

Ritual Committee Meeting  
January 21, 1990

Minutes

Attendees: Betsy Hahn, Steve Boroda, Michael Beals, Stan Goldstein, Brad Grob, Lida Baker, Glenn Massarano, Judy Massarano, Leon Rogson, Michael Rogson.

1. Imahot. A sub-committee consisting of Norm Green and Steve Boroda will, after consulting several halachic authorities, formulate the official liturgy for inclusion of the Imahot in the first paragraph of the Amidah. Their recommendation will be that of the Ritual Committee as a whole and will be presented at the Executive Committee meeting on February 11, 1990.

2. Time limits for parts of the service. The Ritual Committee suggests that, in line with the sentiment expressed at the Executive Committee meeting of Jan. 7, 1990, the Minyan should aim for services to end at 12 P.M. on a normal Shabbat. Obviously, for a special Shabbat such as Shabbat Rosh Chodesh, or on the occasion of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, etc., services will unavoidably continue past noon.

The following are recommended guidelines for each part of the normal Shabbat service:

9:45 - 10:15	P'sukei D'zimra
10:15 - 10:45	Shacharit
10:45 - 11:25	Torah Service
11:25 - 11:40	Drasha
11:40 - 11:55	Musaf
11:55 - Noon	Announcements

Since some Shlichei Tzibur tend to be slower or faster than others, the weekly gabbai should attempt to achieve a balance when arranging for daveners in order to avoid prolonging the service.

3. "Senior" gabbai. The Ritual Committee Chairperson will have the responsibility of co-ordinating and being a resource for the weekly gabbaim. When questions of halacha are involved, the proper halachic authority (a Rabbi) should be consulted.

4. Repetition of the Amidah. While the repetition of the Amidah has been at the discretion of the Shaliach Tzibur, this should be discussed with the gabbai beforehand in keeping with the time recommendations for ending at noon. If the service is running very late, the gabbai should remind the Shaliach Tzibur not to repeat the Amidah.

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Either the Amidah for Shacharit or Musaf may be repeated but this should be co-ordinated by the weekly gabbai. The Ritual Committee recommends that while there should never be more than one repetition of the Amidah on a given Shabbat, there should not be less than one. The selection of either the Shacharit or Musaf Amidah should alternate weekly, once again at the discretion of the gabbai. Certainly, for festivals or Shabbat Rosh Chodesh, when there is a special Amidah, the Minyan would enjoy listening to the repetition of the Amidah by someone who knows the liturgy for the festivals.

5. Mi'sheberach for cholim. The issue of whether the blessing should be individual or communal was discussed. The Ritual Committee recommends that a communal blessing be implemented for a 3 month trial period. Those wishing that a Mi'sheberach be recited will be asked to come forward and tell the gabbai the name of the choleh. Use of the choleh's mother's name is encouraged (if known) in keeping with Jewish tradition.

After the meeting, however, there was some dispute as to what was decided about the issue at the last Executive Committee meeting of Jan. 7. Therefore, the question will be raised again at the February 11th meeting of the Executive Committee for clarification.

6. Master calendar. The Ritual Committee recommends that the gabbai responsible for arranging for the Torah readers also be responsible for maintaining a master calendar for the Minyan for those wishing to schedule a special occasion such as a Bar/Bat Mizvah at the Minyan. Also, this person will be the liaison to the Main Schul for scheduling events at the Minyan.

7. The Ritual Committee recommends to the Executive Committee the formation of a Halacha Advisory committee to be composed of several Rabbis who can be consulted by and advise the Minyan on matters of halacha. This committee should include the Rabbi of Temple Beth Am. A member of this committee should be present at meetings of the Ritual or Executive Committees when issues that pertain to halacha will be discussed. This will avoid the expression of "pseudo-halachic" opinions by those not qualified to give them.