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HEBREW COLLEGE NAMES RABBI JUSTIN DAVID AS NEW DEAN

NEWTON, MA (February 23, 2023) — Hebrew College today announced that Rabbi Justin David, currently the senior rabbi at [Congregation B'nai Israel](#) in Northampton, MA, has been named as the next Dean of the Rabbinical School. Rabbi David succeeds Rabbi Daniel Judson and will transition into his new role on July 1, 2023.

“I’m thrilled and honored to welcome Rabbi Justin David to Hebrew College as a thought partner and a member of our academic leadership team,” noted Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, President of the College. “He brings more than twenty years of rabbinic experience in a vibrant and creative congregational setting, a passion for rabbinic education, and a commitment to a blend of intellectual rigor, spiritual depth, social responsibility, and concern for the quality of human relationships that is a perfect fit for the Hebrew College community.”

A graduate of the University of Judaism (now Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies) and Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where he was ordained in 1999, Rabbi David served as the senior rabbi at Congregation B’nai Israel for 21 years and is currently finishing his doctorate in education at JTS. The new dean said of his time at CBI, “The community profoundly shaped me as a rabbi and as a person. As a community always looking for deeper meaning, deeper moral purpose in the world, and one that resists the kind of habitual norms that constrain all organizations, my congregation has oriented the way I understand rabbinical leadership as an enterprise of purpose.”

Flowing naturally from his role as a religious leader, he has demonstrated a commitment to activism and peace-building initiatives, including but not limited to a partnership with the Northampton Survival Center; a long history of multi-faith relationship building with local and international communities; and a rich history of environmental justice advocacy. In 2018, [T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights](#) recognized his restorative efforts with the Human Rights Hero Award. Under his strong leadership and mentorship, his congregants developed their own commitment to activism. “It was so important for me to have the community be involved in pressing and sustainable ways. More than my individual involvement, one of the things I’m proudest of as I leave the CBI community is that they own this work in different ways as they move forward.”

In addition to his congregational and educational experience, David is a noted author in the world of Jewish publishing. Writing on a wide range of academic and public oriented topics, his name has appeared in bylines with *Conservative Judaism*, *Jewish Lights Lifelights Series*,



Haaretz, and *My Jewish Learning*. Cascade Books published his [*Longing: Jewish Meditations on a Hidden God*](#) in 2018.

Rabbi Jane Kanarek, Associate Dean of the Rabbinical School and a leading member of the search committee, said, “I am thrilled that Rabbi David will be joining us as Dean of the Rabbinical School. Rabbi David is a thoughtful, grounded and visionary leader who will help us imagine the radically rooted and creative possibilities for rabbinic and cantorial education.”

“Hebrew College has a visionary approach to the training and cultivation of rabbis and Jewish leaders. In my view, this revolutionary understanding comes from not adhering to any narrow visions and finding ways to welcome and learn from them all,” said David.

“I am moved by Hebrew College’s unique learning environment of the most advanced rigor, personal vitality, and general collaboration and kindness. [I am] moved very deeply,” he continued. “I have [also] been a fan of many faculty members for a long time, and meeting them, I have been very moved by the diversity [and pluralism] of the faculty. Everyone impressed me with their depth, openness, and creativity.”

Rabbi Dan Judson, who has served as Dean for the past five years, will assume a new senior leadership role at the college, engaged with placement, community partnerships, and professional development, and will continue his own teaching and scholarship in American Jewish history. *Kol hakavod*, Rabbi Judson!

About Hebrew College

Based in Newton, Massachusetts, Hebrew College is reimagining Jewish learning and leadership for an interconnected world, making our lives more meaningful, our communities more vibrant, and our world more whole. Learn more at hebrewcollege.edu.