

**RABBI DAVID ARIEL-JOEL** was born in Jerusalem, and ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem in 1994. He held positions as rabbi for Har-El Congregation, the first Reform congregation in Israel; as Director for the Progressive Beit Midrash; as Director of the Education and Culture Department for Beit Shmuel; and Executive Director and Educational Director of Hamdat, the Association for the Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture in Israel. A founding member of Kibbutz Lotan, the second Reform Kibbutz in Israel, Rabbi David has dual American and Israeli citizenship. For four years, he served in the paratroopers unit of the Israel Defense Forces.

Before coming to Louisville, he served for four years as Executive Director for the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), the Reform Movement in Israel. He represented the IMPJ on an international level and overseeing all aspects of the organization. He also served on the boards of the Council of Reform Rabbis, the Joint Conversion Institute - where Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Rabbis teach more than 2,000 people - and at the Israel Religious Action Center. His role was all-encompassing, including the oversight of everything from fundraising and public relations to problem solving, education, special events and publications, as well as maintaining contact with affiliated congregations and institutions in Israel.

Rabbi David enjoyed his position but started to feel that it left little time for scholarship or ministry. He yearned to return to the teaching and pastoral work of a pulpit rabbi. When the opportunity arose, Rabbi David chose to come to America. He is now Senior Rabbi at The Temple, the oldest and largest Jewish congregation in Kentucky, and an adjunct faculty member at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He is the head of Adult Education, the B'nei Mitzvah Training Program at The Temple, and the Caring Committee. He is the Religious & Hebrew School Rabbinic Liaison, as well as the 7/8th Grade Hebrew Teacher in The Temple's Religious School. Rabbi David created and teaches in the Temple Scholars program and is the Rabbinic Liaison to Chavurat Shalom.

Rabbi David has said that in years of teaching and ministering at the Temple, his own personal faith has been strengthened, has grown and in some ways, has changed. "In America, interfaith marriages are common, and originally, I did not officiate at them. But I have since realized that the future of our community is in reaching out to all its members, and that it is my religious duty to provide service to all our members. We can serve our members' needs best by supporting their personal decisions and creating the opportunity for a meaningful religious ceremony during an important time in their life. I hope that I am contributing to preserve and ensure the future of Jewish life in Louisville by doing so. I am proud that our Temple is an inclusive congregation, where all are welcomed and all are treated equally."

Rabbi David has edited three books: *Baruch She'assani Isha* (Praised be the One Who Made Me a Woman) about the women in Judaism from biblical times to the present, *The War of Gog and*

*Magog: The Jewish Messianic Idea, and Who is a Jew in Our Times?* He wrote about the portion “Be-ha’alotekha” for the book *Opening the Week*. He has also published articles in scholarly journals.

Rabbi David has been one of the most valued partners, as well as contributors, of *The Salaam Network (TSN)* since 2017. He has participated as a Jewish speaker in a number of *TSN*’s programs on the three Abrahamic traditions. His profound learning and wisdom make him an exceptional teacher. He has also offered a warm and welcoming space for important educational programs to *TSN* which is deeply appreciative of his support in the promotion of interfaith understanding in our Beloved Community.