

RABBINICAL PLACEMENT COMMISSION
355 LEXINGTON AVENUE ~ NEW YORK, NY 10017
212-972-3636 ~ F: 212-972-5192

APPLICATION FOR CONGREGATIONAL SEARCH FOR A RABBI

PLEASE COMPLETE APPLICATION ELECTRONICALLY AND RETURN VIA EMAIL AS AN ATTACHMENT TO: [RLONGWORTH@CCARNET.ORG](mailto:rlongworth@ccarnet.org)

DATE	JUNE 9, 2011
CONGREGATION	TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH (WWW.TEMPLEBETHTIKVAHCT.ORG)
ADDRESS	P.O.BOX 1269, DURHAM ROAD, MADISON, CT 06443
EMAIL / TELEPHONE	TBTSANDY@SBCGLOBAL.NET / 203-245-7028
PRESIDENT: THROUGH JUNE 30, 2011	WENDY BLUEMLING
EMAIL / TELEPHONE	WENDYBLUEMLING@YAHOO.COM / 203-453-4889
PRESIDENT: JULY 1 2011 – JUNE 30, 2012	AL GOLDBERG
EMAIL / TELEPHONE	GOOSER60@AOL.COM / 203-421-4325
CURRENT RABBI AND LENGTH	RABBI CLAUDIO KOGAN EFFECTIVE JULY 2009
CHAIR OF SEARCH COMMITTEE	SUZANNE FRISCH
ADDRESS	131 MILL STONE DRIVE, GUILFORD, CT 06437
EMAIL / TELEPHONE	SGFRISCH@AOL.COM / 203-457-9555 (H) / 203-494-3539 (C)

PROFESSIONAL STAFF:	PLEASE LIST THE NAMES AND TITLES OF MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF. INDICATE "P" FOR PART-TIME; "F" FOR FULL TIME.
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ASSOCIATE RABBI	N/A	NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR	BERNADETTE STAK - P
ASSISTANT RABBI	N/A	ORGANIST	N/A
CANTOR	CANTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE FORMED, ACTION PENDING HIRING OF RABBI CANTORIAL SOLOIST: RICK CALVERT - P	RITUAL DIRECTOR	N/A
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	N/A	SECRETARIAL	SANDY WALSH - F
EDUCATOR OR PRINCIPAL	MARCIA GERINGER - P	YOUTH DIRECTOR	DEVORAH LYNCH - P
BOOKKEEPER	JANE LUYCKX - F	OTHER	

PLACEMENT POLICY: IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGH IDEALS OF REFORM JUDAISM, OUR CONGREGATION WILL NOT EXCLUDE A CANDIDATE FROM CONSIDERATION BASED ON AGE, GENDER, RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY STATUS, VETERAN STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR MARITAL STATUS. THE CONGREGATION AGREES, ALSO, TO FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT ENTITLED "GUIDELINES FOR RABBINICAL-CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS."

 WENDY BLUEMLING DATE JUNE 9, 2011
SIGNATURE OF PRESIDENT (PLEASE KEY IN SIGNATURE)

CONGREGATIONAL IDENTITY			
NUMBER OF MEMBER UNITS TODAY. TOTAL: 311			
FAMILIES / 194 RETIRED COUPLES/ 34 (ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIPS INCLUDE: DUAL (8), LIFETIME (3), HONORARY (3))	SINGLE MEMBERS / 70 (INCLUDES RETIRED SINGLES = 38)	CHILDREN 0-4 / 22	CHILDREN 5-13 / 141
AGE DISTRIBUTION / 0 – OVER 90 YEARS OLD			
NUMBER OF MEMBER UNITS FIVE YEARS AGO: TOTAL /		305	
FAMILIES / N/A	SINGLE MEMBERS / N/A	CHILDREN 0-4 / N/A	CHILDREN 5-13 / N/A
FUTURE DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS ARE: CONTINUED GROWTH, 1-2% PER YEAR			
DATE SYNAGOGUE FOUNDED: 1972	IS THERE A SYNAGOGUE BUILDING? YES	DATE BUILT / 1977	
PROVIDE A BRIEF HISTORY OF SYNAGOGUE AT END OF APPLICATION		SEE ATTACHED	
WHAT ARE YOUR CONGREGATION'S CORE VALUES?		<p>Temple Beth Tikvah is a Reform Jewish congregation made up of people from diverse religious backgrounds, levels of observance, Jewish literacy, family structures, sexual orientation, political points of view and economic status. As a minority population on the Connecticut Shoreline, we have formed a congregation which we view as our Jewish family. We value, take pride in and respect the diversity within our family and embrace our many non-Jewish members.</p> <p>The Mission Statement of Temple Beth Tikvah states that we will: provide religious services and spiritual sustenance to all congregants, consistent with modern Reform Judaism; provide Jewish educational, cultural and social experiences for all age groups and levels of learning; and, develop a caring community through which to reach out to all members of our congregation.</p> <p>We seek to provide these services in a compassionate community that values integrity and wisdom. We are a community of independent thinkers. We favor knowledge, competence and balance in our approach to observance and governance. We aspire to live our values through our commitment to a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, inspiring worship, youth and adult education, and meaningful social justice programs fostered by a strong partnership with our clergy and dedicated lay leadership.</p>	

SYNAGOGUE FACILITIES			
PERMANENT SEATS IN SANCTUARY / 75		SANCTUARY SEATING EXPANDABLE TO / 125 (NOTE: HIGH HOLIDAY SEATING EXPANDS TO FILL ADJOINING SOCIAL HALL WITH A 600 SEAT CAPACITY)	
NUMBER CLASSROOMS / 11	NUMBER OFFICES / 6	SOCIAL HALL / YES	KITCHEN / YES
LIBRARY / YES	YOUTH LOUNGE / YES	RABBI'S STUDY / YES	CHAPEL / NO
OTHER / CANTOR'S STUDY			
NURSERY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND			
RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
THE PRAYERBOOKS USED FOR:			
SABBATHS AND FESTIVALS: MISHKAN T'FILAH		HIGH HOLY DAY: GATES OF REPENTANCE	
NOTE: WE HAVE MANY "CUSTOM" SERVICES FOR SPECIAL THEMES SUCH AS FAMILY SERVICES, MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT, WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM SHABBAT, ETC.; NEW SERVICES ARE COMPOSED ANNUALLY BY THE TEMPLE YOUTH GROUP, SALTY, FOR THEIR SHABBAT SERVICE			
RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS			
DO YOU HAVE: WEEKDAY HEBREW SCHOOL YES, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS (GRADES 3 - 7), SUNDAY MORNINGS (GRADES K - 10)	HIGH SCHOOL / SEE BELOW FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF OUR PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AGE STUDENTS	NURSERY SCHOOL / YES ENROLLS 45, AGES 2 YEARS - 5 YEARS IN "PARENT-CHILD" THROUGH PRE-K; 2 - 5 DAY PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE	
WHAT GRADES / K - 10	NUMBER OF TEACHERS / 11 PLUS 3 SPECIALISTS: MUSIC, ART, LIBRARY	PUPILS / 148	NUMBER OF DAYS/WEEK / 2
DO YOU HAVE A SCHOOL BUILDING? NO – NOT A SEPARATE BUILDING		IF NO, WHERE DO CLASSES MEET? CLASSROOMS ARE IN THE "SCHOOL WING" OF THE SYNAGOGUE BUILDING	
IS HIGH SCHOOL PART OF COMMUNAL SCHOOL?		IN ADDITION TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: MONTHLY 10 - 12 GRADE DISCUSSION GROUP LED BY RABBI ; TORAH TOTS MEETS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH (A PARENT-CHILD PROGRAM GEARED TO PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN, USUAL ATTENDANCE IS 15 – 20 CHILDREN PLUS ACCOMPANYING ADULTS PER MONTH)	

SUMMARIZE THE SCHOOL PROGRAM AND PHILOSOPHY:

The philosophy of our Religious School is to provide each student with a quality Jewish education and an opportunity to develop relationships within our community. We assist each child in acquiring the necessary tools for a meaningful and viable Jewish identity. An integral part of this preparation is proficiency in Liturgical Hebrew and an introduction to contemporary Hebrew. Our program is designed to make the school a place where learning Hebrew, the rituals and observances of Judaism (in the synagogue, in the home & personally), the history of the Jewish people and more takes place in an environment where the warmth of Jewishness can be appreciated and developed. We help our students become Jews who cherish their Judaic heritage, who know and understand our history, who participate in Jewish worship and who feel kinship with and responsibility for the welfare of Jews around the world.

Beginning with our youngest members, Torah Tots, for children ages 2 – 5 years old and their adults, meets one Sunday morning a month and includes prayer, a snack, a story and a craft tied to a holiday or event.

Our Sunday morning program, which runs from 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 noon, introduces children to the Jewish holidays, history, Bible stories and beginning Hebrew. Beginning in third grade, students also attend class on Wednesday afternoons. Grades 3 – 7 continue their studies with increased emphasis on Hebrew and the tefillah service. Intensive Bar or Bat Mitzvah training is provided to all qualified students and usually begins in the sixth grade. Post B’nai Mitzvah classes for students in grades 8 and 9 are held on Sunday mornings and lead to Confirmation at the conclusion of the ninth grade year. For students in grades 10 through 12, our Rabbi holds a monthly Sunday evening Dinner and Discussion group. Finally, there is an opportunity for students in grades 8 - 12 who are attending or have completed Religious School to participate as teaching assistants in our active Madrichim program. There are currently 37 teens participating in our Madrichim program.

COMMUNITY PROFILE	
OTHER JEWISH AGENCIES AND FACILITIES / MOST OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH A CENTRAL WEBSITE AT: WWW.JEWISHNEWHAVEN.ORG	JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN HAS RECENTLY OPENED A NEW SHORELINE OFFICE IN GUILFORD, CT - SEE WWW.JEWISHNEWHAVEN.ORG , JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER NEW HAVEN (WOODBIDGE, CT) – SEE WWW.JCCNH.ORG , JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES – SEE WWW.JFSNH.ORG
JEWISH HOME FOR AGED / YES, NEW HAVEN	JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL / JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW HAVEN - WWW.JEWISHNEWHAVEN.ORG/RELATIONS_COUNCIL
FEDERATION AND WELFARE FUND / JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN ; THE JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN	DAY SCHOOL/ MAKOM: HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL OF GREATER NEW HAVEN; EZRA ACADEMY, NEW HAVEN; SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT HEBREW ACADEMY AND BETH CHANA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, ORANGE, CT

HOW MANY OTHER CONGREGATIONS / THERE ARE MANY CONGREGATIONS REPRESENTING ALL JEWISH MOVEMENTS IN THE GREATER NEW HAVEN AREA; EAST OF NEW HAVEN ON THE SHORELINE, THERE IS ONE OTHER REFORM CONGREGATION: CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM RODFE ZEDEK IN CHESTER , CT	HOW MANY CONSERVATIVE : ON THE SHORELINE: NONE; THERE IS A CHABAD OF THE SHORELINE LOCATED IN BRANFORD, CT.
OTHER MAJOR INSTITUTIONS IN COMMUNITY /	SHORELINE HADASSAH; FOR LARGER NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY, SEE WWW. JEWISHNEWHAVEN.ORG

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN AREA:	YALE UNIVERSITY, WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY, FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN, SOUTHERN CT STATE UNIVERSITY, GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS	
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A. WHAT THREE QUALITIES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU IN YOUR NEW RABBI?

1. ***The ability to inspire***, based on a foundation of spirituality, a genuine understanding of our community, a warm and approachable personality, the ability to motivate and convey enthusiasm, humor and creativity, and excellent communication, administrative and organizational skills;
2. ***The ability to teach***, grounded in a deep knowledge of Jewish history, culture and liturgy, and the ability to convey that knowledge in an intellectually challenging and accessible manner that includes an open exchange with, and respect for ideas within, our synagogue community; and
3. ***The ability to make personal connections***, with awareness of and respect for the diversity of our community, with members of all ages through services, pastoral counseling, life cycle events, outreach and educational and social programming, and to communicate with Temple staff, lay leaders and board/committee members in a collaborative manner.

B. THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITIES OF OUR RABBI SHOULD BE:

1. ***To get to know and understand our congregation*** and the larger community by accepting our diverse Judaic backgrounds and interfaith families, by being an approachable, visible and integral part of the TBT community, and by supporting the safe expression of minority views in our congregation;
2. ***To work collaboratively with all of the constituents of Temple Beth Tikvah*** including our cantorial and professional staff in order to maintain and enhance our current religious, educational, outreach, social justice and social programming, and to envision a long term strategic plan for TBT's future; and,
3. ***To create worship experiences*** that energize and engage our membership, provide a diversity of services to meet the varied needs/interests of the congregation, and inspire spiritual growth, social action and study.

C. SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING RABBI NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS CONGREGATION IS:

We are a vibrant, energetic and well-educated Reform Jewish congregation comprised of members with diverse religious backgrounds, levels of observance, Jewish literacy and family structures eager to partner with a rabbi in order to maintain a strong synagogue and to develop a vision for our future. Our congregants live in over ten towns, and although we are a minority population, we have a visible presence in the general community. Our diversity reflects the communities in which we live and as a synagogue family we value that diversity.

D. THE THREE ACTIVITIES YOU LEAST WANT THE RABBI TO BE INVOLVED IN:

We hope that our rabbi will not be overly involved in anything that distracts from being the spiritual leader of our congregation.

E. WHAT ARE THE THREE PRIMARY GOALS OF YOUR SYNAGOGUE?

1. ***To serve as a center for Jewish life*** – a Beit Tefillah, Beit Knesset, Beit Midrash – by continuing our tradition as an exceptional house of worship that emphasizes Jewish learning, spirituality and community involvement while building upon our congregation’s sense of belonging and increasing engagement in worship services, social and educational programs, social justice activities and temple leadership / volunteerism;
2. ***To provide meaningful, diverse, creative, intellectually dynamic and relevant worship and educational opportunities*** for all ages that energize our congregation, inspire spiritual and intellectual growth and increase participation; and,
3. ***To maintain the fiscal health of TBT*** through ongoing attention to financial prudence while building long term financial sustainability and flexibility through an increased endowment and long-range strategic planning.

F. THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES TO CONFRONT IN YOUR SYNAGOGUE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WILL BE:

1. ***Establishing a meaningful and lasting relationship with our clergy;***
2. ***Increasing the engagement of our congregants*** by creating an environment that feels truly welcoming and inclusive to all of our members including interfaith families, and by developing worship and programming which strengthens members' bonds to TBT and Judaism; and,
3. ***Improving how we attract, develop and recognize lay leaders and other volunteers.***

G. WHAT ARE YOUR CONGREGATION’S STRENGTHS?

1. Our Community:

Our congregation is made up of talented, well-educated people who are active at TBT and outside the temple. Our synagogue and clergy are highly respected in our secular and local non-Jewish faith communities.

We have a superb staff including our musical professionals, our Religious School and Nursery School staff and our administrative staff who have long employment histories with TBT.

We have a core group of hard working, thoughtful lay leaders and volunteers.

Our area of Connecticut is a beautiful place to live and to raise a family. It is accessible to major cities like New Haven & Hartford which have wonderful cultural and social attractions and great educational institutions. There are many nearby areas with natural beauty and a variety of outdoor activities. We are located close enough to New York City and Boston that these are easy day-trip destinations.

2. Our commitment to high quality programming which includes: educating our children from “Torah Tots” and “Parent/Child” through our Rabbi’s high school discussion group, madrichim program and youth group, educational and social opportunities for adults, social justice activities and commitment to great musical programming.

3. We are financially healthy and stable. We have no debt and maintain a balanced budget.

H. WHAT ARE YOUR CONGREGATION’S WEAKNESSES?

1. Participation: We attract large crowds for some special programming (for example, musical and some social programs). Shabbat services, holiday observances other than the High Holy Days and adult education programs are often not well attended.

2. Volunteerism: While we have a strong core of lay leaders and many congregants contribute to TBT in some way (donations to our annual fund, taking on small unique projects), it has been increasingly difficult to attract new volunteers and to engage and develop lay leaders who are committed to serve TBT in longer term ways.

3. Lack of a long range strategic vision and plan which must include, among other things, how we welcome and integrate new members and long term fiscal stability / endowment.

DOES THE RABBI ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS:	YES / YES

FINANCES	
SIZE OF CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET IS / @\$800,000	STATUS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION /EXCELLENT
IF THERE IS A DEBT EACH YEAR, HOW IS IT MET? N/A	NO DEBT
NOTE: THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ESTABLISHED FUNDS TO WHICH MEMBERS MAKE DONATIONS FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES INCLUDING THE SPONSORSHIP OF EDUCATION, PROGRAMMING, BEAUTIFICATION, ETC. AS DETERMINED BY THE SPECIFIC DEFINITION OF THAT FUND'S USE. WE HAVE A SMALL ENDOWMENT.	

MAP: THE LOCATION OF A COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT TO THE CANDIDATE. PLEASE PROVIDE A MAP THAT INDICATES WHERE YOUR SYNAGOGUE IS LOCATED, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY IS LOCATED IN RELATION TO A MAJOR URBAN CENTER. THE MAP CAN NOT BE LARGER THAN 8-1/2" X 11" SO IT MAY BE PHOTOCOPIED.

Temple History (CCAR Application):

“Jewish Pioneers” in Connecticut

“Temple Beth Tikvah is perched on a slight rise of land on the east side of Route 79 [in Madison, CT], less than a mile north of the intersection of Interstate 95. Nestled on a sparsely wooded lot, the temple blends into its environs as if it has always been there. The temple was finished and dedicated in May of 1977, the [result] of forward-thinking and brave folks who envisioned it as the home of shoreline Jews for future generations. At the time it was built, and to this day, it provided the only synagogue along the shore between New London and New Haven.” *Liz Warner, local historian, Middletown, CT.*

The story of Temple Beth Tikvah is the story of over 30 years of commitment to Jewish ideas and values on the shoreline of Connecticut. Today, we are a synagogue with a membership of over 310 families who come from greater than 10 area communities. Our congregants come to Temple Beth Tikvah because they know that regardless of their diverse ways of identifying and living as Jews, their individual spiritual needs will be met with caring, concern and meaningful religious experiences from High Holy Day worship to Shabbat morning minyan. They know their children will be part of a lively Religious School and will participate in an educational program which will enrich their Jewish identities, knowledge and practice thus preparing them for lifelong Jewish participation. Our members enjoy rich adult educational programs. Our entire community benefits from our musical enrichment programs.

The story of our synagogue begins with the formation of the Shoreline Jewish Community Organization (SJCO) in 1970. Early services were held in members’ homes creating intimate connections among the families. Over the next several years, as the organization and number of participants grew, Shabbat services were held in a variety of places in Madison and Guilford, and regular Friday services were conducted by lay leaders who transported a portable ark and prayer books to the services.

Religious school classes began in 1970 with 10 students, ages 6 – 12 years old, who met in a single class at the Madison Community Center. The number of students quickly grew to 75 and classes were held at the Mercy School and Unitarian Church in Madison.

The early years of the SJCO were exhilarating and challenging as members debated the benefits of affiliating with a specific movement within Judaism, hiring a rabbi and building a permanent home. The minutes of an April 1974 meeting reflect the reasons why the core membership wanted their own temple and a rabbi: a need to “feel at home within our community.” The SJCO membership included families whose backgrounds reflected all of the movements of Judaism yet in 1975, it was decided that SJCO would become a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (currently the URJ). It was acknowledged that services and school curriculum would continue to remain more traditional than those of a typical Reform congregation.

At this same time, with a congregation of about 100 families, the SJCO decided to construct its own sanctuary. In 1975, land was purchased, and in April 1976, the decision was made to call the new synagogue Temple Beth Tikvah, House of Hope, reflecting the dreams and aspirations of this fledgling group. The building that currently houses Temple Beth Tikvah was dedicated at Shabbat services on Friday May 13, 1977 where Rabbi Malcolm Stern ZT"l, a noted historian of American Jews, spoke about “Jewish Pioneers in Connecticut.”

Rabbinical Leadership

TBT 1976 - 1981

In April 1976, the SJCO hired Rabbi David Wortman as the group’s first rabbi. During Rabbi Wortman’s tenure, TBT began monthly family Shabbat services, published its first *Shofar* (temple newsletter, 1976), began the Temple Beth Tikvah Nursery School (1978) and made arrangements for a Jewish cemetery at the Beaverbrook Cemetery in Clinton, CT. In the fall of 1981, Rabbi Wortman announced his resignation.

TBT 1982 - 2008

In 1982, Rabbi Howard Sommer became the second spiritual leader of Temple Beth Tikvah. Over Rabbi Sommer’s 26 year tenure, TBT grew to over 300 member households. TBT saw the religious school double in size and added a major addition to the synagogue building (1986) which includes a Judaic library. It is during this time that TBT grew into its current identity as the home for Jews on the Shoreline of Connecticut. Rabbi Sommer was instrumental in creating close bonds between TBT and the local communities, advocating that public schools be closed on the High Holy Days and developing ongoing interfaith programs for adults and children. During the quarter century that Rabbi Sommer led TBT, he and the lay leadership implemented nearly all of the programs we enjoy at TBT today. Families grew up celebrating their and their children’s lifecycle events with Rabbi Sommer until after twenty-six years of service, in July 2008, Rabbi Sommer resigned his position at Temple Beth Tikvah in order to pursue a new career path at the CCAR. Upon his retirement from TBT, Rabbi Sommer was awarded the title of Rabbi Emeritus.

TBT 2008 - present

Rabbi Thomas Alpert joined Temple Beth Tikvah in July 2008 as our interim rabbi. At this time we began many activities aimed at self-examination. These activities included a survey of the congregation, a number of focus group sessions aimed at different demographic groups and two “congregational conversations” for the entire congregation. During this year, the Rabbi Search Committee worked diligently to identify our next rabbi with the hope and expectation that we would engage the spiritual leader who would guide us on a long-term basis.

In July 2009, Rabbi Claudio Kogan became the new rabbi at TBT; his contract expires June 30, 2012. In the 2 years since Rabbi Kogan has joined us, we have continued the introspective work that was begun in 2008 pairing the lessons from that work with our experiences and reflections of the last three years. The result is that we have gained a sense of clarity regarding ourselves as a congregation and a deeper understanding of how our temple works that we did not have, and could not have had, three years ago when Rabbi Sommer left his position as our rabbi. It is through this enhanced perception that the congregation, the Board and the Rabbi Search Committee have achieved renewed confidence as we embark on our current journey: finding a rabbi who will partner and grow with us.

Commitment to Cantorial Leadership and Strong Musical Programming

Throughout most of TBT’s history, we relied on cantorial soloists and student cantors to provide the musical component of our synagogue life. In 2005, after enjoying her services as a student cantor, TBT hired Cantor Dorothy Goldberg as our first permanent, part-time cantor. Cantor Goldberg provided music and spiritual programming and educational opportunities. She was instrumental in creating our monthly Rosh Chodesh group, invigorating our youth and adult choirs, leading our B’nai Mitzvah program, conducting education programs and enriching our lives with special musical programs. In addition, she worked with one of our devoted TBT families several years ago to create an annual musical, artist in residence musical weekend. Altogether, Cantor Goldberg was part of our synagogue family for 9 years. Cantor Goldberg left TBT after her contract expired in June 2010.

Currently we have several key congregants and dedicated musicians who have assumed leadership roles, sustaining and inspiring our congregation with music and prayer. We have a dedicated cantorial soloist, Rick Calvert, who has delighted us with his musical talent for 25 years. In addition to his presence on our bimah, Mr. Calvert teaches music in our religious school and works with our adult and youth choirs. Our Adult Choir has been led by conductor Frank May for 25 years. Both Mr. Calvert and Mr. May work in conjunction with our accompanist Walter Stutzman.

The Board of Directors has created a Cantor Search Committee. The committee has contracted with a cantor who will be with us for the High Holy Days 5772 and on four occasions next year to provide us with special musical weekends. We intend to partner

with our new rabbi, once hired, on the selection of our new cantor in order to ensure a synergistic and optimal partnership of our Clergy Leadership.

TBT Today

Today's TBT is a vibrant Reform synagogue. Included in our membership are nearly 200 hundred families who are "chai" members (over 18 years membership), many young families, singles and interfaith families. We offer a full range of religious, educational, spiritual and social opportunities including: Friday night Shabbat services (including themed services, family services and Kabbalat Shabbat) and Shabbat morning minyanim with Torah study, religious school, nursery school, Torah Tots, Bar and Bat Mitzvah training, confirmation for high school students, adult education, adult B'nai Mitzvah classes, interfaith Bible classes, a Rosh Chodesh group and a Men's Spirituality Group.

Our committees, whose chair people sit on the Board of Directors, include: Education, Religious Activities, Social Justice, Membership, Youth Activities, Programming, Development, Communications, Facilities and Sisterhood (Women of Reform Judaism) and our Men's Group. Among our many activities, we sponsor holiday programs such as our communal break fast at Yom Kippur and our community Seder for the second night of Passover. Our youth group, SALTY (Shoreline Alliance of Temple Youth), has many teenage members who participate in local and NFTY activities. We also have an active madrichim program which employs approximately 40 teens from grades 8 – 12 as teachers' aides and support for our religious school. Our Social Justice Committee leads us in many programs to support, some of which are: collecting and preparing food for the hungry, support for immigrant families, home building for those in need, educational activities in local public schools, and emergency response to disasters. This year we sponsored participation in two programs at the Religious Activities Center in Washington, D.C.

As we look forward, the current Rabbi Search Committee, representing the Board of Directors and the congregation of Temple Beth Tikvah, seeks to find a rabbi to whom we can look for spiritual and intellectual guidance, and with whom we can partner now and into the future, as together we identify and grow towards our mutual goals and vision.

Attached are maps of the New England Coast, Connecticut and the Shoreline area.