

MITZPE RAMOT

Minutes of Vaad Meeting

פרוטוקול ישיבת ועד
Amutah no. 580040012

Date: 19 August 2026

Meeting: Regular meeting of the Vaad, ahead of the Yamim Noraim

Present: Ronnie Joss (Chairperson), Dani Abell, Matt Brenner (Treasurer), Daniel Alweis

Absent (with notice): Jonathan Hoffman

Quorum: 4 of 5 members present; quorum (3) satisfied

The Vaad met with the Yamim Noraim three weeks away and with two connected questions before it: what membership of Mitzpe Ramot should mean and cost in the year ahead, and how the work of the shul is to be supported. The Vaad gave the greater part of the meeting to these questions, together with the practical preparations the coming season requires. The decisions formally adopted are recorded first, followed by a summary of the matters the Vaad reviewed and the work now underway.

Decisions adopted

1. **Membership fee.** The Vaad resolved that the annual membership fee for the coming year be set at 1,800 NIS, reduced from 2,100 NIS. Membership includes seating for the Yamim Noraim and a discounted rate for private use of various shul property. Payment may be made in installments. Any member for whom the fee presents difficulty is warmly invited to apply, in confidence, to the Chairperson or the Treasurer.
2. **Seat rates for non-members and guests.** The Vaad resolved to hold these at the previous year's levels: local non-members 600 NIS for Rosh Hashanah and 500 NIS for Yom Kippur; guests of members 250 NIS per individual and 400 NIS per couple for Rosh Hashanah, and 200 NIS per individual and 300 NIS per couple for Yom Kippur.
3. **Membership and seating registration.** Registration opens immediately by means of an online form, with a closing date of 31 August 2026. The form records which minyan each member wishes to be seated in, and the arrangements for the Yamim Noraim minyanim will be settled on the basis of the responses received.
4. **Support for the shul's work.** The Vaad resolved that the registration form carry an accompanying opportunity to contribute toward four areas of the shul's activity: general upkeep and operations; youth programming; adult education; and special event programming. Members may support more than one.
5. **Administration.** The Vaad resolved to ask the shul's administrator to continue through the Chagim period pending the appointment of a successor, and to prepare a defined description of the role.
6. **Annual operating budget.** The Vaad resolved to prepare an operating budget for the coming year in the weeks ahead.

Matters reviewed and work now underway

Membership and the year ahead

The Vaad gave extended consideration to what membership should cost at this point in the shul's life. The fee has risen steadily over recent years, and the Vaad took the view that widening the circle of membership now matters more to Mitzpe Ramot than protecting the income drawn from each individual member. The reduction is intended as an invitation: to families who have come to the neighbourhood in recent years, to those who daven regularly at Mitzpe Ramot without having formally joined, and to households for whom the previous level was a real obstacle. Membership carries less financial weight this year than last, and the Vaad hopes that more of the kehilla will take it up.

Supporting the work of the shul

The Vaad reviewed how the shul's activities are funded. Membership income has never covered the whole of the shul's annual costs; the remainder has always rested on the generosity of members and friends. Alongside membership, the registration form therefore invites contributions toward four (and a fifth "other" option of) areas of the shul's work, so that members can direct their support to what matters most to them. The Vaad has deliberately not committed in advance to particular programmes, preferring first to prepare a full operating budget for the year and to plan on that basis.

Budget and financial administration

The Vaad is preparing an operating budget for the coming year — the first of the new Vaad — so that the shul's plans rest on a clear picture of what it costs to run. Work continues in parallel on strengthening the shul's financial systems, so that every contribution and pledge is properly recorded, followed through, and receipted, and so that the Vaad and the shul's accountant are working from the same reliable picture throughout the year.

Preparing for the Yamim Noraim

Rosh Hashanah falls on Friday evening, 11 September. Seating for the minyanim will be arranged from the registration responses, which is why members are asked to indicate where they wish to be seated — and why registering by the closing date genuinely helps. The Vaad will judge from the registration responses whether there is sufficient demand for a netz minyan this year.

Administration and continuity

Following Ruth Kilner's stepping back from the day-to-day running of the office, the Vaad has asked her to remain available through the Chagim while a successor is found, and is grateful to her for doing so. The Vaad is preparing a clear description of the role so that the position can be filled properly rather than in haste, and so that the shul's administration continues without interruption through the busiest season of its year.

Committees

The Vaad continues the work of establishing committees begun at its first meeting, with a kiddush committee currently being formed. The Vaad's role is to set direction and provide resources; the day-to-day work of the shul is best owned by committees of dedicated members. Members from every part of the kehilla who would like to contribute are warmly encouraged to be in touch with any member of the Vaad.

Reaching every member

Continuing the work described at the previous meeting, the Vaad is bringing the shul's communications into a single unified structure, so that every member — in whichever minyan they daven — receives shul-wide announcements and can also follow the particular parts of the kehilla they belong to. The Vaad intends to have this in place before the Yamim Noraim. Members who do not presently receive the shul's emails, or who are unsure whether their details are current, are asked to be in touch so that no one is left outside the life of the kehilla.

The weeks ahead are among the busiest in the shul's year. The Vaad thanks members in advance for registering promptly, so that seating and arrangements can be made properly for everyone, and looks forward to reporting further progress at its coming meetings.

Recorded for the Vaad and posted in accordance with the Takanon.