

Statement from the UFP - Beth Israel CoVisioning Task Force 2018-11-12

When our two communities, Beth Israel Congregation (BIC) and the Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough (UFP) came together in 2004, we envisioned a relationship based in mutuality and sharing. That vision was largely left unattended; our initial intention lapsed, and our relationship became one primarily defined as tenant-landlord.

Beth Israel has aspirations for a community where congregational size, resources and leadership capacity are sustainable. They desire to assure a home for Judaism in Peterborough well into the future. The Unitarian Fellowship wants to feel settled, for the long term, in a place they can call home. They imagine that a greater degree of control over property-related matters would allow for a more palpable sense of ownership and place.

The intention of the joint leadership task force (as we call ourselves) is to explore various precedents and models for partnering around shared space. This includes models of co-management, co-ownership, and combinations thereof. Building on our shared values, our intent is to support and oversee opportunities to bring our congregations together in dialogue and relationship-building, and to explore win-win possibilities that bring us to decisions about our shared future that meet both our individual and joint purposes and goals.

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