

**YOUNGSTOWN CONGREGATIONAL COLLABORATION IMPLEMENTATION  
COMMITTEE (YCCIC)**

**Meeting Minutes January 27, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Mark Huberman, Elliot Legow and Dick Burdman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. via zoom. Mark Huberman noted the potential historic nature of this first committee meeting whose stated goal is the long sought consolidation of the Congregations in our community into a single entity.

**Present Were:**

Mark Huberman  
Elliot Legow  
Lee Burdman  
Jack Kessler  
Mark Zeidenstein  
Sam D. Roth  
Harriet Schor  
Aaron Hively  
Beverly Nathan  
Brigitt Birk  
Richard Shapiro  
Samie Winick  
Andy Lipkin, Ex Officio  
Susan Schwebel Epstein, Ex Officio

**Absent:**

Alvin Weisberg, Ex Officio

**1. Approval of Agenda and Election of Tri-Chairs:** At the outset of the meeting, the Committee unanimously approved of Mark Huberman, Elliot Legow and Lee Burdman serving as Tri-Chairs of the Committee and accepted Mark Huberman's offer to also serve as Secretary. The Committee also approved the Proposed Agenda emailed prior to the meeting.

**2. Introduction of Committee Members:** Each member was afforded the opportunity to introduce themselves to the Committee. Each stated their commitment and support for Temple Consolidation. Each member was asked to email Mark Huberman their preferred email and phone number.

**3. History of Collaboration Efforts:** Mark Huberman shared with the Board the history of meetings that led to the recent passage by each Temple of the Resolution of Congregational Intent to Pool Resources that led to the creation of this Committee. He noted that with the recent establishment of the Cemetery Association, a strong precedent has already been demonstrated for success of community consolidation.

**4. Committee Name and Goal:** The Committee agreed that we will refer to ourselves as the “Youngstown Congregational Collaboration Implementation Committee” (YCCIC) and that our goal will be developing a plan for the consolidation of our Temples into a single new entity.

**5. Establishment of Basic Committees:**

A. The Committee agreed that the Tri-Chairs will collectively serve as chairs of the Communication and Public Relations Committee and their goals will be the fullest transparency and cultivating confidence and support for the process of consolidation.

B. The Tri-Chairs shall serve as separate chairs of three core Sub-Committees, each of which shall have which will have two representatives from Rodef Sholom and one each from El Emeth and Ohev Tzedek. Prior to the meeting, the members of the Committee agreed to their Sub-Committee assignments as is set forth as follows:

1) Governance/Organizational Structure

Ohev Tzedek: Mark Huberman, Chair  
El Emeth: Sam D. Roth  
Rodef Sholom: Aaron Hively  
Rodef Sholom: Beverly Nathan

Goals: Making recommendations for legal structure, by-laws, board structure, staffing and name of new entity.

2) Ritual/Artifacts/Education

Rodef Sholom: Elliot Legow, Chair  
Rodef Sholom: Brigitt Birk  
El Emeth: Harriet Schor  
Ohev Tzedek Booker Kessler

Goals: Making recommendations for incorporating religious traditions and rituals of all denominations, including prayer books, clergy, service schedules, youth and adult education, Mikvah, etc., as well as the preservation of artifacts and memorials.

3) Finance/Building

El Emeth: Lee Burdman, Chair  
Ohev Tzedek: Mark Zeidenstein  
Rodef Sholom: Dick Shapiro  
Rodef Sholom: Samie Winnick

Goals: Making recommendations for the preservation of current endowments, establishing dues structures, choice of building for new entity and disposition of other buildings.

C. Each core Sub-Committee is encouraged to add additional members to their Committee to not only to tap additional experience, expertise and perspective, but to also gain more buy-in and ownership by more members of the community.

D. Each Sub-Committee chair will arrange for their own Zoom meetings. Andy Lipkin offered the Federation's Zoom account for anyone that needs it.

D. The Sub-Committees shall meet in between meetings of the Full Committee.

**6. Discussion of Federation & Children of Israel Representatives:** The Committee agreed that these representatives shall serve as resources to the core Sub-Committees as needed.

**7. Warren Temple:** Mark Zeidenstein asked if Beth Israel Temple in Warren has participated, or been invited to participate, in the collaboration process. Mark Huberman and Andy Lipkin reported that outreach has been made to their members in the past, including for participation in the Cemetery Association, and that no interest has been expressed. The Committee agreed that such participation would be welcome, and Mark Zeidenstein offered to reach out to Curt Bogen, to gauge their current interest.

**8. Committee Meetings:** The Committee agreed to set the following full Committee Meetings on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., all of which are dates which have been determined to be clear on the Federation Community:

February 16  
March 16  
April 13  
May 11

The purpose of these Meetings shall be to receive progress reports from the work of the Sub-Committees that shall meet between full committee meetings.

The Sub-Committees shall make every effort to schedule their meetings on dates that are clear on the Federation Community Calendar

**9. Architect/Engineer Report:** Mark Huberman noted that no architect/engineer's report has been submitted about the choice of building to be used for Temple Consolidation by Rich Yankel, the architect/engineer who was engaged by the Collaboration Committee to a Space Study and Building Utilization Review. Mr. Yankel did walk-throughs of at least El Emeth and Rodef Sholom, but no report or recommendation was issued. Yankel was contracted at a cost of \$10,800.00, one half to be paid by the Federation and the remainder split by the Temples. Andy Lipkin confirmed that no payments have yet been made to Mr. Yankel. The Committee agreed that it will be appropriate for the Sub-Committee on Finance and Buildings to reach out a to Mr. Yankel in its future work.

**10. Alan Goldberg's Data:** Mark Huberman noted that the extensive data collected by Alan Goldberg was provided to him and other committee members in a Dropbox folder that is available to all Sub-Committees for their future work. Andy Lipkin added that Alan has offered to update any information needed at no additional charge.

**11. Mission and Vision Statement:** Prior to the meeting, the Committee was provided a proposed Mission and Vision Statement. It was agreed that members will review the proposal and be prepared to discuss or approve the same at the next meeting.

**12. Good and Welfare:** At the conclusion of the meeting, all members of the Committee expressed appreciation for the work of the Tri-Chairs in getting the Committee off to a great start and expressed optimism that a plan for consolidation is very much within reach by this June.

**13. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.