



CONSTITUTION OF THE GARDEN EMPIRE REGION OF THE
REFORM JEWISH YOUTH MOVEMENT
REVISED AND ADOPTED 02/24/2020

We, the members of the Garden Empire Region of the Reform Jewish Youth Movement have come together to ordain and establish this constitution in order to further these goals: to unite the local youth of the Union for Reform Judaism whose congregations are in good standing; to provide the youth with an environment in which they are able to learn about the cultural, religious, and social aspects of Reform Judaism; to build for its individual members richer Jewish identities through a heightened religious consciousness and fuller knowledge of our Jewish heritage; to develop an awareness of and an interest in moral, religious, and social aspects of Reform Judaism and their relevance to today's society; and to prepare its members for responsible Jewish adulthood and for intelligent and loyal shouldering of responsibilities of mature members of their congregations and their communities.

We further proclaim that the youth of the Garden Empire Region have a responsibility to preserve the synagogue, and to share actively in upholding it so that it can better serve us, our families, our communities, and society.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Article I: Name](#)

[Article II: Subregions](#)

[Article III: Membership](#)

[Article IV: Brit Kehillah](#)

[Article V: General Board](#)

[Article VI: Executive Board](#)

[Article VII: Election Procedure](#)

[Article VIII: Absences and Vacancies](#)

[Article IX: Impeachment](#)

[Article X: Amendments and Resolutions](#)

[Article XI: Cabinet](#)

[Article XII: Ratification](#)

ARTICLE I
NAME

SECTION A: This organization shall be known as the Garden Empire Region of the Reform Jewish Youth Movement (hereinafter NFTY-GER or the Garden Empire Region). NFTY-GER shall be a region of the Reform Jewish Youth Movement (hereinafter NFTY), the youth movement of the Union for Reform Judaism (hereinafter URJ) and a *snif* of Netzer Olami.

ARTICLE II
SUBREGIONS

SECTION A: NFTY-GER shall be made up of three subregions: the Northern Subregion, the Central Subregion, and the Southern Subregion.

SUBSECTION 1: The Northern Subregion shall consist of Bergen, Passaic, and Sussex Counties in New Jersey and Orange and Rockland Counties in New York.

SUBSECTION 2: The Central Subregion shall consist of Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties in New Jersey.

SUBSECTION 3: The Southern Subregion shall consist of Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties in New Jersey.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A: All Jewish youth in grades six through twelve who live within the boundaries of the region shall be considered members.

SUBSECTION 1: Members shall be permitted to attend all NFTY-GER events offered to their grade level.

SUBSECTION 2: The Regional Director will have the right to forbid a member from attending an event if they have violated the region's code of conduct.

ARTICLE IV
BRIT KEHILLAH

SECTION A: At all NFTY-GER regional events, there will be a Brit Kehillah.

SECTION B: The Brit Kehillah will be NFTY-GER's official code of conduct.

SECTION C: The standards of the Brit Kehillah will be established by the Reform Jewish Youth Movement.

SECTION D: The Brit Kehillah will be included in all event registrations.

SECTION E: Signing the Brit Kehillah will be necessary for acceptance to an event.

SECTION F: Breeches of the Brit Kehillah will be addressed by the Regional Director.

ARTICLE V GENERAL BOARD

SECTION A: NFTY-GER shall be governed by the General Board, which shall have the final authority concerning the good and welfare of the entire region.

SECTION B: The General Board shall consist of the Executive Board officers and representatives from each temple youth group (hereinafter TYG) in good standing with the region.

SUBSECTION 1: The number of representatives that each TYG receives will be determined by how many unique members it has sent to high school-level events that program year. The representatives shall be designated as follows:

1. A TYG with one to five unique members will have one representative.
2. A TYG with six to 10 unique members will have two representatives.
3. A TYG with 11 to 20 unique members will have three representatives.
4. A TYG with 21 to 30 unique members will have four representatives.
5. A TYG more than 30 unique members will have five representatives.

SUBSECTION 2: Each representative and each Executive Board member, excluding the President, shall have one vote. Representatives are expected to fairly represent their TYG. Representatives from the same TYG shall not block vote. Those TYGs who have been found to be block voting shall, at the discretion of the Executive Board and Regional Director, have their votes disqualified for the remainder of the day's voting.

SUBSECTION 3: The regional President shall vote only in the event of a tie.

SECTION C: The General Board shall meet at least three times annually.

SECTION D: For additional meetings of the General Board may be called by either a two thirds vote of the Executive Board or a petition signed by one half of the TYGs.

SECTION E: A quorum for a meeting of the General Board shall be one half of the TYG representatives and two thirds of the Executive Board.

SECTION F: The General Board shall elect the following year's Executive Board officers.

SECTION G: All members in good standing with NFTY-GER shall be allowed to attend meetings of the General Board.

ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION A: NFTY-GER shall be operated by the Executive Board, which shall consist of eight elected officers. The Executive Board shall be empowered to make decisions relating to the operations and policies of the region. A quorum at an Executive Board meeting shall consist of seven of the Executive Board officers.

SECTION B: The Executive Board officers shall consist of a President, Programming Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, Membership Vice President, Recruitment Vice President, Financial Vice President, and Communications Vice President. Each officer shall receive one vote, except for the President, who shall only vote in the event of a tie.

SECTION C: The Executive Board officers shall serve for a term of one year, beginning at their installation.

SECTION D: The responsibilities of each Executive Board officer shall be as follows:

SUBSECTION 1: All Executive Board officers shall:

1. Serve as role models and points of contact for all members of NFTY-GER.
2. Serve an active role in the creation and implementation of at least one regional event:
 - i. Supervise and/or assist in all program development.
 - ii. Supervise and/or assist in administrative responsibilities.
3. Actively work to support their fellow board members during and outside of events.
4. Take responsibility for their actions and make decisions that reflect positively upon both them and NFTY-GER during and outside of events.
5. Represent NFTY-GER in a positive light to NFTY on a North American level.
6. Attend all regional events and General Board meetings.
7. Attend monthly Executive Board meetings.
8. Attend any Executive Board training and planning weekends.
9. Remain an active member of their respective TYGs.
10. Attend Mechina, NFTY's North American leadership training event.
11. To the best of their ability, attend NFTY Veida or NFTY Convention and any other meetings of the NFTY North American General Board.
12. Remain in close contact with each other, the Regional Director, and their respective NFTY North American Board counterparts.
13. Serve as resources for TYG board members by overseeing regional networks.
14. Encourage participation in NFTY and other URJ Youth programs.
15. Work with and oversee the NFTY-GER Cabinet.

SUBSECTION 2: Specifically, the President shall:

1. Develop, implement, and maintain a vision for NFTY-GER that supports the goals of the Executive Board, Regional Director, and broader region.
2. Manage the Executive Board and Cabinet and be ultimately responsible for their productivity.
3. Oversee the planning and execution of all NFTY-GER events and activities.
4. Develop positive working relationships with all Executive Board members and offer them constant support and guidance.
5. Work in partnership with the Regional Director to coordinate adult and teen aspects of NFTY-GER and run the region in a collaborative and effective manner.
6. Attend NFTY North American General Board meetings as a voting delegate.
7. Preside over all General Board meetings, and have knowledge of parliamentary procedure.
8. Lead monthly Executive Board meetings.
9. Be responsible for the proper execution of this constitution.
10. Take on any additional duties deemed necessary by the Executive Board and Regional Director in order to fulfill the aims of this constitution and accomplish the goals of NFTY-GER.
11. Oversee the Presidents Network

SUBSECTION 3: Specifically, the Programming Vice President shall:

1. Facilitate and assist in the creation of all regional programming.
2. Reach out to all TYGs and assist in the development of strong local programming.
3. Incorporate the NFTY Study Theme and NFTY's priorities into regional programming, and encourage the implementation of North American initiatives on the TYG and local levels.
4. Work with the Financial Vice President to ensure the proper materials are ordered and accounted for each event.
5. Maintain a full inventory of all NFTY-GER materials.
6. Attend NFTY North American General Board meetings as a voting delegate.
7. Oversee the Programming Network.

SUBSECTION 4: Specifically, the Social Action Vice President shall:

1. Oversee Social Action programming at all regional events.
2. Oversee the creation and implementation of social action opportunities in the NFTY-GER community.
3. Present resolutions when necessary regarding NFTY-GER's stances on relevant social issues.
4. Serve as a link between outside social action and social justice based organizations and NFTY-GER participants.
5. Oversee the Urban Mitzvah Corps Student Coordinators, the UMC Auction, and all UMC programming throughout the year.
6. Attend NFTY North American General Board meetings as a voting delegate.
7. Oversee the Social Action Network.

SUBSECTION 5: Specifically, the Religious and Cultural Vice President shall:

1. Create and supervise religious and spiritual moments and experiences throughout all regional events.
2. To serve as a resource for worship services and cultural activities throughout the region.
3. Facilitate the incorporation of Judaic content into programs and all regional events.
4. Attend NFTY North American General Board meetings as a voting delegate.
5. Oversee the Religious and Cultural Vice Presidents Network.

SUBSECTION 6: Specifically, the Membership Vice President shall:

1. Oversee the creation of social programming and mixers at regional events.
2. Establish a program designed to welcome new members into the NFTY-GER community.
3. Ensure that all new members are contacted in some capacity before their first regional event.
4. Encourage the creation and strengthening of connections between participants throughout regional events.
5. Devise and implement retention strategies for all regional events.
6. Work with the Recruitment Vice President to oversee the Membership Network.

SUBSECTION 7: Specifically, the Recruitment Vice President shall:

1. Organize pop-up events with the goal of providing opportunities for engagement with a lower barrier of entry.
2. Oversee NFTY678 programming in the region and coordinate with NFTY678 subregions.
3. Devise, organize, and implement recruitment strategies for all NFTY-GER events.
4. Serve as a liaison to TYGs and assist their recruitment efforts.
5. Maintain a roster of current NFTY-GER members for the purpose of tracking membership and organizing outreach.
6. Work with the Membership Vice President to oversee the Membership Network.

SUBSECTION 8: Specifically, the Financial Vice President shall:

1. Design, order, and sell regional merchandise at regional and North American events.
2. Oversee the planning, running, and collecting of items for the UMC Auction.
3. Oversee at least one fundraiser per event.
4. Assist the NFTY-GER Regional Director with organizing the NFTY-GER budget.
5. Collaborate with the Communications Vice President to coordinate a marketing plan and assess logo recognition.
6. Collaborate with the Social Action Vice President to successfully fundraise for an organization that goes along with the current year's study theme.

7. Help grow NFTY-GER's connection to its alumni in coordination with regional staff and the NFTY Alumni Network, with the goal of gaining new donors.
8. Oversee fundraisers throughout the year to support NFTY-GER in actualizing its goals.
9. Work with the Communications Vice President to oversee the Communications-Financial Network.

SUBSECTION 9: Specifically, the Communications Vice President shall:

1. Oversee the creation and publication of regional content, including event advertisements, social media posts, and blog posts.
2. Manage the NFTY-GER social media accounts.
3. Record the minutes at all Executive and General Board meetings, and distribute them to all people concerned within a reasonable amount of time.
4. Archive all legislation passed by the General Board.
5. Oversee the completion and distribution of the MaGERzine, the regional magazine.
6. Oversee the completion and distribution of the yearbook.
7. Work with the Financial Vice President to oversee the Communications-Financial Network.

ARTICLE VII ELECTION PROCEDURE

SECTION A: Each candidate for the Executive Board must submit an intent to run form to the Regional Director by the date specified by the Director. Candidates will receive phone or email confirmation that their form has been received.

SUBSECTION 1: Each candidate must submit a letter of intent to the Regional Director. The letter of intent can be one-page double sided for President candidates and single sided for all other positions.

SECTION B: No campaigning or electioneering is allowed. Any candidate who publicizes, or has other people publicize for them, shall be disqualified at the discretion of the Regional Director, in consultation with the Executive Board. This includes oral or written campaigning.

SECTION C: The Executive Board shall be elected at a meeting of the General Board using the following procedure:

SUBSECTION 1: At a scheduled time before or on the same day of the election, there will be a Meet the Candidates session, where the candidates will be able to answer any questions the delegates may have.

SUBSECTION 2: The officers shall be elected in the following order: President, Programming Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, Membership Vice President, Recruitment Vice President, Financial Vice President, and Communications Vice President.

SUBSECTION 3: The particular office shall be announced before the candidates speak. At that time, candidates for the particular office will be asked to leave the room and be called in reverse alphabetical order to speak.

SUBSECTION 4: Presidential candidates will have four minutes to speak. All other candidates will have two and a half minutes to speak. If a candidate is dropping down to another position, they will have one minute to speak.

SUBSECTION 5: The General Board shall then elect the following year's officers.

SUBSECTION 6: For each position, delegates will have the option of voting for one of the candidates or abstaining. A vote to abstain will not be counted toward the majority. TYGs may not force a block vote from their delegates.

SUBSECTION 7: Ballots for elections shall be printed prior to elections, with the position name on top, all candidates running, an option for abstention, and a blank space for drop downs. To the left of each candidate and the abstention option will be a blank line. This line is where the voting delegate will indicate their preference by numbering the candidates 1 through x, where x represents the amount of candidates running, plus the abstention option. The 1 will represent the candidate the voting delegate is voting for, 2 will represent their second choice candidate, and so on, through x number of candidates where x will represent their x choice. At any point if the voting delegate feels they would rather abstain than vote for any other candidate, they may put abstention as their next choice, and leave the rest of the candidates blank. When there are two more candidates running for office, a simple majority (50%+1) is needed for that candidate to be elected to that office for which they are running.

SUBSECTION 7A: When two or more candidates run for a position, and one candidate does not receive a clear majority of the number 1 votes, then an instant runoff shall occur. There will be no need to re-vote; instead, the candidate with the lowest amount of number 1 votes will be dropped and all ballots that had that candidate as number 1 will now have their number 2 candidate viewed as their number 1 candidate. If a candidate, with the combination of original number 1 votes and number 2 votes, has a simple majority, then they shall be elected. If there is still no majority, the process of instant runoff repeats.

SUBSECTION 8: The President and Regional Director shall tabulate votes for each race. If the President is running for re-election, then the next Executive Board member in terms of gavel order that is not running for re-election shall count the votes.

SUBSECTION 9: Candidates who do not win the office for which they were originally running may drop down, but only once. Candidates must specify the office to which they wish to drop down on their initial intent to run form, but the selection of drop down offices may be changed. However, candidates may opt not to drop down at any time before the election of their drop down office. A candidate's drop down office will not be announced when he or she is running for the initial office.

SECTION D: In order to be considered as a candidate for regional office, each prospective candidate must have attended at least three regional events, and have the intent to run form signed by one temple clergy member and TYG adviser. If the above

requirements cannot be met, the Regional Director should be notified and the Executive Board will vote on accepting the candidate's intent to run by a two thirds majority vote.

ARTICLE VIII ABSENCES AND VACANCIES

SECTION A: In the event that the President cannot be in attendance at a regional event, then the Programming Vice President shall preside. If both the President and Programming Vice President cannot be in attendance, then the Executive Board will vote to determine which officer shall preside.

SECTION B: If any Executive Board position becomes vacant, the Executive Board shall vote to appoint a member to fill the position. Appointment procedures must be based on merit and qualification.

SUBSECTION 1: If the current Executive Board determines that no member is qualified, it may vote to leave the position vacant.

SUBSECTION 2: If a position on the incoming Executive Board is left vacant following elections, the outgoing Executive Board shall make the appointment.

ARTICLE IX SUSPENSION, IMPEACHMENT, AND REMOVAL

SECTION A: An officer of the Executive Board may be suspended by the President and Regional Director if they have consistently acted in a way that hinders the productivity or effectiveness of the Executive Board.

SUBSECTION 1: Suspension must be agreed upon by the President and Regional Director and is only to be used once a warning has been given to the officer in question.

SUBSECTION 2: Terms of suspension will be determined by the President and Regional Director and must be temporary.

SECTION B: An officer of the Executive Board may be impeached if they have extremely violated this constitution, consistently failed to fulfill the responsibilities of their position, or behaved in a disruptive or destructive manner. Impeachment will use the following procedure:

SUBSECTION 1: Impeachment may be initiated by any member of the region by alerting the President and/or Regional Director of the terms of impeachment. If the President and Regional Director deem the terms valid, the process will continue.

SUBSECTION 2: The President and Regional Director will have a discussion with the impeached officer, and they will have the opportunity to defend themselves.

SUBSECTION 3: The Executive Board, excluding the impeached officer and including the President, will be notified of the terms of impeachment and will discuss them and vote by secret ballot on whether to remove the impeached officer from office. A simple majority is required for removal.

SUBSECTION 3A: If the Executive Board's vote results in a tie, the Regional Director will decide whether or not to remove the impeached officer.

SUBSECTION 4: The impeached officer will be notified of the Executive Board's decision.

SECTION C: If an officer of the Executive Board knowingly and significantly infringes upon the terms outlined in the Brit Kehillah, the President and Regional Director may move directly to remove them.

SECTION D: If the President is the officer in question in any of the above procedures, the Regional Director must consult the Programming Vice President in their place.

SECTION E: A Cabinet member may be suspended or removed at the discretion of the President, Regional Director, and their Executive Board liaison.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

SECTION A: All legislation must be submitted to the Executive Board at least two weeks prior to the General Board meeting at which it will be presented.

SUBSECTION 1: All legislation must be released by the Executive Board to all General Board members at least one week prior to the General Board meeting at which it will be presented.

SECTION B: Amendments to this constitution shall be voted on by the General Board.

SECTION C: The approval of two thirds of the voting representatives will be required for an amendment to pass.

SECTION D: In order for an amendment to go into effect, it must be ratified at the next General Board meeting following the one at which it was passed. The approval of two thirds of the voting representatives will be required for an amendment to be ratified.

SUBSECTION 1: The only article for which this process shall be different is Article IV, the Brit Kehillah. This article may be revised by a simple vote of the Executive Board.

SECTION E: Resolutions are official statements of opinion or regional operation by the region and may be passed by a simple majority (50% plus one) of the voting representatives. Resolutions do not need to be ratified to go into effect.

SUBSECTION 1: Life memberships are included as resolutions. These memberships may be awarded to anyone who has served either the Garden Empire Region or the former Central New York or New Jersey regions for at least five years. Exceptions to this may be made at the discretion of the General Board.

SECTION F: The President, in consultation with the Executive Board and Regional Director, will have the power to make grammatical and clerical updates to this constitution without the voting approval of the General Board.

SUBSECTION 1: The President will not have the power to significantly alter the content of this constitution through actions such as removing entire sections of text or striking positions or responsibilities without the voting approval of the General Board.

ARTICLE XI CABINET

SECTION A: At the end of the program year, the Executive Board shall solicit applications from members who wish to be named as the Cabinet for the next year.

SUBSECTION 1: The Regional Director, Summer RAs, and the Student Coordinator(s) of the previous year will select the Urban Mitzvah Corps Chairpeople before the start of the program year. These chairs shall be responsible for fundraisers, publicity, and serving as the Student Coordinator(s).

SUBSECTION 1A: The Urban Mitzvah Corps Coordinators are responsible for overseeing and planning the Urban Mitzvah Corps Auction.

SECTION B: The Executive Board shall appoint the applicants who, in the board's opinion, would serve the region as the best cabinet members. The positions that are included in the application for that year will be chosen by the Executive Board of that year. Every year, the application will include the opportunity for the applicant to create their own Cabinet Position. It will be up to the discretion of the current Executive Board if the position will officially be created.

SECTION C: The Executive Board will appoint participants to Cabinet positions through a blind process. Each applicant will be anonymously reviewed throughout the first part of this process. After the Executive Board has discussed each applicant anonymously, they will be informed by the Regional Director who applied for each position. It is only then that the Executive Board will appoint members to the NFTY-GER Cabinet for that program year.

ARTICLE XI RATIFICATION

SECTION A: This Constitution shall be ratified by a two thirds majority of the General Board. Votes can be in favor, against, or an abstention.

SECTION B: The Executive Board members during the year of ratification of this Constitution shall continue to serve and retain the same duties.