

ADDENDUM TO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

FULL MEMBER: Any adult (eighteen years of age or older) Jewish person may apply for membership. If approved, such a person would have full rights to participate in all matters of ritual and voting.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Any adult (eighteen years of age or older) non-Jewish family members of a Full Member may apply for membership. The death of, or divorce from, the Full Member from whom Associate status is derived shall not terminate the membership. An Associate Member shall not have voting rights.

PLEDGES, TZEDAKAH, AND THE EIGHT DEGREES OF CHARITY

Maimonides identified the eight degrees of charity from highest to lowest:

1. Strengthening another person by helping them become self sufficient
2. Giving where the recipient and benefactor do not know each other
3. Giving where benefactor knows the recipient, but recipient does not know the giver
4. Giving where benefactor does not know the recipient, but recipient knows benefactor
5. When a person gives before being asked
6. When a person gives after being asked
7. When a person gives gladly and with a smile
8. When a person gives unwillingly

Tzedakah is often defined as charity, but it actually means justice. The purpose of tzedakah is to help others live a better life.

What does all this have to do with pledge payments at Mount Sinai Congregation? Your decision to become a member of our Jewish community is important. Your donation helps pay for the programs, services, classes, and maintenance of our synagogue. Your generosity strengthens our community, and in turn our community will help strengthen you. Pledges are a sacred issue, both for the member and the congregation. Our community will not close the synagogue doors to anyone who cannot afford to pledge. Based on our recent budget, current programming, and membership level, the suggested minimum donation is \$50 per month. You are invited to give more if that is within your financial ability. 1 to 2% of gross income is a common level of giving. Your pledge is a form of tzedakah, it is the right thing to do, and our strengthened community says thank you!

NEW MEMBERS AND MILITARY MEMBERS

New members are not required to make a pledge for the first year. Military members and their immediate family are not required to make pledges while they remain on active duty. Donations in whatever amount you wish are encouraged.