

Election of Co-Presidents Policy

At its 2010 annual meeting, the membership of Bet Aviv approved a bylaw change allowing, but not requiring, the election of co-presidents. At the same meeting, the membership directed the Board of Directors to distribute, within 30 days, a statement clarifying how the bylaw change will work. This is that statement. Approved by the board on February 8, 2011, it represents policy for the congregation.

A slate of officers is proposed each year by a Nominating Committee, appointed by the president(s) and approved by the board under the provisions of Article XV of the bylaws. The bylaws (Article VII, Section 1) have previously allowed for "one or more vice presidents" and "one or more secretaries." Each time it meets, the committee, after reviewing the qualifications of the candidates and discussing with the candidates their willingness to serve, has, at its discretion, decided whether to nominate one vice president or more than one, and one secretary or more than one.

With the bylaw change, the Nominating Committee will also have the discretion to nominate a single candidate for president or two candidates as co-presidents. (It will also continue to have the discretion to nominate up to three candidates for any office, including for president, with members to choose among the multiple nominees.) As required by the bylaws (Article XV, Section 3), the Nominating Committee will consult with potential nominees, to confirm that nominees have "indicated an understanding of the position's responsibilities and the willingness to serve." That means that candidates who are nominated as co-presidents will understand they are being nominated as co-presidents and will have agreed to serve as co-presidents.

As specified in the bylaws, members will be notified of nominations by the Nominating Committee (Article XV, Section 5), other candidates will have the right to be nominated by petition (Article XV, Section 6), and the election will be made by members at the annual meeting (Article VII, Section 3). It is possible that, either through the actions of the Nominating Committee or through a nomination by petition, a pair of co-presidents would run against a single nominee for president, with the election at the annual meeting to determine the outcome.