

MICHAEL R. ZEDEK

Michael.Zedek@spst.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Present

Saint Paul School of Theology

Rabbi-in Residence

Teaching one course a semester and available as a resource for the community.

Central Conference of American Rabbis

Senior Advisor

2016 to 2020

Requested by this international body of rabbis to assume this new position, with an emphasis on providing assistance and support to colleagues and for programs internationally and especially in the Midwest.

Emanuel Congregation

July 2004 to June 2016

Chicago, Illinois

Rabbi Emeritus

Receive this honor by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees and Congregation.

Senior Rabbi

- ◆ Helped renew a nearly moribund congregation of 200 families into a vibrant and growing entity, which grew to over 400 families before retirement.
- ◆ Facilitated the implementation of a variety of systems, programs, fundraising efforts and staff enhancements, which, in conjunction with lay leadership, provides a setting for energy and growth.

Jewish Federation of Cincinnati

July 2000 to 2004

Cincinnati, Ohio

Chief Executive Officer

- ◆ Recruited by national search firm to help revitalize an important philanthropic

instrument.

- ◆ Priorities included healing major rifts among community organizations and individuals, energizing staff with appropriate mentoring, supervision and new hires, engaging donor participation in a new model of total financial resource development, facilitate first steps for capital campaign and new governance structure for community Campus for Jewish Life.

- ◆ Established a community wide endowed leadership training program to enrich the level of knowledge for those who serve in congregations, agencies and organizations and, equally, to increase trust among community institutions.

TEMPLE B'NAI JEHUDAH

1974 to 2000

Kansas City, Missouri

Rabbi Emeritus

June 2000

Received this honor by vote of Board of Trustees upon announcement of decision to retire as Senior Rabbi.

Senior Rabbi

1976-2000

- ◆ Membership grew from less than 1400 families to more than 1900.
- ◆ Introduced range of programs, social action projects, outreach activities, worship and educational opportunities that received national recognition and moved a once empty cathedral-like congregation into a vital community institution.
- ◆ Recruited, developed and supervised a talented, active, and long tenured professional staff (3 Rabbis, Cantor, Program Director, Youth Director, 2 Social Work Interns, Administrator, Assistant Administrator). Support staff included 22 full-time employees and 40 part-time faculty.
- ◆ At time of selection as Senior Rabbi, youngest person in the country to head a "giant" congregation.

- ◆ Endowment fund growth from \$300,000 to over \$4 million.
- ◆ Leadership in fund raising campaign for construction of satellite location, renovation of present site and enhancement of endowment. With original goal of \$8 million dollars, raised over \$13 million.
- ◆ Initiated and implemented leadership development program to engage young couples and singles in Reform Judaism and congregational life.
- ◆ Initiated and facilitated alternative and renewal worship services.

Associate Rabbi and Acting Senior Rabbi

1976

- ◆ Facilitated healing of the congregation after the unexpected and difficult early retirement of Senior Rabbi.

Assistant Rabbi

1974-1976

- ◆ Laid groundwork for reinvigorated youth program from age six months to college.
- ◆ Introduced and coordinated Havurah and Pararabbinic programs.

EDUCATION

Hamilton College, Clinton, New York

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy of Religion, June 1968

Thesis: A Jewish View of Jesus

Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio

Rabbinic Ordination and Master of Arts, June 1974

Thesis: The Stones Are Tref - An oral and critical history project with pre-1920 Jewish immigrants to the United States.

Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio

Doctor of Divinity, March 1999

Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas

Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa). December 2004

Post Graduate Seminar: Family Systems Theory, special emphasis on applications to organizations and individuals. Supervisor: Dr. Edwin Friedman, Bethesda, Maryland, 1986 to 1996.

Interim Rabbinic Training Seminar, November 2014.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Alumnus-in-Residence, HUC-JIR, Cincinnati, 1984 and Los Angeles, 1985 * Danforth

Graduate Fellow * Fulbright-Hays Grant for study in the United Kingdom * Phi Beta Kappa *

Captain Dale Award as outstanding Senior, Hamilton Class of 1968 * National Conference of

Christians and Jews Community Honoree, 1988 * State of Israel Bonds Community Service

Award, 1987 * One of twenty-three Americans selected for Anglo-American Successor

Generation Conference, 1986 * Jewish Federation Young Leadership Award, 1977 * Jewish

National Fund Tree of Life Award, 1994 * Health Midwest Corporation Outstanding Citizen

Award, 1994 * Ingram's Magazine Local Hero Award, 1992 * Pro Meritus Award for

outstanding community service presented by Rockhurst University (Jesuit), 1995 * William

Booth Award of the Salvation Army, 1996 * Friends in Deed Award presented by the

Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries, 1998 * Liberation Award of reStart inc.(a rehabilitation and

homeless people's center), 2000.

COMMUNAL ACTIVITIES:

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

- ◆ Scholar in Residence for Bangkok Jewish community, 2016 to 2020
- ◆ Scholar in Residence the Jewish community of Florence, Italy, 2018
- ◆ Scholar in Residence, Beit Simcha, Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1992, 2018
- ◆ HUC-JIR Alumni Association, President - 1989-1992

- ◆ HUC-JIR Board of Governors – 1982-1997
- ◆ United Jewish Appeal National Rabbinic Cabinet, Chairman - 1991-1993
- ◆ Jewish Federations of North America, Exec. Committee of Rabbinic Cabinet -1990-2000
- ◆ Central Conference of American Rabbis, President Midwest Region - 1988-1990,
- ◆ Executive Board 1984-1986, 1988-1990, Chair of Rabbi's Family Committee
- ◆ 1982-1989, Program Committee – 1993-2000, Member of task force for writing of
- ◆ Maklei Zedek, the new Rabbi's Manual, 1988
- ◆ Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Member, Commission on Social Justice,
Chair of Women and Minorities Task Force – 1997-2003, Ethics Committee – 1988-1994,
Committee on the Unaffiliated – 1990-1996.
- ◆ World Union for Progressive Judaism, Chair of Youth Exchange Commission –
- ◆ 1987- 1992, Leader Rabbinic Missions to South Africa, 1988 and 1989, On sight visits to
many WUPJ communities around the world
- ◆ Kansas City Jewish Federation, Executive Committee - 1985-1989
- ◆ Jewish Community Relations Bureau Board Member and Chair of Israel Committee
–1980-2000
- ◆ Kansas City Jewish Federation, Chair of Overseas Committee and Member Planning and
Allocations Committee – 1996-2000
- ◆ Jewish Family Service, Board of Trustees – 2000-2004
- ◆ Chicago Board of Rabbis, Executive Committee – Current
- ◆ Leo Baeck School, North American Board – Current
- ◆ Chicago Association of Reform Rabbis, President – 2015-2017
- ◆ World Zionist Organization Congress, Delegate -- 2015

GENERAL COMMUNITY

- ◆ St. Paul's School of Theology (a United Methodist Seminary), Adjunct Professor in Bible and Midrash - 1985-1991
- ◆ Consortium of seminaries in greater Kansas City, taught first course offered jointly by The four seminaries – 1987-1991
- ◆ Baker University, Jewish Chautauqua Society Adjunct Faculty - 1977 to 2000
- ◆ Rancho La Puerta, a Regular Presenter on Spirituality, Folklore and Stories at North America's Oldest Retreat Center/Resort -Current
- ◆ Board member and Secretary for Arise Chicago, a labor-clergy coalition - Current
- ◆ Board member for Faith in Place, an interfaith environmental justice initiative for Illinois
- ◆ Founding member of Schaalman Senior Voices, a project at Rush University Medical Center and its Center for Aging empowering older adults to impact medical care delivery
- ◆ Gift of Hope Clergy Advisory Council which has responsibility for Illinois organ donations\
- ◆ A founding member of the Midwest Bioethics Center, now the Center for Practical Bioethics
- ◆ Menorah Medical Center Ethics Committee – 1985-2000
- ◆ Shalom Geriatric Center Ethics Committee – 1985-1995
- ◆ Host for weekly radio call-in show on religion, KCMO 710AM - Current
- ◆ Kansas City Police Department, Chaplain – 1975-2000
- ◆ Project Harmony (race relations project), Chair of Religion Task Force - 1989-1991
- ◆ Mayor's Task Force on AIDS - 1986-1990
- ◆ Mayor's Emergency Task Force on Summer Jobs for Youth, Chair - 1993
- ◆ Mayor's Task Force on Race Relations, Chair - 1996
- ◆ Red Flag Commission on Municipal Corruption, Chair – 1997-2000
- ◆ Board of Advisory Editors of the Haworth Pastoral Press - Current

- ◆ Baker University Board of Trustees (United Methodist Affiliated) – 1996-2006
- ◆ Board of Directors of Destination Kansas City (“DKC”) – 1996-2000
- ◆ Children’s Defense Fund, Greater Cincinnati Project Partner- 2000-2004
- ◆ Community Health Advisory Board – Current
- ◆ The Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award Foundation, Chaplain – Current
- ◆ Niagara Foundation, Founder and a presenter for “Scared Seeds,” Jewish, Christian, Muslim Text Study Program – Current
- ◆ Harran Foundation, Board Member – Current
- * Founder and co-host of radio show, Religion on the Line, which just concluded a 29 year run

YOUTH ACTIVITY

- ◆ Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, Summer Faculty – 2005-2008
- ◆ Goldman Union Camp Institute, Zionsville, Indiana, Summer Faculty - 1987-1992
- ◆ Mayor's Council on Youth Development - 1980-1986
- ◆ NFTY National Academy, Warwick, New York, Dean of Students - 1972

PUBLICATIONS

- “Taking Miracles Seriously: A Journey to Everyday Spirituality, Sutherland Book, Toronto , CA, 2023
- ◆ “What Quickens Our Souls?” in Living Torah, Elaine Rose Glickman, Editor, URJ Press, 2005.
- ◆ “A Shining Spirit” in With Joy and Gladness: Memories of Rabbi Gershon Hadas, Bernard Pucker, Editor, Pucker Gallery, 2003.
- ◆ One Man Views the Heartland: A Critical Study of Character and Community, the Charles Kimball Lecture of the University of Missouri, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Spring, 2001.
- ◆ “One Child Plus One Plus One...” the national sample sermon in Joining Hearts, Hands

and Voices to Leave No Child Behind, Children's Defense Fund, 2000.

- ◆ "Religion and Mental Health from the Jewish Perspective" in Handbook of Religion and Mental Health, Harold G. Koenig, Editor, Academic Press, 1998.
- ◆ "Thank God There Are Roses" in Filet of Soul, a collection of spiritual reflections published by the Bishop Sullivan Center, 1998.
- ◆ Book review of Toward a Grammar of Biblical Poetics in CCAR Journal Spring/Summer, 1996.
- ◆ "Jewish Legal Perspectives on Cruzan" in Midwest Medical Ethics - Winter/Spring, 1989.
- ◆ UJA Shabbat Sermonica, Editor, 1984 and 1985.
- ◆ "Community Conversion Agreement - The Kansas City Experience" in Journal of Reform Judaism - Summer, 1984.
- ◆ The American Rabbi - sermons published in a number of issues.
- ◆ Many articles on specific sections of Torah for the World Union for Progressive Judaism.
- ◆ The Orchard (publication of United Jewish Appeal). Contributor in a number of issues.
- ◆ Book review of Hidden Survivors: Portraits of Poor Jews in America in Religious Studies Review - January 1982.
- ◆ "Praying with One's Hands" in Dimensions in American Judaism - Winter, 1970.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Married with two adult daughters, two sons-in-law and four grandchildren.