

Congregation Beth Shalom Strategic Planning Survey

Thank you in advance for agreeing to help the Congregation Beth Shalom Strategic Planning commit-tee. As we wrote to you earlier this summer, "We are very excited to announce that United Synagogue has selected our congregation to participate in a strategic planning program created and supported by the staff of United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism. Our goal is to involve the congregation in developing a vision to move us into the future and create specific strategies to help us achieve that vision."

Your answers will help us in this process. Please answer as truthfully and honestly as you can. Your views will influence important decisions that will be made by Congregation Beth Shalom. Be assured that all your answers will be held in the strictest confidence and no one will be shown any individually identifiable answers you provided here.

1. How long have you been a member of Beth Shalom?

0-2 years	3-5 years	6-9 years	10-14	15 - 19	20-25	26-36	37 or more
			years	years	years	years	years

2. Why did you initially choose to join Congregation Beth Shalom?

3. Why have you chosen to continue to be a member of the congregation? Please rate ALL the factors and their importance to you.

	Very Important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unim- portant	Somewhat unimpor- tant	Very unimpor- tant
Branch of Judaism					
Rabbi					
Cantor					
Religious School					
Location					
Vision of Clergy					
Overall Reputation					
Other family members					
Friends or neighbors belong					
Content and conduct of services					
Social Aspects					
Bar/Bat Mitzvah					
Warm and welcoming					
Adult Education					
Sisterhood					
Men's Club					

Youth Group (Kadima/USY)	activities,			
Feel a sense of commu	unity			
Opportunities for lay tion	participa-			

- 4. Are there any other reason(s) why you have chosen to continue to be a member of the Congregation Beth Shalom?
- 5. Which of the following best describes your involvement in the life of our congregation in the past year?

Very involved	Somewhat involved	Minimally involved	Not involved

6. If time were not an issue, what one thing would motivate you to get more involved?

7. Which of the following best describes your involvement in Jewish life growing up?

Very involved	Somewhat involved	Minimally involved	Not involved

8. What was your religious identity growing up?

Conser-	Orthodox	Reform	Reconstruc-	Other	Other	No
vative			tionist	-Jewish	Non- Jewish	Religious -Identity

9. Which of the following were you involved with during your childhood and/or teenage years?

- □ Afternoon Hebrew School or Sunday School
- \Box Jewish Preschool
- \Box Jewish Day School
- \Box Camp Ramah
- $\hfill\square$ Other Jewish Summer Camp
- \Box USY
- $\hfill\square$ Other Jewish Youth Group
- $\hfill\square$ Jewish High School
- \Box Other

10. Which statement best describes your view of Jewish tradition at our Congregation Beth Shalom?

Maintaining tradition is most important	Maintaining tradition while also allowing for change is most important	Our times call for more focus on change	Don't know

11. Do you have any comments on your answer to Which statement best describes your view of Jewish tradition Congregation Beth Shalom?

12. How would you rate your OVERALL satisfaction with our congregation?

Very	Somewhat	Neither	Somewhat	Very
satisfied	satisfied	satisfied	dissatisfied	dissatisfied
		nor		
		dissatisfied		

13. I would enthusiastically recommend our Congregation Beth Shalom to a friend.

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree

14. I would enthusiastically recommend our religious school to a friend.

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Not applicable

Extremely likely	Somewhat likely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Somewhat unlikely (Please share your reason below)	Extremely unlikely (Please share your reason below)	Don't know

15. How likely are you to remain a member in the next 5 years?

Reason you are unlikely to be a member in 5 years.....

16. How satisfied are you with our facility?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissat- isfied	Somewhat dissatis- fied	Extremely dissatis- fied	Don't know	Not Applicable
External Building Facade							
Parking							
Grounds							
Location							
Sanctuary							
Helfant Chapel							
Foyer							
Pre-School							
Religious School							
Youth Lounge							
Ballroom							
Kitchen							
Offices							
Access for those with disabilities							

17. Do you have any other comments on our facility?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Feels like a close knit family						
We warmly wel- come new mem- bers						
We try to get new members involved with our congre- gation						
Lay leaders work to get to know members better						
I feel the clergy know me						
I feel connected to the congregation						
I have good friends here						
Clergy respond in times of need						
The congregation responds in times of need						
The congregation creates opportu- nities to help con- nect people to one another						

18. Please rate the following aspects of Congregation Beth Shalom.

19. Do you have any additional comments on the question you just answered?

	Extremely satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissat- isfied	Somewhat dissatis- fied	Extremely dissatis- fied	Don't know
Seniors (including Hazak)						
Millenials						
Families with school age chil- dren						
Pre-School fami- lies						
Post Bar Mitzvah youth						
Empty nesters						
New members						
LGBT						
Interfaith families						

20. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the programming geared to these specific groups

21. Do you have any additional comments on this question?

22. Please rate your level of satisfaction in each of these areas of prayer.

	Extremely satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissat- isfied	Somewhat dissatis- fied	Extremely dissatis- fied	Don't know	Not applicable
Friday night ser- vices							
Saturday morning services							
High Holiday ser- vices							
Festival services							
Weekday Minyan							
Junior Congrega- tion							
Congregational participation in prayer							

Members' volvement leading prayer	in- in				
Participation youth services					
Use of music services	in in				
Learning ab prayer	oout				

23. How innovative do you feel the Congregation Beth Shalom is in the following areas? (How has the congregation adapted to the changing needs of the community? How forward thinking are we as a congregation?)

In Prayer	Very innovative	Somewhat innovative \Box	Not very innovative	Not at all innovative \Box	Don't know □
In Education					
In Communications					
In Leadership					
In Social Action					

24. Do you have any additional comments on this question?

25. Please rate your level of satisfaction with our efforts in social justice/social action programming

	Extremely satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissat- isfied	Somewhat dissatis- fied	Extremely dissatis- fied	Don't know	Not applicable
Social Action (hands on)							
Social Advocacy (educating on po- litical issues)							
Social justice programs (such as lobbying, rallies) alone or in partner- ship with other organizations							
Chessed/Caring Community (helping mem- bers of our own community)							

27. Please rate your level of satisfaction with our Communications.

	Extremely satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissat- isfied	Somewhat dissatis- fied	Extremely dissatis- fied	Don't know	Not applicable
A sense of enthu- siasm is evident in our communi- cations							
Our lay leaders are good ambas- sadors for our congregation. They enthusiasti- cally promote the congregation.							
Our website ad- equately commu- nicates what we need to know.							
The synagogue makes it clear who to go to for help.							

28. Please provide one specific suggestion to improve our Communications

29. Please indicate your level of agreement with these statements regarding our Congregational Mission and Vision.

		Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
I can describe congregati mission vision	easily our on's and						

I understand what makes us distinctive			
I understand the vision of our lead- ership			
Our leaders tell stories about how we put our vision to work.			

30. In the past year, how often did you attend the following activities at our congregation? Please rate EACH activity.

	At Least Monthly	At Least Every Other Month	At Least 4 Times a Year	At Least Once a Year	Less than Once a Year
Programs for Seniors					
Adult Education Programs					
Men's Club Programs					
Sisterhood Programs					
Committee Meetings					
Fundraisers					
Youth Group activities (includ- ing but not limited to USY)					
Educational Programs					
Social/Cultural Programs					

31. Please feel free to make a suggestion on programming.

	Bi-weekly (at least 25 times a year)	Monthly (about 12 times a year)	Bi- monthly (about 6 times a year)	Less than 6 times a year	Not at all
Friday night family service					
Friday night regular service					
Saturday morning service					
Saturday afternoon service (minchah)					
Weekday morning Minyan					
Weekday evening Minyan					

32. In the past year, how often did you attend the following services at our kehilla (congregation)?

33. Please feel free to make a suggestion about how to enhance our Ritual services

34. As you know, Congregation Beth Shalom is currently creating a new strategic plan. Below are some directions we have been told people are interested in over the next few years. Please rank order the following eight options, with 1 for your highest rated option and 8 for your lowest rated option.

Option

Emphasize Conservative Jewish practice and ritual at the synagogue and home.

Emphasize tikkun olam and engage in more social action.

Fully address and resolve any financial challenges facing Beth Shalom.

Recruit more young people and new members.

Emphasize adult learning and education.

Find a way to end our problems with the current building, however that can be done.

Focus more attention on Israel and our relationship to Israel

Emphasize the Derekh program

35. If our congregation would offer ______, I would attend and ask a friend to join me.

36. If you could wave a magic wand, what is one thing you would like to see change here at Beth Shalom.

Ranking

- **37.** Not including dues, tuition, or high holiday seats, how much would you estimate that your household contributes financially to the congregation? Please note that all data is CONFIDENTIAL.
 - □ \$0 \$99
 - □ \$100 \$249
 - \Box \$250 \$499
 - □ \$500 \$999
 - □ \$1000 \$1999
 - \Box \$2000 or more
- **38.** Please rate the following statements concerning your commitment to Jewish and general community causes.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Not applicable
I feel it is essen- tial to financially support Jewish causes							
I feel it is essen- tial to contribute to causes outside the Jewish com- munity							
I feel it is essen- tial to support Is- rael financially							

39. Have you visited Israel?

Yes $\Box \rightarrow$	Go to Question 40
No \ldots \Box	Go to Question 42

If you have visited Israel, please answer these two questions.

40. How many times have you visited Israel in the last 5 years?

41. Visiting Israel strengthened my Jewish identity.

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree

Male	Female	Prefer Not to Answer

43. I am currently . . .

Single	Married or Partnered	Separated	Divorced	Widowed

44. Have you been a member of Beth Shalom's board in the last three years?

Yes
No

45. Do you have a child in a Jewish Day School?

Yes	No	Not Applicable

46. Do you have any children living at home?

Yes $\Box \rightarrow$	Go to question 47
No $\Box \rightarrow$	Go to question 49

47. If you do have children living at home, how may children are currently living at home (include those in college) and what are their ages?

	0	1	2	3 or more
Under 5				
5-9				
10-13				
14-18				
19-21				
Over 21				

- **48.** If you do have children living at home, do you currently have a child in Religious School at Beth Shalom?
 - $\Box \quad Yes \\ \Box \quad No$

We now want to ask a few questions about your involvement in various activities during the year.

49. In a typical year, do you or anyone in your household attend or hold a Passover Seder?

- \Box Yes
- \Box No

50. In a typical year, do you or anyone in your household light Hanukkah candles?

- $\Box \quad Yes \\ \Box \quad No$
- **51.** Which of the following best describes your current practices regarding keeping kosher? Would you say you ...

Don't follow Kosher rules at all	Follow some Kosher rules, like avoiding pork or shellfish	Keep Kosher only at home	Keep Kosher all the time

52. How often do you or anyone in your household light Shabbat candles on a Friday night?

Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never

53. In the past year, how often did you attend Jewish services at a synagogue?

Never	Once or twice a year	Every few months	About once a month	Two or three times a month	Once a week or more

54. Did you fast during Yom Kippur in 2017? Would you say you..

I fasted for the whole day	I fasted for part of the day	I could not fast for medical reasons	I did not fast

55. Did you attend any High Holy Day services in the Fall of 2017?

- $\Box \quad Yes \\ \Box \quad No$
- **56.** In the past month, how often did you access Jewish-focused culture (such as books, TV, music, or a museum)?

Never	Once or	Once a	Every few	Once a day
	twice	week	days	or more

57. In the past YEAR, either for or with a Jewish organization, did you read material produced by a Jewish organization (such as a newsletter, magazine, website, or some other media)?

Yes, at least once	Yes, less than	No
a month	once a month	

58. In the past month, how often did you actively seek out news about Israel?

Never	Once or	Once a	Every few	Once a day	Several
	twice	week	days		times a day

59. Are you or anyone in your household currently a member of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Greater Pittsburgh?

Yes, and I pay dues	Yes, but I do not pay dues	No

- **60.** Aside from congregation(s) and JCC's, are you or anyone in your household a member of any other formal Jewish organizations or clubs (such as Hadassah, ADL, AJC, or others)?
 - \Box Yes
 - □ No
- 61. Do you or anyone in your household belong to an informal or grassroots Jewish group such as a social chavurah, Jewish book club, or other informal Jewish group?
 - \Box Yes
 - □ No
- **62.** In the past YEAR, either for or with a Jewish organization, did you attend or participate in a program, event, or class (not for religious services)?

Yes, at least once a month	Yes, less than once a month	No

- **63.** In the past MONTH, either for or with a Jewish organization, did you help in a leadership role such as serving on a committee or board or planning an event or program?
 - $\Box \quad Yes \\ \Box \quad No$
- **64.** In the past MONTH, either for or with a Jewish organization, did you help as a participant such as tutoring, serving meals at a soup kitchen, or attending a rally?
 - $\Box \quad Yes \\ \Box \quad No$
- **65.** Over the past year, did you make any charitable donations? Please include donations to both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations.

Yes $\Box \rightarrow$ Go to the next questionNo $\Box \rightarrow$ Thank you for answering our questions.

66. If you made donations over the past year, which of the following best describes the charities to which you made monetary contributions, other than membership dues?

All Jewish	Mostly	About	Mostly	All
	Jewish	equal	non-Jewish	non-Jewish

We thank you for answering this questionnaire for Congregation Beth Shalom's Strategic Planning Committee. Please enclose the completed survey in the stamped self-addressed envelope and return it promptly to Congregation Beth Shalom.