

**NEW LIGHT CONGREGATION DECIDES TO REMAIN AT CURRENT LOCATION  
AT SHADY AVE. AND BEACON ST. IN SQUIRREL HILL**

**CONGREGATION TO CONTINUE COLLABORATION  
WITH TREE OF LIFE ON JOINT PROGRAMMING, ACTIVITIES**

PITTSBURGH, January 6, 2020 -- New Light Congregation, one of the three congregations whose members were killed on October 27, 2018, has decided to stay at its current location rather than return to the Tree of Life (TOL) building, which has been closed since the 2018 attack. After the attack, New Light Congregation relocated to Beth Shalom's building on the corner of Shady Avenue and Beacon Street in Squirrel Hill.

In October of 2019, the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, acting as a convener of the groups that have an interest in co-locating in the Tree of Life facility, requested a commitment concerning space requirements from New Light.

After several months of discussing whether and under what conditions to return, congregants decided to make permanent its current home in the Beth Shalom building.

"There were many reasons cited for this decision," said Stephen Cohen, co-president of New Light Congregation. "Some members are unwilling to go back into the Tree of Life building, regardless of its future structure. Others cited the fact that because New Light Congregation has had three homes in three years it would be emotionally and financially draining to move again. In addition, members were unwilling to deal with the uncertainty and potentially lengthy process as Tree of Life finalizes its plans for the site's future."

New Light has invested much personal energy and congregational funds into making its current new space effective and comforting. Beth Shalom has been generous in allowing New Light to add signage, as well to hang the New Light Memorial Boards, plaques and other religious items. Members prefer the security and certainty of the current location.

"This decision will not impact the long term relationship between Tree of Life\*Or L'Simcha and New Light. We will continue to collaborate on joint Men's Club Sunday Services as well as other joint programming efforts," said Barbara Caplan, co-president of New Light Congregation. "In addition, New Light will continue to participate in the Tree of Life re-building effort because the site vision includes a memorial. All of us at New Light wish the very best to our friends at Tree of Life and their future plans."

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