etc.
4. Ensure that all ritual objects are clean and in working condition (e.g. chanukiyot, rimonim, breastplates, yads, Torah mantles, etc.)
5. Make specific proposals to the Rabbi to consider for adoption in services.
6. Regularly solicit input and volunteer help from the community at large.
7. Serve on beit dins for conversion students with the Rabbi.
8. All suggested changes in ritual policy are discussed in committee. Decisions are made by consensus, according to the Rabbi's interpretation of halachic boundaries and guidance.

## **Appointment of Chair :**

- Rabbi Serves as the Chair.
- Committee Members are appointed by the Rabbi and approved by the Executive Committee.

## **Members:**

- **Required**
  - Attendance at services and/or classes on a regular basis.

- CBI member in good standing with the congregation and Jewish (either by birth or conversion).
- Knowledge of and a passion for Jewish customs and rituals.
- **Desirable**
  - Flexibility and open mindedness in accepting congregational differences in ritual practice

**Term Limits:**

- Chair term: For duration of Rabbi's service.
- Members: Members may serve three four-year terms as approved by the Rabbi.

**Budget:** None

**Meeting Frequency:**

- The committee will meet no less than twice a year.
- Each meeting may begin with a brief text study led by a member of the committee.