

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CONGREGATION BETH EL CEMETERY**

1. Except for provisions made herein for the Non-Traditional Burial Section, no other than those dying in the Jewish faith shall be interred in this Cemetery.
2. A portion of the Cemetery shall be known as the “Non-Traditional Burial Section” and shall be used for the interment of anyone not of the Jewish faith whose spouse/domestic partner or parent is of the Jewish faith. Except as otherwise approved by the Congregation’s Board of Trustees, any burials in the Non-Traditional Burial Section shall comply with the Rules and Regulations as set forth herein. If a non-Jewish spouse/domestic partner, or their non-Jewish child, in an inter-faith marriage predeceases a Jewish family member, said person may be interred in the Non-Traditional Burial Section under the condition that the Jewish family member purchases, or has purchased, a plot for him/herself at the time of the burial of a non-Jewish spouse/domestic partner or child. The portion designated as the Non-Traditional Burial Section shall be designated on the Cemetery map and there will be a separation from the remainder of the Cemetery by a ground level pathway.
3. The only religious burial service or ritual conducted at the Cemetery shall be of the Jewish faith. A religious burial service may only be conducted by a Rabbi, Cantor or Jewish lay person of the Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist or Reform streams of Judaism.
4. The foregoing notwithstanding, a civil or lay officiation may occur if requested by the family of the deceased. No clergy of any other religious tradition may officiate at a burial in his/her role as an officiant of another religion’s traditions at the burial of a non-Jew in the Non-Traditional Burial Section. The only denominational religious ceremony shall be those of the Jewish traditions and there shall be no usage of symbols, garb, or language unique to non-Jewish traditions during the interment, creation of the monument, unveiling of the monument or maintenance and care of the plot. The text of the service and the officiant is subject to review by the Congregation’s current Rabbi, or the Congregation’s Board of Trustees if there is no current Rabbi, prior to the burial.
5. Any person to be buried must have a burial plot for him or her purchased prior to interment. No burial shall be allowed unless all charges due and payable are paid in full.
6. The purchase price for a burial plot shall be established by the Congregation’s Board of Trustees. The purchase price includes care of the Cemetery grounds. The purchase price does not include the opening and closing of the grave, the initial topsoil and grass planting, repair to any damage to the Cemetery occurring during the burial and Rabbinic services for non-members. The purchase price also does not include the cost, erection, and/or the inscription upon the monument or headstone and any repairs and maintenance required to the monument or headstone.

7. There shall be no plantings of shrubbery, hedges, trees or other ornamental plantings, without the permission of the Cemetery Committee established by the Congregation's Board of Trustees. The Cemetery Committee reserves the right of removing, at the expense of the plot owner, any shrubbery, hedges, trees or other plantings of any nature planted by a plot owner that is not approved.

8. All floral designs when faded, dead flowers or broken flags will be removed. Artificial flowers are discouraged and if placed may be removed at the discretion of the Cemetery Committee.

9. Within 12 months of the burial, the plot owner is required to erect and have inscribed an appropriate monument or headstone. The monument or headstone is subject to review by the Congregation's current Rabbi, or the Congregation's Board of Trustees, if there is no current Rabbi prior to the erection. No non-Jewish symbols or language unique to non-Jewish traditions shall be allowed on the monument or headstone. The minimum inscription required is the name of the decedent and the date of death.

10. All burials in the Cemetery require the casket to be enclosed in a concrete box or vault and all burials must be in the ground as no mausoleums or any other above ground burials are allowed. All burials must abide by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

11. An interment of indigents of the Jewish faith shall be made throughout the Cemetery as directed by the Congregation's Board of Trustees and no particular place or portion of the Cemetery shall be designated as a section set aside for the indigent.

12. Cremation is against Jewish tradition and the family of the deceased should be so advised; however, an interment of the ashes of the deceased are allowed subject to all the Rules and Regulations herein. The cremains are to be buried in a container, the opening of the gravesite is to be done by an excavator approved by the Cemetery Committee, and the family is responsible to place a marker at the grave site to identify the place of burial until the monument or headstone is erected. Rabbinic officiation of the cremains is at the discretion of the Congregation's current Rabbi or the Congregation's Board of Trustees if there is no current Rabbi.

13. The bodies of those deceased via suicide will not be disqualified from burial in the Cemetery.

14. There shall be no burials on the Sabbath, the High Holidays, or such other holidays that, in the discretion of the Congregation's current Rabbi, or the Congregation's Board of Trustees if there is no current Rabbi, deems not in accordance with Jewish tradition.

15. The Congregation's Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Congregation's current Rabbi, shall have authority to deny anybody from being buried in the Cemetery.

16. The Congregation's Board of Trustees reserves the right to revise these Rules and Regulations from time to time, or to make any changes, modifications, amendments or additions thereto as may be necessary for the proper administration and conduct of the Cemetery.

17. These Rules and Regulations have been amended by the Board of Trustees of Congregation Beth El on this 19th day of January, 2025.

CONGREGATION BETH EL