**Cantor Dana S. Anesi, D. Min.**

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# SUMMARY

Jewish professional with strong record of enduring congregational and professional relationships. Extensive synagogue and Jewish communal expertise and experience. Confident decision-maker and problem solver; articulate; resourceful. Strong proficiency in oral and written communications, including public speaking, writing & editing. Ability to balance and integrate multiple priorities, while working in complex and demanding environment.

# ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE 2012-present

Director of Student Fieldwork,

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music

* Point person for engaging congregations and organizations to provide internships and expand job placement opportunities for student cantors in North America
* Advises and counsels students on congregational dynamics, resume writing, interviewing skills, and other related topics
* Supports students by facilitating, promoting, and coordinating contacts with employers, and other resources
* Documents program activity, tracks student placement in jobs and internships, analyzes data, and presents periodic reports to the Program Director and Joint Cantorial Placement Commission of the Reform Movement
* Complies and coordinates as needed with all College-Institute administrative policies and procedures as well as pertinent state and federal regulations
* Maintains and updates employment files and data bases; analyzes job descriptions; tracks employment trends for Reform movement
* Stays current with worship, musical, and other relevant trends in the contemporary synagogue and Jewish life
* Monitors and advises mentor relationships, including periodic meetings with mentoring clergy; creation and dissemination of evaluation materials; provides updates to Program Director and other faculty as needed
* Regularly participates in professional, campus and College-Institute activities, including liaising with colleagues in multiple programs and in other institutions

**RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Instructor, URJ Introduction to Judaism course **2018-20**

# CONGREGATIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Cantor, Temple of Universal Judaism (Da’at Elohim), New York, New York**  **2014-2021** Created innovative and inspiring worship for extremely diverse membership, with rabbinic partner; responsible for music programing, including hiring and supervision of additional music professionals, and directing professional choir; life cycle officiation; *b’nei mitzvah* tutoring

**Cantor, Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, Chappaqua, New York** **1982-2013**

* Engaged and encouraged members to connect with their Judaism in both formal and informal settings, meeting congregants where they are in their own Jewish lives
* Accompanied families through the life cycle, officiating at weddings, funerals, *b’nei mitzvah*; baby-namings; provided pastoral guidance and education, including leading of bereavement group
* Worked collaboratively with the educational team comprised of other clergy, and the directors of congregational learning and pre-school
* Built upon and enhanced worship with communal singing and participation, including youth choir
* Helped create a culture of participation with Torah and *Haftarah* readers for Holy Days
* Led and collaborated as part of educational team to train *b’nei mitzvah*
* Developed curriculum for musical programming in religious and pre-schools
* Regularly led Torah study and numerous adult education classes
* Participated in community events as “ambassador” of congregation and clergy to larger community.
* Communicated effectively and frequently with membership and staff
* Attentive to and compliant with synagogue policies relating to honoraria, discretionary funds, personnel practices, sabbatical, financial practices, and other approved policies and procedures.
* Pursued collaborative opportunities to strengthen clergy team, education professionals, staff, and lay leaders.

# EDUCATION

**Doctor of Ministry**, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion **2010**

Thesis/Project: *Deepening the Experience: Potential for Spiritual, Moral & Psychological Growth in B’nei Mitzvah*

**Certificate**, Hebrew University & *Metiv*: Israel Psychotrauma Center, Jerusalem: **2012** *Trauma and Resilience: Theory and Practice from the Israeli Experience*

**Certificate** **in Clinical Pastoral Education**, Postgraduate Center for Mental Health

**Honorary Doctorate**, HUC-JIR **2005**

**Bachelor of Sacred Music & Ordination as Cantor 1980**

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, School of Sacred Music, New York, NY

# PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member, Advisory Committee of Concerned Clergy for Choice, Planned Parenthood **2012**-**present**

Chair, HUC-JIR Alumni Council **2008-10**

Member, Board of Governors, HUC-JIR (1st non-rabbinic alum appointed) **2008-12**

Presenter, URJ Biennial Learning Session: “Raising the Bar” **2011**

Co-facilitator, Bereavement Conference workshops **2008, 2009**

Co-facilitator, midlife women cantors’ discussion group **2008-2011**

Chair, Joint Cantorial Placement Commission (JCPC) **2003-07**

President, and Co-President of Cantorial Alumni Association, DFSSM **1999-2002**

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Conservative Yeshiva, Jerusalem, Israel **2008, 2010, 2011,**

**2020 (remote)**

Alumni Seminar, HUC-JIR, Jerusalem, Israel, **2007**

Hartman Institute, Rabbinic Torah Study Seminar, Jerusalem, Israel **2006**

# PUBLICATIONS

Union for Reform Judaism: *Eilu V’Eilu*, Volume 30, Weeks 1-4: “Should Reform Judaism Have Boundaries?” American Conference of Cantors: “Notes Worth Knowing”; Music for Shabbat honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Union for Reform Judaism: “Ten Minutes of Torah”—Delving into *T’filah*: Creative Music for *Hakafot*

**Musical programs organized and presented:**

Afro-Semitic Experience|Cantor Bruce Benson’s “Rock Service”|Danny Maseng & Soul on Fire|Entartete Musik: Lost Music of the Holocaust|Seeds of Sun |Herencia Judaia: Music of the Caribbean Jews|“A Tale of Three Cities”: Music of Naumbourg, Lewandowski & Sulzer|Chichester Psalms, Leonard Bernstein; The Creation, Aaron Copeland; and King David, Arthur Honegger, with temple & local church choirs|Composer-in-residence, Cantor Robert

Solomon|Concerts by Safam; Beged Kefet|Cantors’ Coffeehouse|Yale University’s a cappella group, Magevet