

Rabbi Terry A. Bookman to Receive Doctor of Divinity at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in New York

Rabbi Terry A. Bookman, Rabbi at **Temple Beth Am**, Miami, Florida, and Founder and Director of **Eitzah/Center for Congregational Leadership**, will receive a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, from the **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)**. The degree will be granted at HUC-JIR's New York Graduation ceremony on Thursday, April 30, 2009 at Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York.

Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., announced HUC-JIR alumni recipients who will be awarded honorary Doctorates of Divinity, Music, Jewish Religious Education, and Jewish Communal Service, as well as the Founders' Medallion, in recognition of their 25 years of distinguished professional service.

Rabbi Ellenson said, "Rabbi Bookman's commitment to synagogue life has found expression in the co-founding of Eitzah/The Center for Congregational Leadership, creating effective and vibrant synagogues through education and organizational development. His congregants at Temple Beth Am have been blessed by his loyalty and dedication for more than a decade."

Terry A. Bookman was ordained rabbi by the HUC-JIR/NY in 1984. He holds a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters from HUC-JIR, a Master of Arts in Systematic Theology (Marquette University), and a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities (CUNY). He received certification in the areas of secondary education, language arts, and communication from the University of Colorado. In 1988 he received national recognition as a Reform Jewish Educator. He has published numerous articles on a wide range of contemporary issues, as well as educational programs and curriculum, poetry and music. Rabbi Bookman was a Fellow at the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy in Chicago, and has extensive pastoral counseling experience.

The Rabbi is the author of *The Busy Soul: Ten Minute Spiritual Workouts Drawn from Jewish TRADITION*, and *God 101*, (both published by Putnam Press) as well as *A Soul's Journey*. A fourth book, *This House We Build: Creating Healthy Synagogues* was released in 2007. Together with Cantor Rachelle Nelson, he has written and produced their three CD's, "Bless Our Days" and "Bless Our Years," and "Bless Our Holy Days."

The Rabbi is co-founder of Eitzah/The Center for Congregational Leadership, whose mission is to strengthen the capacities of congregational leaders, lay and professional, to create effective, vibrant synagogues through education, training, coaching, research, and organizational development.

Rabbi Bookman is married to Karen Sobel, herself a Jewish Educator, and is the father of four sons – Ariel, Jonah, Micah, and Jesse.

For more information on the HUC-JIR Graduation, Investiture, and Ordination ceremonies in New York, Los Angeles, and Cincinnati, please visit <http://www.huc.edu/newspubs/pressroom/article.php?pressroomid=271>.

*Founded in 1875, **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion** is the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR educates men and women for service to American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and communal service professionals, and offers graduate and post-graduate programs to scholars of all faiths. With centers of learning in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC-JIR's scholarly resources comprise renowned library and museum collections, the American Jewish Archives, biblical archaeology excavations, research institutes and centers, and academic publications. HUC-JIR invites the community to an array of cultural and educational programs which illuminate Jewish history, identity, and contemporary creativity and which foster interfaith and multiethnic understanding. Visit us at www.huc.edu.*

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