

Rabbi Ian D. Morris to Receive Doctor of Divinity at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in New York

Rabbi Ian D. Morris, rabbi at **Sinai Synagogue**, Leeds, United Kingdom, 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 Morris, a native of Australia, has been privileged to serve in small communities there, utilizing his rich learning and unique skills to develop interfaith relations. His rabbinate at Sinai Synagogue has been involved in Synagogue Transformation, a pilot project begun in the United States to respond to the ever-evolving challenges facing synagogues and its members."

Before coming to Leeds in 1996, Rabbi Morris served congregations in Perth, Western Australia and in Adelaide, South Australia

He has served as the Chairman of the Assembly of Rabbis of the Movement for Reform Judaism (then known as the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain – RSGB), as well as the Chairman of the Council of Reform Rabbis in Australia and New Zealand. He currently also sits on the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum (of which he is a Foundation member) as one of the 2 designated Jewish delegates, as well as on the Executive of the Leeds Council of Christians and Jews.

He attended Monash University (obtaining a BA in English and History) and the University of New South Wales (obtaining a post-graduate Diploma of Education), before training for the Rabbinate (and obtaining an MAHL) at the HUC-JIR in Jerusalem and New York.

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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