



Vision Statement*

To foster pluralism in the greater Southern California Jewish Community through the operation of a transdenominational Bet Din.

Mission Statement*

To operate a pluralistic Bet Din centered on candidates that will provide the best possible experience for all involved.

Goals:

1. To foster and enhance transdenominational cooperation and collaboration.
2. To provide meaningful spiritual experiences for individuals progressing through the conversion process.
3. To maximize the use of the Community Bet Din and the Mikveh.
4. To maximize the number of dayanim.

Longer Term Goals:

1. To develop a Southern California Center for Outreach (*Kiruv*) to stimulate and supplement existing denominational and synagogue outreach programs.
2. To become (or generate) a Community Bet Din for the adjudication of disputes among Jews on such issues as a) inheritance, b) care of elders, c) landlord-tenant disputes, d) employee-employer grievances in Jewish community organizations and synagogues.
3. To provide conversion services at a variety of *mikvaot* throughout the region.

* Adopted by the Governing Board, July 11, 2005.

Short Term Strategies:

1. Create technical and logistical support systems to meet operational needs such as a) scheduling appointments, Bet Din panels, & education, b) mailings, and c) record keeping.

2. Provide continuing education to dayanim and Sponsoring Rabbis in the principles and practice of multi-stream conversion to Judaism through practicums, seminars, retreats, lectures, *etc.*

3. Produce educational materials for dayanim reflecting the pluralistic principles of Sandra Caplan Community Bet Din.

4. Market the Bet Din through the publication and distribution of inspiring, user friendly materials for use in Introduction to Judaism courses and other adult education venues – materials that explain and advocate for Sandra Caplan Community Bet Din as a vehicle for conversion to Judaism.

5. Maintain an interactive, monitored website with sections for:
 - a) the Jewish community.
 - b) the non-Jewish community.
 - c) the rabbinic community.

Website material will explore the major issues and questions that surround conversion to Judaism. The site will also highlight personal stories, dilemmas, and observations.

6. Establish a staffed office to provide year-round, uninterrupted services. Possible staff roles include: program director, administrator, secretary, writer, development officer, mikveh specialist, and rabbinic counselor.

7. See out new opportunities for community use of the mikveh to enhance *kedusha*. Develop new or renewed rituals for immersion in the “living waters.”