

Rabbi Daniel Alexander, Rabbi Emeritus

The Board of Directors of Congregation Beth Israel, Charlottesville, awarded Rabbi Daniel Alexander the title of Rabbi Emeritus following his retirement after his 28 years of rabbinic service, from 1988 -2016. Before coming to CBI, Rabbi Alexander had been the Executive Director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at the University of Virginia from 1979 - 1988. He has also been a part-time Lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies at UVA and frequently has taught for the Chaplaincy Services of the UVA Health System and for gatherings at churches, schools, and civic organizations in the region.

Rabbi Alexander received his rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1979 and was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by HUC-JIR in 2004. In 2002, he received a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Wesley Theological Seminary. He completed a two-year training in Jewish Spiritual Direction in 2007 under the auspices of the Morei Derekh Program and completed the Rabbinic Leadership Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality in 2011. He engaged in several programs of training and practice with the Mussar Institute and has regularly attended the summer Rabbinic Torah Seminar of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.



Retirement from active rabbinic service has opened up new avenues for volunteer engagement. Besides continuing to teach church and other groups, Rabbi Alexander's recent volunteer efforts have included: assisting in an ESL class; serving on **the Board of Directors of the Haven** [a local agency addressing the needs of the homeless and the marginally housed]; serving as a representative on the Sponsoring Committee, **Care for Creation**, an environmental justice initiative of the parent organization of the Interfaith Movement of People Acting in Congregations Together [IMPACT]; serving as a **Court Appointed Special Advocate [CASA]** for children placed into foster care. He is the Vice -president of Programming for the **Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis** and has begun a one-on-one **Spiritual Direction** practice.

Rabbi Alexander has also undertaken several writing projects during retirement. His review of two books of theology, ***The Tragedy Test*** by Richard Agler and ***The Mystery of Suffering and the Meaning of God*** by Anson Laytner, was published in the Fall/Winter 2021 edition of ***The Journal of Reform Judaism***. ***The Mussar Torah Commentary***, a book named as a finalist for a 2020 National Jewish book award, includes a chapter he authored. Still underway, Rabbi Alexander continues to edit the Yom Kippur presentations on the Book of Jonah delivered by congregants at CBI every year since 1988. A published anthology is the goal.

Since their retirement, Rabbi Alexander and his wife have been blessed by the birth of four. These blessings and the continued blessing of living among friends in Charlottesville fuel their ongoing gratitude.