

REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS OF THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS - 1967

Whereas, The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods sees as vital to its effectiveness the growing role of participation for women's organizations in the organized life of Jewry, and

Whereas, The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has many times requested the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and other agencies of Reform Judaism to grant it representation in its own right on the various UAHC Committees and joint commissions on which NFTS representatives may now sit only as part of the UAHC delegation, The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods declares that it finds this discriminatory practice unjust and demeaning to the position of the Sisterhood woman, especially in view of NFTS activity and achievements in fields covered by these committees and commissions. Therefore, on behalf of NFTS members in those geographic areas under the aegis of the UAHC, it urgently requests the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to rethink its present structuring of committees and commissions with a view to granting the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods its rightful representation thereon in its own name.

NFTS Representation on the Commission on Interfaith Activities, In Particular

Whereas, The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has for many years been involved in interreligious affairs on a communal, congregational and national level and;

Whereas, The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has for the past several years requested of the Jewish Chautauqua Society and the Central Conference of American Rabbis that they agree to proposals made in the National Commission on Interfaith Activities that NFTS be granted representation on that joint commission in its own name, as has been done on the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, and not as a part of the UAHC delegation in which we have neither voice nor vote in our own organizational name, and

Whereas, A special committee of individuals of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Jewish Chautauqua Society made recommendations as to how best to effectuate this representation, and

Whereas, These recommendations were accepted in principle by the Commission on Interfaith Activities at its May 1967 meeting but were denied by the Central Conference of American Rabbis at the June 1967 meeting of its Executive Board, thus preventing the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods from representation in its own name on the Commission on Interfaith Activities,

Be It Therefore, Resolved, That the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods expresses its grave displeasure at this exclusion and urgently requests the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis together find a way to enable NFTS to raise its own voice, with other members of the family of Reform agencies, on the Commission on Interfaith Activities as well as on all other relevant commissions and committees of the official Reform Jewish movement. Furthermore, The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods alerts all its members to the necessity of expanding the horizons of national and international Jewish agencies to recognize the right of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, one of the largest Jewish women's organizations in the world, to admission with other national and international Jewish women's organizations into membership, when the programs involved fall within the fields of major interest and concern of NFTS. To do less is not only discriminatory against the National Sisterhood Federation but also

indicates to all that Jewish agencies consider national and even international organizations of synagogue women of lesser significance and stature than other Jewish women's agencies.

This resolution shall not only be spread upon the minutes of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods but copies thereof shall be transmitted to the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, to the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and to such other agencies as may now or in the future be authorized by the President or the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.