THE NEW ENGLAND REGION UNITED SYNAGOGUE 
YOUTH CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE:

We, the representatives of the synagogue youth affiliated with the New England Region United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, recognizing that the youth must perpetuate Judaism, and cognizant of the religious, historical and cultural heritage of our people, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution of New England Region United Synagogue Youth in order to further these principles.

ARTICLE I: AIM AND OBJECTIVE

SECTION 1: THE AIM
The aim of New England Region USY is to bring about a meaningful and fully reciprocal encounter of Judaism, Zionism, the Jewish People, and the Synagogue on one side, and the Jewish teenager on the other. As a result of this encounter, the Jewish teenager will firstly demonstrate and experience the Jewish way of living, through study, prayer, action and fellowship, leading to personal fulfillment and growth while meeting their spiritual and social needs, and secondly make a significant contribution to their synagogue, community, society, and the Jewish People.

SECTION 2: THE OBJECTIVES
In order to realize this aim, New England Region USY dedicates itself to:

A. Jewish education by encouraging its members to engage in various methods of Judaic study, and to establish new study programs within their chapters and communities.
B. The observance of the Sabbath and Holidays in a traditional manner by requiring its chapters to schedule activities so as not to conflict with the observance of the Sabbath and Holidays and by encouraging its members to attend services and join with their families in observing the Sabbath and Holidays even if it is necessary to absent oneself from school, school activities and work.
C. Prayer by encouraging its members to seek fulfillment through private devotion.
D. The observance of kashrut, the dietary laws, by requiring its chapters to observe the laws of kashrut at all functions and encouraging its members to observe kashrut in their private lives.
E. The synagogue as a center of Jewish life by encouraging its members to participate actively in all respects of synagogue affairs. Also, by encouraging the establishment of teen congregations within the synagogue.
F. Self-expression by encouraging its members to make creative contributions to the Jewish tradition through innovation and experiment in worship and ritual, as well as self-expression in the fields of art, literature, music and drama. Also, by encouraging its chapters to sponsor religious, cultural, social and athletic activities.

G. Religious observance through the fulfillment of the mitzvot, both ethical and ritual, so as to encourage the individual to make an intelligent choice as to the degree of his/her personal observance in later years.

H. Developing fun and fellowship among its members in order to fill the self-evident need for the establishment and growth of meaningful relationships.

I. Jewish Culture by urging its members to investigate and contribute to the growth and spread of Jewish culture.

J. The Jewish Community locally, nationally, in Israel, and worldwide. Also by co-operating with other Judaic youth movements for common purposes.

K. Israel by encouraging its members to partake in programs to support Israel, by sponsoring Israeli awareness and educational programs, and by promoting a Zionist attitude at all possible times.

L. The world community by taking an active stand against prejudice, bigotry and hatred, since we, as Jews, understand the suffering of others and dedicate ourselves to the betterment of all mankind.

M. International USY by promoting participation in International Convention, USY Pilgrimage, USY on Wheels, Nativ, USY High and all USY International clubs (Heschel, Hechalutzim, 613...).

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1:

The membership of New England Region USY shall be comprised of Jewish adolescents of unlimited number between and including the ages thirteen to nineteen provided that no such member shall have graduated from High School. No chapter shall discriminate in the admission of eligible members.

SECTION 2:

A. The members of NERUSY shall be organized into chapters of unlimited number. Each chapter shall be sponsored by a congregation within one of the New England States -- (excluding Connecticut) which is a member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

B. Upon application of a teenager distant from an organized chapter, the New England Regional General Board may recommend their inclusion as a member of the nearest recognized chapter.

ARTICLE III: AFFILIATION, SUSPENSION, AND REINSTATEMENT

SECTION 1: AFFILIATION
A. Any group eligible for membership under ARTICLE II may affiliate with New England Region USY. In order to do so a written application must be submitted to the Regional office. This application and the affiliation form will be subject to the approval of a majority of the Membership Committee and Regional Executive Board present and voting. Regional and National affiliation applications and dues forms must be accompanied by the appropriate payment of current affiliation fees and dues.

B. Each newly affiliated group shall be on probation for three months. Such chapter shall submit a program outline for the balance of the year within one month of affiliation and complete all other necessary forms as set forth in this constitution. Such a chapter shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of a duly recognized group, except that its representatives shall not be allowed to vote at any function of the New England Region USY until the conclusion of the three (3) month probationary period, and upon approval of a majority of the Regional Executive Board present and voting. Such a chapter's program outline must be approved by a simple majority of the Regional Executive Board members voting.

C. If the newly affiliated chapter fails to meet the standards of the region before their probation period has passed, the Regional Executive Board may vote to either keep them on probation or re-evaluate their affiliation.

SECTION 2: SUSPENSION OF CHAPTERS

A. An affiliated group may be censored or suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Regional General Board or Spring Convention delegates (excluding blank ballots) for a violation of the Constitution, laws, rules, regulations, or orders of this organization.

B. Any affiliated chapter which does not send delegates to two-thirds (2/3) of the Regional General Board meetings and at least two delegates to each Regional Convention may be suspended by a vote of two-thirds of the entire Regional Executive Board, which would become effective upon approval of the New England Youth Commission.

C. Any group may be temporarily suspended by a two-thirds vote of Regional Executive Board present and voting. The decision is subject to the approval of two-thirds of the Regional General Board present and voting at its next meeting or at a special meeting called therefore. When the Regional General Board votes on the suspension of a chapter, the votes of the chapter concerned shall be counted.

D. The Regional Executive Board can recommend the suspension of a chapter not having paid its Tikun Olam Donation for any fiscal year or that is in any other way delinquent in fulfilling its obligations, after written notification of intent to suspend by the Regional Director or Regional President has been presented to the Advisor, Youth Committee Chairman, Rabbi and USY President of the chapter in question.

E. The length of any suspension shall depend on the severity of the offense and shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of the Regional General Board members present and voting; no suspension shall exceed one year.
without being submitted for review by the Regional General Board, in which case, a two-thirds vote of the board members present and voting is necessary to rescind the suspension.

F. A suspended group shall be denied, for the period of its suspension, all privileges accorded to group's member and shall not be permitted to attend functions of the national or regional organizations.

SECTION 3: REINSTATEMENT

A. Any group that has been suspended may be reinstated before the expiration of its suspension by a two-thirds vote of the suspending board.

B. A group shall be automatically reinstated to full membership and privileges at the conclusion of its suspension period unless the suspension is renewed by a two-thirds vote of the Regional General Board members present and voting.

Article IV: DUES

SECTION 1: AMOUNT

A. All chapters shall pay International and Regional dues at a fixed per capita rate, the latter amount to be determined by a majority vote of the Regional General Board members or Spring Convention delegates present and voting, blank ballots excluded, upon recommendation of a majority of the Regional Executive Board present and voting.

B. No dues shall be required of a group that has been suspended for more than one year.

SECTION 2: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall begin on the 1st of July and end on the following 30th of June.

SECTION 3: OUTSTANDING DEBT

All groups, which have not paid their dues by November 15, shall be regarded as not in good standing and may be denied all privileges until the dues for that year shall have been paid.

ARTICLE V: REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1:

The executive administration of New England Region, United Synagogue Youth shall be vested in a Regional Executive Board and a Regional General Board as defined in Sections 2 and 3 in this Article.

SECTION 2: THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. The Regional Executive Board shall consist of a President, Executive Vice President, Programming Vice President, Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President, Membership/Kadima Vice President, and Communications Vice
President. These officers shall be elected according to the provisions in this Constitution.

B. Past Regional Presidents shall automatically become voting members of the Regional Executive Board for a period of one year after the retirement from office and receive all notices thereof.

C. Meetings shall be called by the President at his/her initiative or by a written petition of a majority of its members to the President who shall preside.

D. A quorum of the Regional Executive Board (i.e. a majority of all the voting members) shall be necessary to transact all business.

E. All immediate past members of the Regional Executive Board shall be non-voting members of the Regional Executive Board and shall be placed on the mailing list thereof for a one-year period following the expiration of their term of office.

F. The Executive Board shall have the power to interpret this constitution, the contents thereof and all regulations, rules and orders of this organization, and shall have the power to provide for the proper administration of New England Region USY; to enact procedures to insure compliance with this constitution and all rules made in pursuance thereof; to take such action actions as may be necessary and proper for the general good and welfare of New England Region USY and its members; and to act on all matters subject to its approval in accordance with this constitution and all regulations, rules and orders of this organization.

G. The decision of the Board on all matters shall be the opinion of the majority of its members.

ARTICLE VI: QUALIFICATIONS OF REGIONAL OFFICERS

SECTION 1: THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EACH OFFICE SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

A. President - Any person who shall have been a member in good standing for one year in a group which shall have been affiliated with New England Region USY for a period of one year prior to the election shall be eligible for election to the office of President provided that:

   1. The candidate shall have been a Chapter President in his/her chapter or a member of the Regional General Board for at least one year.

   2. The candidate sets an example by the observance of the Shabbat and Holidays, and by endeavoring to fulfill the highest ideals of Conservative Judaism.

B. Executive Vice President - The Executive Vice President's qualifications shall be the same as the President's.

C. Israel/Programming Vice President – S/He shall have been an officer of a local USY group or a member of the Regional General Board for at least one year.
D. The qualifications of the SA/TO Vice President, Membership/Kadima Vice President and the Communications Vice President shall be the same as that of the Israel/Programming Vice President's.

E. All candidates shall act as dugmaot and shall strive to achieve the highest ideals of Conservative Judaism.

ARTICLE VII: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. A number of alternates (non-voting delegates), not less than five (5), shall be chosen by the President prior to Spring Convention, at a date to be determined no later than 6 weeks prior to Spring Convention, to constitute the Elections Committee and shall supervise the elections. The decision of this committee in conjunction with the designated parliamentarian of the youth department shall be final in the case of a dispute.

B. Any person who meets the qualifications to hold office may submit a petition for nomination, in writing to the Chairman of the Elections Committee.

1. The Elections Committee in consultation with the executive office of the youth department must approve of said applicants’ qualifications. Following approval a person must obtain a petition containing the signatures of at least one hundred and twenty (120) paid members of New England Region.

2. Said members must come from ten (10) chapters.

3. Said petition reaches the chairman of the Elections Committee at least three (3) weeks prior to the elections.

C. A candidate may run from the floor.

1. Nominees from the floor must receive seconds from 15% of the voting delegates representing 20% of the chapters present at the Spring Convention.

2. Nominees from the floor will receive no material campaigning privileges.

D. The election of all regional officers shall be conducted at the Spring Convention and shall be conducted by closed ballot unless by unanimous vote.

E. Each candidate is entitled to one representative to be present at the counting of the ballots.

F. Only accredited delegates, members of the Regional Executive Board and Regional General Board may vote. No person may have more than one vote.

G. To be elected, a candidate must poll a simple majority of all ballots cast, excluding blank ballots. If no candidate is elected after the first ballot, the name of the candidate polling the least number of votes shall be eliminated from the ballot and another vote taken. After the succeeding vote is taken,
this same procedure shall be repeated until one of the candidates polls a majorit
of the votes cast. If at any time there is a tie between two candidates, one of who must be eliminated, another vote shall be taken. If there is no result by the third ballot, the President's pre-sealed vote is then added to the count. If there is still no result the decision shall be left to a majority of the Regional Executive Board.

H. No elected officer shall be allowed to hold office unless his parents endorse, in writing, his holding office, with full knowledge of the duties of the office.

I. The order of elections shall be as follows:
   1. President
   2. Executive Vice President
   3. Israel/Programming Vice President
   4. Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President
   5. Membership/Kadima Vice President
   6. Communications Vice President

J. Any candidate, duly nominated to run for any office, may, if s/he chooses to do so, select one (1) other office, of lesser rank, for which to run in case of losing the initial election. The candidate must choose whether or not to do this, and to which position s/he would drop, prior to Spring Convention, and must submit this response to the chairman of the Elections Committee and the NERUSY President by the same date designated for the candidate’s information sheet and petition. In the event of a candidate running from the floor, the said candidate does not have the option of running for another office upon losing the initial election.

K. A Candidates Forum will be held during Spring Convention at a time to be determined later. This Forum will give the candidates a chance to express their ideas and will give delegates a chance to ask them questions.

ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1: THE OFFICERS
The officers shall have such duties and powers normally associated with their respected offices in addition to those specifically enumerated below and in other sections of this Constitution. In addition, each officer shall assume such duties and powers necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing.

SECTION 2: THE PRESIDENT
A. S/He shall be vested with the Executive power of New England Region USY and shall serve as its accredited representative.
B. S/He shall preside over all meetings of the Regional Executive Board, Regional General Board, and over all plenary sessions of Regional Conventions except as otherwise herein provided.
C. S/He shall have the power to appoint and remove all committee chairmen at will after consultation with the Regional Executive Board.
D. S/He shall have the power to call meetings of the Regional General Board and the Regional Executive Board.

E. S/He shall have the power to establish committees as herein provided with the approval of the Regional Executive Board.

F. S/He shall serve as a member ex-officio of all committees.

G. S/He shall make an annual report at the Spring Convention and at such other times as he deems necessary, on the state of the organization and he shall make recommendations for improvement of the same.

H. S/He shall take such action, as he deems necessary in an emergency, for the general good and welfare of New England Region USY and its members.

SECTION 3: EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

A. S/He shall have the duties, rights, and powers of the President during the President's absence or in the event of the President's incapacity.

B. S/He shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.

C. S/He shall assume the co-chairmanship of all religious committees, and shall be responsible for initiation of Chug Tefila activities by September of the program year.

D. S/He shall oversee any committees as determined by the President in consultation with the Regional Executive Board.

SECTION 4: ISRAEL/PROGRAMMING VICE PRESIDENT

A. S/He shall assume the co-chairmanship of all regional programming committees, and shall serve as an overseeing officer for all regional events.

B. S/He shall serve as an ex-officio of the Regional Clearance Committee.

C. S/He shall oversee any committee(s) as determined by the President in consultation with the Regional Executive Board.

D. S/He shall be responsible for promoting Israeli Awareness throughout the region and at all regional events and meetings.

SECTION 5: SOCIAL ACTION/TIKUN OLAM VICE PRESIDENT

A. S/He shall assume the co-chairmanship of all Social Action and Tikun Olam oriented committees, and shall implement at least one Regional Tikun Olam event per year.

B. S/He shall aid the chapters in fundraising and social action projects.

C. S/He shall be responsible for organizing the Regional Tikun Olam allocations.

D. S/He shall oversee any committees as determined by the President in consultation with the Regional Executive Board.

SECTION 6: MEMBERSHIP/KADIMA VICE PRESIDENT

A. S/He shall act as a liaison between New England Region USY and New England Region Kadima for the betterment of the Kadima program.
B. S/He shall oversee and coordinate all Kadima activities within New England Region.

C. S/He shall work to raise membership and membership participation on the international, regional and chapter levels.

D. S/He shall be responsible for the overseeing of chapters in the areas of membership retention and expansion, dues administration, and chapter programming.

E. S/He shall oversee all committees as determined by the President in consultation with Regional Executive Board.

SECTION 7: COMMUNICATIONS VICE PRESIDENT

A. S/He shall offer correspondence as the organization directs through the Executive officers.

B. S/He shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Regional Executive and Regional General Board and of plenary sessions at regional conventions.

C. S/He shall oversee all regional publications and shall maintain the region’s website and other online projects.

D. S/He shall oversee any committees as determined by the President in consultation with the Regional Executive Board.

SECTION 8: ALL OFFICERS SHALL:

A. Set an example by the observance of the Sabbath and the Jewish Holidays and by endeavoring to fulfill the highest ideals of Judaism, Americanism, and Zionism.

B. Attend six (6) services monthly, at least four (4) of which shall be Sabbath services.

C. Attend at 100% of Regional and Chapters functions (note: percentage of attendance of total numbers of functions NOT including USYers' excused absences. Absences are to be considered excused if they are caused by circumstances beyond the USYer's control. This note refers to all attendance as outlined in Regional or Central listings. The Chapter Advisor and/or the Regional Director must be notified in advance of the inability to attend the meeting or event. The Advisor or Regional Director shall determine whether the absence is justified as excusable).

D. Engage in supervised study of Judaism at least two (2) hours weekly.

E. Must observe Kashrut outside the home at all times, and inside the home whenever possible.

F. Must be able to read Hebrew.

G. Attend all Regional General Board Meetings.

H. Refrain from the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco products.

ARTICLE IX: DUTIES AND POWERS OF REGIONAL CHAIRMEN

SECTION 1: APPOINTMENT
The President shall appoint committee chairmen at the beginning of his term.

SECTION 2: REPORTS
The chairmen of a committee shall report on the progress of his position upon request of the Regional president or their overseeing officer. A copy shall be rendered to the Communications Vice President and the Regional Director.

SECTION 3: THE DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMEN ARE:
A. Set an example by observance of Shabbat and Holidays and by endeavoring to fulfill the highest ideals of Conservative Judaism.
B. Attend a minimum of six (6) services a month, at least two (2) of which shall be on Shabbat.
C. Attend 75% of Regional and Chapter functions.
D. Observe Kashrut outside the home at all times, and inside the home whenever possible.

SECTION 4: RESIGNATION
If the President feels that any chairman is not fulfilling the standards that have been set in writing for the chairman, he may, after discussing the situation with the Regional Executive Board, ask for the resignation of the chairman in question. This dismissal shall be subject to the approval of the Regional Director.

SECTION 6: TERM
The term of the chairman shall be the same as the officers under which they serve.

Article XI: VACANCIES

SECTION 1: PRESIDENT
A. In the event that there is any vacancy in the office of President, the Executive Vice President shall automatically become President, and serve the remainder of the President's term.
B. In the event that the Executive Vice President cannot, or does not desire to assume the position of President, he shall remain as Executive Vice President, and the Executive Board shall appoint a qualified member to fill the vacancy until such a time when the Regional Board can meet to fill the vacancy. The Executive Vice-President shall conduct this session.
C. At the next Regional General Board meeting elections within the Board will be held to fill the vacancy. The Executive Board shall determine election procedures in such an instance.

SECTION 2: OTHER VACANCIES
In the event that there is a vacancy in the office of Executive Vice President, Programming Vice President, Membership/Kadima Vice President, or Communications Vice President, the President shall appoint an eligible person from the Regional General Board to fill the vacancy, with the approval of the
majority of the Regional General Board, excluding the vote of the individual affected by the appointment. This majority consent must be secured in writing. The person selected to fill the vacancy shall serve until the next Regional General Board meeting when the President shall conduct elections within the Board to fill the office for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE XII: IMPEACHMENT

SECTION 1: CAUSE

Any regional officer may be impeached for failure to execute in a satisfactory manner the duties and powers of his office; or for conduct unbecoming of a Regional officer.

SECTION 2: PROCEDURE

A. Charges against any Regional Officer or Regional General Board Member may be initiated by a majority vote of the Regional General Board excluding blank ballots. The vote of the individual under consideration shall be counted.

B. These charges shall be submitted to the Regional Communications Vice President unless this individual is the object of the charges. In such a case, the petition shall be submitted to the Regional Membership/ Kadima Vice President.

C. Copies of the charges shall then be forwarded to each Regional General Board member.

D. At a special or regular meeting of the Regional General Board, the individual shall be present to answer the charges lodged against him. A vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the Regional General Board present and voting, excluding blank ballots, and representing two-thirds (2/3) of the affiliated chapters represented at the meeting, shall be necessary to remove an individual from his position. The vote of the individual under consideration shall be counted when the Regional Board's vote is taken.

F. When the President is tried a member of the New England Region Youth Commission, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism shall preside.

ARTICLE XIII: MINIMUM STANDARDS

SECTION 1: MEMBER

A. He shall strive to acquire a reading knowledge of Hebrew within six (6) months after affiliation with USY

B. Standards for members’ participation in activities sponsored by the Central United Synagogue Youth:

1. Be present for at least sixty percent (60%) of the chapter's meetings.

2. Attend at least three (3) religious services a month.

3. Have reading knowledge of Hebrew.

4. Engage in Judaic Study at least four (4) hours per month.
SECTION 2: CHAPTER OBLIGATIONS
A. Pay Regional and Central dues by the dates set by the Regional and Central Directors.
B. Establish and enforce standards for elected chapter officers and appointed chairmen to include at least the following:
   1. Attendance at a minimum of 75% of chapter functions.
   2. Attendance at a minimum of 10% of Regional functions.
   3. Attendance at a minimum of three (3) religious services monthly.
   4. Study of Judaism at least five (5) hours monthly.
C. Plan and implement Tikun Olam and Social Action programs.
D. Clearance of all Inter-chapter activities with the Region, by a date set by the Regional Director and Clearance Committee.
E. Send official representation to the Regional General Board Meetings.

SECTION 3: SYNAGOGUE
A. The USY Chapter must be sponsored and supervised by an active synagogue Youth Committee.
B. The synagogue must provide adequate meeting facilities.
C. An advisor must be assigned to each USY chapter, and he must be present at all the chapter's meetings and functions. Said advisor must first be approved by the Regional Director prior to being engaged.
D. The synagogue Youth Commission must send two (2) representatives to the Regional Youth Commission meetings.

ARTICLE XIV: TIKUN OLAM

SECTION 1: PLEDGE
Each chapter shall be required to donate a Tikun Olam pledge as requested by the Regional Executive Board. This shall be subject to the approval of the Regional General Board.

SECTION 2: FUNDS
The percentage of our contribution to the Tikun Olam Fund, which is returned by the Central Organization to our Region, shall be allocated to scholarships for USY programs and other cleared USY charities. The President, SA/TO Vice President and Regional Director shall carry out and/or oversee the allocation process.

SECTION 3: FULFILLMENT
Any chapter not fulfilling its annual pledge or allocation is subject to suspension as provided for in this Constitution.

ARTICLE XV: AMENDMENT PROCESS

SECTION 1: PROCESS
A. The Regional General Board and/or the delegates to the Spring Convention may amend this Constitution.
B. Amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Regional General Board or of Spring Convention delegates present and voting.
C. In order for an amendment to be considered it must be submitted in full to the Executive Board three (3) weeks in advance and be properly explained to the entire Regional Board present and voting.
D. In order for an amendment to come to vote it must be first accepted by the Executive Board, or be submitted with a signed petition of one-third of the Regional General Board.
E. Grammatical errors may be corrected in this Constitution with the consent of the Executive Board provided that no content is changed.

ARTICLE XVI: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

SECTION 1: PROCEDURE
All meetings of the Regional General Board, Regional Executive Board, and all Spring Convention plenary sessions shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition.

SECTION 2: PROXY
Only the Immediate Past Regional President may vote by proxy. However the President may receive votes from the Executive Board by phone.

ARTICLE XVII: NEW ENGLAND YOUTH COMMISSION

SECTION 1:
Activities and policies of New England USY shall be sanctioned by the New England Youth Commission, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

ARTICLE XVIII: REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

SECTION 1:
Regional Conventions shall be held at such times and places as shall be determined by the Regional Executive Board or the Regional Director.

SECTION 2:
All chapters shall be entitled to delegates to conventions in proportion to the number of paid members of the groups.

ARTICLE XIX: RELATIONSHIP: CENTRAL / REGION / CHAPTER

SECTION 1:
This Constitution has been written in accordance with the Constitution and by-laws of the Central Organization. No laws, resolutions, or regulations shall be
passed by the New England Region USY that shall be in direct conflict with the Central Organization. The Executive Committee of the Regional and Central Offices shall determine which laws are in violation of this article.

SECTION 2:
No chapters affiliated with the New England Region, USY shall have a constitution or pass any by-laws, regulations, or resolutions, etc., which are in direct conflict with this Constitution or the Central Organization.