



Resolution to Form UNITY (Unaffiliated Independent Temple Youth) In NFTY Chicago Area Region

Submitted to the NFTY CAR Regional Board Winter Kallah 5777
December 17th, 2016

Background: The North American Federation of Temple Youth, or NFTY, founded in 1939, currently has nineteen regions formed by over 800 TYGs, or Temple Youth Groups.

- In 1939 NFTY was founded as part of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), now the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ).
- In the past, TYG's have been groups of teens from a synagogue and NFTY has served as the regional conglomerate of these entities.
- During an asefah, or plenary meeting, or during regional events, members of TYG's vote on legislation and elect regional board members as a voting block allocated a certain number of votes based on representation.
- In recent years, as NFTY has expanded to include all Jewish youth who want a Reform Jewish experience, there has been an increase in the number of unaffiliated youth who do not receive these voting options and all privileges that may result from representation, because their families do not formally affiliate with a youth group or reform synagogue for a multitude of rationales.

WHEREAS, The Preamble of the NFTY-CAR Constitution outlines the principles of the North American Federation of Temple Youth; and

WHEREAS, The Preamble of the NFTY-CAR Constitution states that one of these purposes is "the need for *k'hilah* as a binding force for all Jews"; and

WHEREAS, Article 2 of the NFTY-CAR Constitution outlines the purposes of this organization: and

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section A of the NFTY-CAR Constitution states that one of these purposes is "to unite the Reform Jewish Youth of the greater Chicago area in a youth-run federation of youth groups so that we may cooperate and collectively benefit in the pursuit of our common aim"; and

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section G of the NFTY-CAR Constitution states that one of these purposes is "to preserve and advance Jewish ideology, philosophy, and education within the structure of Reform Judaism"; and



WHEREAS, Article 6 of the NFTY-CAR Constitution outlines election, appointments, and dismissals of this organization; and

WHEREAS, Article 6, Section C, Clause 10 of the NFTY-CAR Constitution states that “in order to determine the number of votes a TYG receives, take the average number of participants sent to regional events and add it to the number of declared members”; and

WHEREAS, Article 9 of the NFTY-CAR Constitution outlines the membership and dues of this organization; and

WHEREAS, Article 9, Section B states that “any individual or individuals who are in a location where it is not feasible to join a congregation and are devoted to the purposes of Judaism, a Jewish way of life, and the purposes of NFTY-CAR will be eligible for membership in the NFTY-CAR”; and

WHEREAS; the Union of Reform Judaism states that “reform Jews are committed to the principle of inclusion” and inclusion is defined as “the action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure”; and

WHEREAS, NFTY at the North American level eliminated required dues from individual membership and temples no longer collectively pay for the membership of temple youth group participants, to allow for greater effective outreach efforts to succeed without organizational resistance; and

WHEREAS, James Otis, a lawyer of colonial Massachusetts, once uttered, “taxation without representation is tyranny!” and called for vast reform on the North-American level that wishes to be emulated today.

THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that NFTY-CAR officially recognizes UNITY (Unaffiliated Independent Temple Youth) as an active Temple Youth Group, deserving of full votes in asefah; and

THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that Article 6, Section C, Clause 10 of the NFTY-CAR Constitution will no longer read “in order to determine the number of votes a TYG receives, take the average number of participants sent to regional events and add it to the number of declared members,” but rather “in order to determine the number of votes a TYG receives, the average number of participants sent to regional events from the previous year will be averaged and applied to the scale below to determine the number of votes.”; and

Average	Number of Votes
0-2.9	1
3-5.9	2
6-8.9	3
9-11.9	4
12-14.9	5
15-17.9	6
18-20.9	7
21+	8

THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that NFTY-CAR reaffirms our stance on inclusion: allow any participant at a given event to have the equal opportunity to vote as representation of a TYG and immerse themselves completely in NFTY.

THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that NFTY-CAR encourages the other 18 regions of NFTY and the North American Board of NFTY to consider reforming their constitutions as well, in an effort to further NFTY's ambition for a truly inclusive youth movement that suits the needs of all young Jews.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sophie Richardson NFTY-CAR SAVP 5776-5777
Jake Hershenhouse NFTY-CAR RCVP 5776-5777
Marni Israel NFTY-CAR MVP 5776-5777

Respectfully Co-signed,
Leo Dunn, Unaffiliated Participant
Jake Adler, Unaffiliated Participant
Marnina Hornstein, BeSSY Participant