

Beth Messiah Congregation

9054 Columbia Road

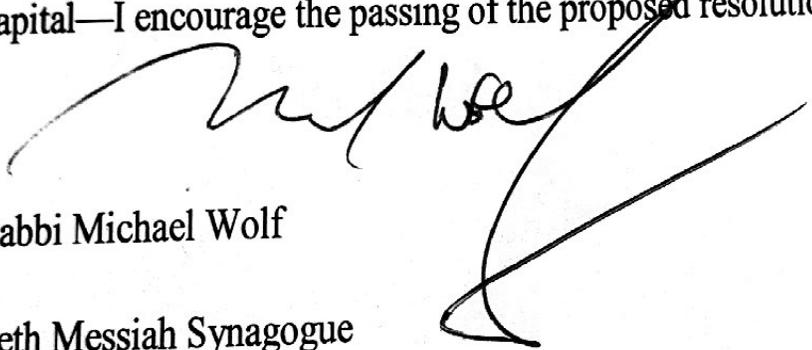
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Jerusalem is recognized as Israel's capital by Israel itself, as well as by the United States in a 2017 resolution. It seems only right that the State of Ohio should likewise affirm Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The Jewish people have had an ongoing presence in Jerusalem for over three thousand years—even during times of exile, when a number of Jews lived outside of Jerusalem. Biblical passages such as Deuteronomy 30:1-5, Ezekiel 36:24, and Luke 21:24 attest to the ongoing presence of Jews in Jerusalem, and to their return there after a time of scattering. And since 1967, the majority population in both East and West Jerusalem has once again been comprised of Jews. Jerusalem is also part of a democracy that recognizes the rights of all its citizens, including Moslems, Jews, and Christians.

As someone who was raised in a Jewish home, and attended Jewish institutions all during my childhood and adult life—as well as someone who has, for the last forty-one years, led a congregation comprised of Jews and Gentiles who are strongly committed to Jerusalem as Israel's capital—I encourage the passing of the proposed resolution that is before you today.



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