

Temple Israel Legacy Plan

Case Statement

Temple Israel is a vibrant Reform Jewish community that cultivates sacred relationships, engages in meaningful worship, provides challenging learning opportunities, and pursues social justice for all people.

Above the entrance of our building one finds a Hebrew inscription, “For my house shall be a house of prayer for all people”. This statement speaks to the heart of who we are as a congregation. Deeply rooted in Torah, Temple Israel provides a home to all who seek meaningful connections to God, to each other, to our Jewish community and beyond. For nearly 170 years, Temple Israel has been committed to perpetuating a vibrant, relevant, and inclusive Reform Jewish community. A founding member of the Union for Reform Judaism, we have stood the test of time, providing a spiritual home for multiple generations of Dayton natives, along with new arrivals to our community. As an egalitarian Jewish congregation, men and women have equal responsibilities and privileges; interfaith families, persons of various ethnic backgrounds, and those of all sexual orientations find a welcoming home here. Jews by choice and those Jewish by birth are equally engaged in creating a strong and nurturing Jewish community. We have a strong commitment to Jewish tradition which serves as a foundation for our lives.

Our central urban location provides the perfect setting for connecting with our neighbors in the Greater Dayton community, pursuing social justice and sitting together in meaningful dialogue and worship. Our members live their Jewish values by engaging in social action and social justice activities to improve the communities in which we live. Our values lead us to engage in partnerships with Jewish organizations and other faith-based groups to maximize our impact. Learners of all ages and abilities create and shape their Jewish identity through a variety of educational programs, including a thriving religious school and vibrant adult education offerings. Our members cultivate sacred relationships with each other, participating in innovative worship that allows us to celebrate joyous occasions and come together in times of need. Temple Israel opens the doors of Judaism to the entire Greater Dayton community through the Jewish Cultural Festival, inviting everyone to experience our culture, tradition, and rich history, and reinforcing our commitment to welcoming all who seek to learn with us.

For so many of us, the most meaningful moments of our lives are inextricably interwoven with our synagogue family. We’ve laughed together, cried together, and made memories – together. To perpetuate who we are and what we stand for well into the future, we seek your support. Our legacy donors are members, like you, who are making a promise to our children, grandchildren, and generations to come that they will have a thriving Jewish community to embrace and enrich their lives. Your commitment strengthens our combined legacy for future generations so that Temple Israel can continue to be a “house of prayer for all people.”