

Rabbi Kelly Whitehead

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EDUCATION

Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion

Rabbinical Ordination Program, New York, NY

MA in Jewish Nonprofit Management

MA in Hebrew Literature

Ordination: May 2024

Graduation: May 2023

Graduation: May 2023

American University, Washington, D.C.

BA in History, Minor in Jewish Studies

Graduation: December 2015

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director, *Union for Reform Judaism*, Remote

June 2024–Present

- Research, design, and implement adult programs and experiences centered on Jewish text, justice, and identity
- Lead adult learning initiatives for newcomers to Judaism, and co-create content across strategic themes of antisemitism, Jewish discovery, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and peoplehood
- Manage program budgets and conduct qualitative/quantitative evaluations, partnering with colleagues and external organizations to align goals, while centering equity and accessibility

D.C. Ambassador, *Ammud: Jews of Color Torah Academy*

August 2025–Present

- Design and facilitate adult Torah study for Jews of Color and allies, drawing on principles of andragogy to create accessible, text-based learning
- Partner with the DC JCC to lead family holiday programs reaching 80+ participants, integrating storytelling, Jewish content, and pastoral support for BIPOC families

Fellowship Director, *Union for Reform Judaism*, Remote

August 2022–July 2025

- Founded and led a national leadership fellowship for Jewish teens of Color fostering identity development, community, and belonging both in person and online
- Designed and facilitated original curricula that integrated Jewish values with community organizing, storytelling, advocacy, problem solving, network building, and current events
- Supervised and mentored adult facilitators and teen leaders, offering feedback and coaching
- Managed program budget, conducted qualitative research to evaluate outcomes, and contributed to grant proposals and funder reports

Chaplain Intern, *Cedars-Sinai Medical Center*, Los Angeles, CA

August 2023–May 2024

- Provided spiritual care to patients, families, and staff through counseling, spontaneous prayer, accompaniment, and resources at all stages of illness and wellness
- Actively participated in an accredited Clinical Pastoral Education super-extended unit, clinical learning didactics on offering specialized care, and guided reflections with an interfaith cohort
- Offered chapel services and sermons for patients, families, and staff

- Tisch Rabbinic Intern**, *Temple Micah*, Washington, D.C. Summer 2023
- Led weekly Shabbat and holiday services, offered creative prayers, and delivered sermons
 - Created a daily series featuring Jewish text, artwork, and reflective questions related to “Hayom Harat Olam—Today the Earth was Conceived,” sent out to the community during the month of Elul
 - Shadowed the senior staff and board to learn strategic leadership, innovation, and development
- Rabbinic Intern**, *Temple Sinai*, Summit, NJ 2021–2022
- Director of Youth Engagement**, *Temple Sinai*, Summit, NJ 2020–2021
- Co-led worship services on holidays and Shabbat, delivered sermons, and coordinated events
 - Created and taught adult education classes, building relationships with community members
 - Oversaw the weekly Hebrew High School program for 70 8th–12th graders and 4 teachers, writing curriculum and leading activities between students of all grades
- Youth Engagement Specialist (Shared Position)**, *Temple Sinai*, Washington, DC 2016–2019
- Led the Madrichim Program, a leadership opportunity for 40 high school classroom assistants, working alongside the student and Temple board to budget, organize, and recruit participants
 - Advised a youth group of active 8th–12th graders on how to plan programs, create rituals, and host social justice events
 - Coordinated the weekly religious education program for 85 7th and 8th graders and 9 teachers, writing and reviewing lesson plans on identity, God, the Holocaust, health, and communication
- Unit Head (Shared Position)**, *URJ Camp Harlam*, Kunkletown, PA 2016–2019
- Directed a leadership development program for 50+ rising high school seniors, cultivating their growth as future counselors through an original Tikkun Middot (“personal development”) curriculum and values-based programming
 - Supervised staff and provided feedback, support, mentorship, and conflict resolution skills
 - Connected families at Temple Sinai in Washington, DC to Jewish summer camp, while serving as a liaison to Temple Sinai campers at URJ Camp Harlam during the summers

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- 18 Doors Rukin Rabbinic Fellowship March 2025–Present
- T’ruah: Rabbinic Call for Human Rights — Board Member July 2019–Present
- JOIN for Justice: Jew of Color Organizing Fellowship — Advisory Board Member 2022–2024
- Tisch/Star Fellowship Program — Tisch Fellow 2021–2024
- Jewish Education Project — B’Yachad Fellow 2021–2022
- T’ruah: Rabbinic Call for Human Rights — Year in Israel Fellow 2020–2021
- Jew V’Nation: Jews of Color Leadership Cohort — Fellow 2018–2019

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT

New York Jewish Week’s 36 Under 36

2021

References available upon request