

TJC Policy Document: Israel Dialogue Initiative Committee

Responsibility for policy: VP Programming
Date initially adopted: FY 2016
Last review date: FY 2016
Next review date: FY 2020

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ISRAEL DIALOGUE
INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, The Israel Dialogue Initiative (IDI) was created to explore and resolve the issues of political discussions of Israel at The Jewish Center (TJC), and

WHEREAS, the President of TJC established and appointed the Israel Dialogue Initiative Committee (IDIC) to determine how TJC would engage in political discussions pertaining to the State of Israel while maintaining the need to:

- (a) reflect the congregation's commitment to the Jewish State of Israel,
- (b) educate congregants, and
- (c) maintain a strong sense of community, and

WHEREAS, during the year 2015-2016, the IDIC has studied and reviewed the issues, established programs to advance a meaningful and respectful dialogue regarding Israeli political discussions while adhering to the principles of education and community, and

WHEREAS, at the Town Hall meeting of May 5, 2016, the IDIC presented its findings and recommendations, which are more specifically set forth in its Report, which is incorporated herein, and

WHEREAS, the IDIC based its recommendation on the following:

- (a) Feedback from Israel Dialogue Workshops
- (b) Feedback from the Egger Shabbaton
- (c) Congregational Survey results
- (d) Comments from the Congregation
- (e) Input from TJC Board of Directors and TJC staff
- (f) The Kasdin Committee Report
- (g) Review of Israel political programming at other synagogues and Jewish organizations;

NOW THEREFORE, the IDIC presents the following recommendation to be adopted by the congregation:

- (a) All programming regarding political discussions pertaining to the State of Israel shall be conducted utilizing issue-oriented, moderated panels with expert speakers representing divergent view;
- (b) A seven (7) person Committee shall be created with appointments by the President for staggered terms of one or two years. The committee shall consist of members with divergent points of view, the intent of which is to create a balanced panel representing the diverse positions of the congregation regarding political questions pertaining to the State of Israel. The committee shall be tasked with selecting the topics and expert speakers on these moderated panels;
- (c) Current employees, officers, and Executive Board members of 501(c)4 and 501(c)3 advocacy and lobbying organizations may not participate as expert speakers on these panels;
- (d) No panel speaker shall be invited if such speaker supports, advocates, or promotes the following:
 - (1) bigotry and violence or discriminate on the basis of race, sex, nationality, or

sexual orientation;

- (2) proselytizing Jews away from Judaism;
- (3) the denial of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state;
- (4) Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS);
- (5) the denial of the Holocaust.

This Resolution shall be effective immediately and shall continue for a period of seven years from the date of adoption.

The adoption of this Resolution shall supersede the motion adopted by the congregation in May 2015.

At the conclusion of the third year after the adoption of this resolution, the Israel Dialogue Initiative Committee shall review the implementation of the resolution and shall issue a report to the Executive Committee, Board and Congregation. In the event of a vacancy on the IDIC, the president shall appoint a trustee to fill such vacancy.