



Shabbat Work Policy

Approved by Ritual Committee & Temple Board, January 2011

At Temple Shir Shalom, we count it among our Jewish responsibilities to create and maintain our facility as a sacred space. As a congregation we do not strive to be *shomer Shabbat* in the traditional sense, but rather to observe the spirit and ritual significance of Shabbat.

As regards usage of our Sanctuary and Temple buildings, we uphold the principle of celebrating Shabbat in and of itself. On Shabbat we do those things in which we take delight and which add to its holiness. Because it is set aside for special attention, on Shabbat we do not prepare for, or produce anything in preparation for the days beyond Shabbat. Therefore there should be no routine maintenance or preparation for weekday events on Shabbat. Preparatory work will be allowed, however, for Saturday evening programs for the congregation at large or in celebration of life cycle events for Temple members. Reasonable effort should be made to complete setup work prior to the beginning of Shabbat, and remaining work should be delayed until as late on Shabbat afternoon as is reasonably possible.

We recognize that Shabbat begins symbolically when we light Shabbat candles. We will strive not to be disrespectful of the established Shabbat times though our policies we will not be dictated by them, either. Similarly, we will take into account the established end time of Shabbat, though our policies will not be dictated by it.

We hope that these guidelines will serve to educate and remind our members about the meaning of Shabbat, and lead us toward a deeper appreciation of its beauty. The rabbi and Ritual Committee of Temple Shir Shalom should be consulted with any questions concerning this policy.