

# The Brotherhood of Congregation Agudas Achim

## Constitution / Bylaws

### ***Article I – NAME***

The name of this organization shall be The Brotherhood of Congregation Agudas Achim.

### ***Article II – PURPOSES***

- As an auxiliary of **Congregation Agudas Achim**, to strengthen, promote, and advance the objectives and activities of the congregation.
- To stimulate social and cultural activities among its members and to build ties with the Jewish community.
- To sponsor and support activities of congregational youth and to further their Jewish education.
- To support and strengthen the special role of the Conservative Movement within the total Jewish community.
- To have fun, get to know other Jewish Men in the community and to create a bond of friendship among the men of the congregation
- Assist with various needs of the congregational community and its members.
- To strengthen and serve the congregation, thereby ensuring the growth of Conservative Judaism
- To serve Jewish and humanitarian causes in the local Austin community and at higher levels (state, national and international)
- To enhance the leadership skills of its members
- To further the education of Jewish men

### ***Article III – MEMBERSHIP***

#### A. Eligibility

1. Full Membership - Eligible for full membership shall be:
  - Male members of **Congregation Agudas Achim**, and males 18 years of age and over who are members of the household of a member of the Congregation.
2. Jewish males 18 years of age and over not affiliated with **Congregation Agudas Achim**.
3. Honorary Membership - The Board of Directors may extend honorary membership at its discretion (Dues may be waived for honorary members).
4. Application for membership shall be in writing and submitted with payment of dues.

## B. Suspension and Expulsion:

The Board of Directors is empowered to act on suspension and expulsion of Brotherhood members.

## C. Dues Payment

Membership in good standing is dependent on payment of current dues.

## ***Article IV - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE***

- **Composition**

The Executive Committee shall consist of all the elected officers of the Brotherhood and up to three additional members appointed by the President.

- **Powers**

In cases where the offices of President and First Vice President are vacant, the Executive Committee shall perform the duties of both offices. The Executive Committee is authorized to act on matters that do not require Board action. In emergencies, the Executive Committee may act on all other matters, subject to ratification by the Board. The Executive Committee shall plan and guide the day-to-day affairs of the Organization, examine program and project proposals and make recommendations to the Board.

## ***Article V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

- **The Board of Directors shall consist of:**

- the officers
- up to sixteen (16) elected directors
- past Brotherhood presidents who remain members in good standing
- life members of the Board (directors who have served 15 years or more) who remain members in good standing
- up to five (5) additional Directors appointed by the President from among the full members

- **Powers**

The Board of Directors shall have the full control and direction of activities, finances, and property of the Club and shall have such other powers and duties as are usually extended to like governing bodies of similar organizations.

- **Terms of Office**

- Elected Directors
  - Each member shall serve for two years or until his successor is elected.

- One-half of the elected directors shall be elected annually.
- Appointed Directors, Removal and Vacancies
  - Vacancies among the elected directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors.
  - Vacancies among the appointed directors may be filled by the president.

## **Article VI – OFFICERS**

- **Officers**

The officers of the Club, to be elected from among the full members, shall be as follows:

- President
- Immediate Past President
- Between one (1) to five (5) Vice Presidents, one of whom may be First Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

- **Term**

The officers shall be elected to serve for two years, or until their successors are installed.

- **Duties**

- The officers of the Club shall perform such duties as are usually incumbent upon officers of similar organizations and shall be subject at all times to the direction and control of the Board of Directors.
- The President shall assign the specific areas of responsibility to each Vice President.
- Removal - Officers other than the President may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present and voting, and notice of such removal shall be sent to the officer removed. The President may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting at a special or general membership meeting.
- Vacancies
  - If there is a vacancy in the office of President, the Board of Directors shall elect a replacement to fill the unexpired term, except that, if there is a First Vice President, he shall automatically be the replacement.
  - If there is a vacancy in the office of Honorary President, that office will not be filled.
  - 3. If there is a vacancy in any other office, the Board of Directors shall elect a replacement to fill the unexpired term.

## **Article VII – MEETINGS**

- **Board of Directors Meetings**
  - The Board of Directors shall hold regular meetings at least four times a year.
  - Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or at the request of ten Board members.
  - Notice of all Board meetings shall be in writing and shall be mailed at least one week in advance of the date of the meeting, except that the President may dispense with written notice of special meetings in the event of an emergency. E-mail can substitute for direct mail, as long as those not having e-mail are notified by mail.
  - A simple majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum at all Board meetings.
- **Executive Committee Meetings**
  - The Executive Committee shall hold regular meetings at least four times a year.
  - Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President or at the request of three members of the Executive Committee.
  - Half the number of members of the Executive Committee plus one shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Committee.
- **General Membership Meetings**
  - There shall be an annual meeting of the Club membership during May or June on a date designated by the President or the Board of Directors.
  - Special membership meetings may be called by the President or the Board of Directors to consider amendments to this constitution or other matters that must be considered before the next annual meeting.
  - Notice in writing of all Brotherhood membership meetings shall be given at least two weeks in advance of the date of the meeting. This written requirement may be met by insertion in an issue of the synagogue newsletter or a Brotherhood newsletter distributed to all Brotherhood members, by electronic or direct mail, dated at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

## **Article VIII - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

- Nominating Process
  - At least three months before the annual membership meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of five members of the Brotherhood. The President shall serve as chairman of the Committee.
  - The Nominating Committee shall arrange for its slate of nominees to be printed in the synagogue newsletter (or any Brotherhood newsletter distributed to all of its members) and/or to be listed in another Brotherhood mailing to all members, so that it is received by members at least ten days before the annual membership meeting.

- Election

The election of officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be held at the annual membership meeting. Further nominations will be permitted. Contested elections shall be by plurality votes and shall be by ballot. The term of office of the newly elected officers and directors shall commence immediately upon their installation.

## ***Article IX – COMMITTEES***

- **Committees**

The President may appoint standing and ad hoc committees and designate their chairmen. For example:

- Membership
- Programming
- Chili Cook-Off
- Sukkah Project
- Sukkah Building
- Fund-Raising
- Finance and Budget
- Ritual Affairs
- Congregational Service
- Community Service - Social Action
- Weekly Bike Rides and Recreational Activities

- **Delegation of Authority**

With the exception of the authorization of the expenditure of funds, the Board of Directors may delegate its powers and determine the duties of each committee established pursuant to this Article.

## ***Article X – FINANCES***

- **Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Club shall begin on August 1 and shall end on July 31 of the following year.

- **Budget**

The treasurer shall submit a budget for the ensuing fiscal year no later than May of the fiscal year for consideration by the Board.

- **Dues**

Dues shall be annual and payable at the beginning of the fiscal year, the amount to be determined from time to time by the Board. The Board of Directors may waive payment of dues in whole or in part under special circumstances.

- **Expenditures**

The President may authorize expenditures not to exceed \$250 without prior approval of the Board of Directors.

### ***Article XI – REPRESENTATION***

- **Congregational Representation**

- Consistent with the synagogue bylaws, the President may appoint to the congregation's Board of Directors representation not already serving on the Board of Directors.
- The President may designate Brotherhood officers or directors to serve as his representatives on and to provide liaison with congregational committees charged with matters of interest or concern to the Brotherhood.

### ***Article XII - SYNAGOGUE AND/OR RELIGIOUS POLICY***

The Brotherhood, in all matters of Jewish law and practice, will follow the standards set and interpreted by the congregation Agudas Achim's Rabbi / Spiritual Leader.

### ***Article XIII – AMENDMENTS***

This Constitution was adopted, and may be thereafter amended, after due consideration by the Board of Directors and by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at a general membership meeting. Ten percent of the membership, but not less than 10 members, shall constitute a quorum.