



Congregation Beth Torah

President's Column

November 2010

Friends,

By now I hope that you have received the letter sent as a follow-up to my remarks during Yom Kippur. I want to give you a sense of the flow and decision-making process that is involved. Prior to December of last year, there were many informal discussions amongst the current and past leadership of Beth Torah about the general idea of relocating the congregation. The primary reasons of overall membership numbers, accessibility, and declining enrollment in the Preschool and Learning Center were mentioned in a general sense but not deeply understood.

Last December a property in what would now be considered a very good location was listed on the market. The property was informally inspected and we left with a lot of questions regarding finances and motivations. At that point, the decision was made to fully investigate if a relocation was the right thing to do and what would be required to actually do it. One result was that an exploratory committee was formed to determine what properties cost, what it would cost to make them suitable, and where they were located. In parallel to the efforts of the exploratory, investigations were made into the motivations for relocating, which resulted in many of the realizations that I stated during my remarks at Yom Kippur.

Currently we have an adequate estimate on what properties cost, but what we don't know is how much our assets are actually worth. The estimates from realtors cover a range that does not allow us to make responsible decisions. To resolve this the Board of Directors approved listing, but not selling, our facility so that our realtor can market the property and see what actual offers would be.

So, what happens next? The Board of Directors, per the Beth Torah constitution, has the responsibility for deciding how our funds are used and if property is bought or sold. The Board of Directors won't make any decision regarding the sale of our current facility without hearing from you, the congregation. We'll have our 'town hall' sessions to discuss details and, when the time is right, a full congregational meeting

Beth Torah is a wonderful and unique culture, and it is the preservation of that culture that drives me and those involved in this effort. I want us to work with facts, and I want to give you the best leadership and decision-making that is possible. You are part of that process. Please don't believe any rumors that you hear and don't hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony".