

“Does my Annual Commitment Gift include religious school tuition?”

Yes, the benefits of your commitment gift include religious school for your children, as well as adult education opportunities for members of your household.

“I don’t have children in the religious school; how am I affected by including religious school in the Annual Commitment Gift model?”

Education, both for our children and our adult congregants, is a primary offering of Congregation Or Tzion, reflecting the core value we place on lifelong learning both in our community and in our Jewish culture.

While we understand that many households do not have children in our religious school, we must also recognize that each congregant partakes uniquely in the offerings and opportunities for engagement available through our congregation. Attempting to quantify the myriad costs associated with every program, service or engagement, and then trying to assign expense based on congregant usage—which you would likely agree would not only be impractical, but practically impossible—reflects the paradigm of the “fee for service” model from which we are transitioning.

Instead, the Board chose to start with a high-level view of total budgeted expenses, equally divided amongst all households in our community. This is how we arrived at the “Sustaining Contribution” amount (of \$2,882 per household for the upcoming year).

The suggested commitment gift for each household, however, is customized, and based on what you contributed this past congregational (fiscal) year, including membership dues, security deposit, Yom Kippur appeal donation, and if applicable, school tuition.

Some of us may wish to contribute the “Sustaining Contribution”, some may choose to base their gift on the suggested commitment amount, and some may arrive at their commitment plan through other considerations.

Rest assured, your actual commitment gift is selected by you and is entirely confidential.

While we’d like you to review and consider the suggested commitment, which, again, is based on your past support—and also to consider the “Sustaining Contribution”—should you choose to contribute more or less, this is ultimately a decision for each household in our community to make.