

GJC Values Statement (March 3, 2019)

The GJC Values Statement expresses core commitments of our community that underlie its work. The values statement helps to define the culture and perspective of GJC, how we fulfill the mission of our Community of Communities. A common set of values unites us by providing a framework and shared language for the discussions and decision-making that guide GJC's activities.

K'vod Habriyot (Honoring Each Other) – Every human being is made *b'tzelem Elohim* (in the image of God--Genesis 1:26). We honor our members, rabbis, staff, lay leaders, and all who come into contact with our community. In recognizing each person's dignity, we exercise our commitment to diversity, egalitarianism, inclusion and pluralism, and we strive to act with kindness.

Kehillah (Community) – We recognize our responsibility to the communities within GJC, GJC as a whole, Northwest Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. In strengthening our communities, we act with integrity and transparency. We support each other through joyous celebration, *gemilut hasadim* (acts of caring) and efforts to maintain GJC fiscally and organizationally.

Klal Yisrael (The Jewish People) – *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* (all Jews are responsible for each other--B. Talmud, *Shevuot* 39a). We cherish our connections to Israel, and to other Jews and Jewish communities around the world, regardless of the differences between us. Those bonds form a covenantal commitment that transcends time and space.

Torah – We take joy in the study of Jewish texts from across Jewish history, and we celebrate the full range of Jewish arts and culture. We share a commitment to educating and inspiring the next generation. We treasure what we have inherited, and we innovate as we forge our unique link in the chain of Jewish tradition.

Kedushah (Holiness) – We strive toward holiness through Jewish prayer, music and other spiritual practices and through the performance of *mitzvot*. Supporting individuals as they seek their own paths, we are committed to diverse ways of meeting people's spiritual needs. We weave the strands of our congregation into a *kehillah kedoshah* (a sacred community).

R'difat Tzedek (Pursuing Justice) – Our experience as slaves in Biblical Egypt inspires us to empathize with others and to act to heal our city, our nation and our world. We are committed to moving the world toward the fulfillment of basic human needs, equal rights, peace and the flourishing of the Earth and all who share it.

Mahloket L'shem Shamayim (Conflict for the Sake of Heaven) – As we strive toward holiness and justice, we recognize and honor points of disagreement. In working through conflict, we seek to minimize ego, to maximize humility, and to engage in open-minded listening. We value the expression of different viewpoints and jointly seek the highest expression of our values as we search for the best way forward.