

# TIKVAT DAVID

## MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

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### Interested in Joining Tikvat David Messianic Synagogue?

To be considered for membership, a family or individual should attend the Synagogue regularly (virtually or in person) and support its vision financially for at least six months.

### About our Synagogue

Our name *Tikvat David* (תקוות דוד) means "Hope of David" in Hebrew, an ancient expression of Israel's Messianic yearning (Isa 9:7, Jer 23:5, Zech 12:10). We believe this hope is found in Yeshua (Jesus).

Tikvat David is an active member of the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC). You can find the official statement of faith we subscribe to on the UMJC website ([umjc.org](http://umjc.org)). Our synagogue is registered as Georgia non-profit corporation. The spiritual life of the Synagogue is led by the Rabbi and Elders, and its institutional business is governed by the corporate by-laws and Board of Directors. Most functions of the Synagogue are run by its members, who serve as dedicated volunteers and organize others to help them.

Tikvat David Synagogue is a space where one can practice traditional Judaism in a community that expresses allegiance to Yeshua as Messiah and King of Israel. Unfortunately, few communities like ours exist. We chose to challenge the prevailing narrative and inspire others to build congregations where faith in Yeshua can blossom amidst traditional Jewish life. Our Synagogue follows the general halakhic guidance offered by the (MJRC) Messianic Jewish Rabbinical Council.

Our vision is **"Building a Yeshua-centered Judaism for Israel and the Nations."** We have four core values: **Keep Yeshua Central, Honor Jewish Tradition, Express Love And Respect, Develop The Next Generation.**

## Some Expanded Values

TD is a Synagogue that practices Messianic Judaism. It serves as a space where Jews can live out their covenant calling as Jews with Yeshua at the center of their Torah observance.

TD is a home for Messianic Gentiles who desire to practice Judaism - and they are valued as people who are a distinct, equal, and essential component of Messianic Judaism.

TD is part of the Atlanta Jewish community and seeks to serve with and participate in the vibrant Jewish life in Georgia.

TD is part of the Body of Messiah, and as such, we seek to build relationships with other Messianic congregations, ministries, and Christian churches in Atlanta and beyond.

TD is a community that learns and grows as disciples of Yeshua chiefly through Scripture and other traditional Jewish sources.

TD is a community that seeks to grow in observing the Torah according to traditional Jewish norms.

TD is a community that takes care of our own by praying, serving, forgiving, comforting, rejoicing with, and providing for each other.

TD is a community that welcomes diversity, questions, and respectful debate by cultivating and protecting an environment of safety and inquiry.

TD is a community that practices Tikkun Olam (improving the world) by giving our time and resources to shine the light of Yeshua.





## Synagogue Membership

Formal membership is not a requirement for participation in Synagogue life. Membership is a privilege and a declaration that affirms that this community is one's own spiritual family. Though Tikvat David is a Jewish organization, its membership is not limited to Jewish families and individuals alone. Non-Jewish sojourners who recognize and honor Jewish covenantal distinctiveness can also become Synagogue members (Lev 17:33, 20:26; Deut 7:6, 14:21; Rom 11:29). No conversion is necessary for membership at Tikvat David (Acts 11:18; Acts 15:19-21; Rom 3:30; 1 Cor 7:18), though proper prior conversions to Judaism are recognized (Ex 12:48, Acts 6:5).

Our Synagogue recognizes Members, Virtual Members, and Friends (Non-Members). Due to its nature, Virtual Membership has obvious limitations, yet despite distance or other extenuating circumstances, virtual members can still participate in many of our Synagogue activities. Virtual membership is an excellent way to maintain association with others of like mind and be enriched through online interaction, worship, and learning.

Synagogue Membership comes with both privileges and reasonable expectations.

### Membership Benefits:

- Being a part of building a Synagogue that simultaneously embraces Yeshua as Messiah and honors the Jewish tradition.
- Taking a part in sustaining an environment of rich Jewish culture, learning, and spiritual growth.
- Having a role in maintaining a community where Jews and Gentiles can partner together in advancing God's kingdom together (*Tikkun Olam*).
- Playing a role in instilling biblical and spiritual values in the next generation.
- Member access to spiritual care and rabbinic council.
- Member access to crisis assistance and bereavement care.
- Member access to *Benei Mitzvah* / *Ba'alei Kriyah* training.
- Member access to special events, resources, and programs.
- Ability to participate in all Synagogue Family Meetings.
- Ability to vote (when applicable).
- Ability to serve in a staff capacity.

- Ability to lead/facilitate official Synagogue functions.
- Ability to host an official Synagogue *Chavurah*/Study group.
- Eligibility to serve as a Synagogue Delegate Board Member.
- Eligibility to serve as a Synagogue Elder.
- Ability to use Synagogue/Lawn for lifecycle events.
- Ability to use Facility/Lawn use for private events.
- Ability to borrow books/resources from the Synagogue Library

### **Expectations of Membership:**

- Members are expected to stay involved in the spiritual life of their Synagogue by regularly participating in events, holidays, weekly services, and classes in person or virtually (Num 15:15; Deut 31:30). Members are also expected to attend at least one of the Family Meetings (typically held twice per year).
- At a minimum, all members are expected to support their Synagogue financially on an ongoing basis (Ex 30:15). Funding is a necessity, and Jewish communal institutions were always financed through voluntary donations, as each member gave in proportion to their ability (Ex 25:1-8).
- Members are expected to serve each other by volunteering at the Synagogue and the greater community through special events and projects. Virtual Members are encouraged to participate through funding Synagogue benevolence endeavors (*Chesed* and *Rachamim* funds) and Tikkun Olam projects.
- Members are expected to remain in continual general agreement with the Synagogue's beliefs, vision, and values, as well as accept the spiritual authority of Synagogue leadership and support the actions of the Board.

Our Synagogue Membership is voluntary and conditional, so it can lapse due to circumstances, inactivity, or be intentionally dissolved at any time. Formal membership, though it offers special privileges, is not for everyone and is extended by the discretion of Synagogue Elders. All who support Tikvat David and periodically attend our services are recognized as "Friends" (non-members). Awareness of the information contained in this handout is necessary in order to become a member of the Tikvat David Messianic Synagogue.

