

# Rabbi Kelly Whitehead

RabbiWhitehead@gmail.com

(646) 309-6657

RabbiKellyWhitehead.com

## 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, experiences, events, and offerings, with a focus on Jewish text, justice, identity, and belonging
- 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

### 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 meaningful and innovative work

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**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

**Shared Position: Youth Engagement Specialist, *Temple Sinai*, Washington, DC** 2016-2019

- Planned the Madrichim Program, a leadership opportunity for 40 high school classroom assistants
- Worked 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

**Shared Position: Unit Head, *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
- 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 will be provided upon request