

European Union for Progressive Judaism Membership Criteria – July 2018

1. Membership Criteria - Progressive Judaism

This document sets out the principles for admission of new members to the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) as well as the principles relating to the continued membership of existing members.

The EUPJ seeks to foster and stimulate the growth of Progressive Judaism throughout Europe because the EUPJ believes that Progressive Judaism, with its combination of a respect for Jewish tradition coupled with an openness to modernity, provides the blueprint for Jewish continuity in the twenty-first century. It is accordingly a pre-condition to membership of the EUPJ that an applicant, or existing member, is a Progressive Jewish community/organisation and is not a member of or in any other way affiliated with any other stream of Judaism and/or does not subsequently become one. The term “Progressive Judaism” shall be as set out in the EUPJ Constitution from time to time.

Accordingly, the officers of each applicant will be required to provide written assurances to EUPJ that –

- 1.1. its organisation, operation and ethos is consistent with the principles of Progressive Judaism and that it is not, and will not become, a member of another stream of Judaism;
- 1.2. it will abide by the decisions of the European Beit Din (or a national Progressive Beit Din recognised by the European Beit Din, where there is one) - in particular, the status of individual members will be in accordance with what is locally recognised by the Beit Din.

2. Membership Applications

The EUPJ Executive Board (Board) is the body which formally admits new members and it meets three to four times a year – however any decision to admit a new member by the Board requires ratification by the immediately following meeting of the EUPJ European Assembly. Applications should be made in the form of Appendix A to this document or in such other form as the EUPJ Management Committee (ManCom) may determine from time to time. The Board will be prepared to consider applications at any of its meetings but any application must first have been submitted to, vetted by, and recommended by ManCom.

3. Length of Existence

The congregation/applicant should generally have been in existence for at least a year as an entity (see paragraph 4 below) to show that it is a viable and active community.

4. Constitution, Incorporation Documents and Other Documents Required

The congregation/applicant should be some form of legal entity - it is helpful if the entity is recognised by the authorities locally, but this is not mandatory. A copy of the constitution or other appropriate statutory document of incorporation and governance (translated into English) must accompany the application form, together with a statement of the aims of the community, its sources of income and the latest financial statements.

5. **Membership**

Section 4 of the EUPJ Constitution deals with membership of the EUPJ and members and prospective members are referred to this section, as it applies to this document, particularly in regard to who qualifies to be a member of the EUPJ, the grounds upon which membership can be refused and the grounds upon which membership can be removed.

At the time the application is submitted to EUPJ, the congregation/applicant should normally have more than 25 members who are fee-paying, or at least registered as members, and they should be Jewish members according to the EUPJ Constitution. The congregation/applicant may have associate members or "friends" (eg. non-Jewish spouses/partners) but they will not be counted as members for this purpose. No distinction will be drawn between Jews by birth and Jews by conversion, but EUPJ will seek to establish that there is a sufficient number of Jews able to form a real congregation. In other words, the 25 members which are listed all have to be Jewish according to the definition set out in the EUPJ Constitution.

6. **Local Country Federation or Union**

If there is a national federation or union of Progressive Jewish communities in the country of the applicant, the congregation should belong to it, and not directly apply for membership to the EUPJ.

If the federation or union is itself a member of EUPJ, the congregation should normally obtain its affiliation to EUPJ through its membership of the federation or union, unless there is a special reason which makes it appropriate for the congregation to be a direct member of EUPJ, (for example some local legal or fiscal advantage, in which case the consent of the local federation or union would normally be sought). If the congregation applies to become a member of the federation or union rather than a direct member of EUPJ, EUPJ will not have a role in determining its eligibility for membership under the rules of the federation or union.

The criteria for admitting a federation or union of congregations to membership of EUPJ correspond to the criteria which apply for admission of an individual congregation. EUPJ expects that, normally, an application by a federation or union will be endorsed by all the existing member congregations in that country; if there are any non-supportive congregation, that might indicate a problem to be addressed first by the applicant federation or union, but a single objection would not necessarily preclude admission.

7. **Activities**

The congregation should hold regular services, at least twice a month, together with services for the High Holydays, Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot. If it does not have the services of a Rabbi, it should have sufficient well-qualified lay persons to conduct those services. It should provide regular religion classes for its youth, and should have begun to arrange for adult education and social activities. It should publish a regular newsletter or at least an e-mail bulletin.

8. **Premises**

There should be a regular venue for services and activities. These premises need not be owned or leased long-term, but by the date of submitting the application, the congregation should have a stable and regular venue.

9. **Officers**

The application form includes details of officers and contacts. Under the constitution, there should be some sort of elected Council or representative body with provision for all members to vote at elections.

10. **EUPJ Congregational Guidelines**

The congregation will be advised of any EUPJ Guidelines, which will be made available on the EUPJ website, and asked to make them available to its officers and to apply them so far as they are appropriate.

11. **Rabbinic Contact and Report**

Before an application will be approved, a rabbinic report will be required regarding the community. The purpose of this report will be to determine that the community is acting as a religious community, practising Judaism in accordance with the principles of Progressive Judaism. Where the community does not have a full-time Rabbi known to ManCom, it will be visited by a member of ManCom and/or a Rabbi nominated by ManCom, to check that the congregation is viable and meeting these criteria.

12. **Finances**

The Application Form requires disclosure of current financial information. The congregation will be advised of the normal annual dues payable as a member of EUPJ. If the congregation hopes to apply to EUPJ for assistance, after becoming a member, it will need to supply details of the project including a budget, but the provision of funding will not be formally considered until after the process of applying for membership has been completed.

13. **Developing or Emerging Congregations**

Where it appears to the EUPJ that the applicant congregation is not yet sufficiently developed to be accepted as a member, it will offer help in development towards that position (perhaps in conjunction with an existing member which can offer support) and EUPJ may, in its discretion, admit that congregation as an Associate Member in terms of Section 42.5 of the Constitution. The developing congregation may not have any formal status as it moves towards membership, but EUPJ will offer as much assistance as it can reasonably provide

EUPJ Membership Criteria – Appendix A

EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDASIM

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1	Name of Applicant Community	
2a	Address of regular meeting place	
2b	Address of legal/registered office (if different from above)	
3	Official title and name of main contact dealing with the application	
4	i) Main contact person's address ii) Telephone number iii) E-mail address	
5	Number of members at present. Please provide details of membership – who can be a member, do you have different classes of membership and, if so, please show the breakdown of membership in these classes.	
6	Date of community establishment	
7	Community information: Define aims, sources of income etc. Please attach copy of constitution, a list of elected representatives and recent financial statement (in English)	
8	i) How regularly are services held? ii) Is religious education provided for young people and adults? iii) Is there a regular newsletter? iv) Please provide details of your rabbi or service leaders Please provide as much detail as possible.	
9	Please confirm that the community is run consistent with the principles of Progressive Judaism, that it is not a member of or affiliated to another stream of Judaism and that it will accept the rulings of the European Beit Din	
10	Date of application	

Please send this information, with required attachments by email to: administrator@eupj.org
OR by mail to Honorary Secretary, European Union for Progressive Judaism, 80 East End Road, London N3 2SY, United Kingdom

July 2018