

Governance Committee August 2023 Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Governance Committee (L Blumenfeld, R. Teitelman, R Gollob, M. Libbin)

Date: August 3, 2023

During July and early August 2023, the Governance Committee dealt with two matters at the request of President Reesa as follows:

1. **Conflict of Interest Policy Amendments.** After multiple email exchanges and a meeting, proposed amendments to the Conflict-of-Interest Policy were approved for submittal to the Board. The changes involved clarifications and additions based on items raised during or after the discussions at the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board where the revised Conflict of Interest Policy was discussed and adopted by the Board.
2. **Prepaid Interment Costs.** The Committee was asked to do an independent review of whether, under Connecticut law Emanuel could offer pre-paid interment (the opening and closing of graves) to those who purchase burial rights at The Emanuel Synagogue Cemetery. The Committee concluded that it cannot.

After a thorough review of potentially applicable statutes, Emanuel's chartering special act and amendments, and a search for any applicable case law, the Governance Committee concluded that there is no unassailable way around the clear statutory prohibition of the offering of pre-paid interment contracts by anyone other than a licensed embalmer or funeral director as provided in Conn. Gen Statutes Sec. 41-201. The review confirmed the Cemetery Committee conclusion. We also determined that the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford has reached that same conclusion.

Lou Blumenfeld, Chair