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Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire First Shabbat Service at Central Reform Temple of Boston

Boston, MA (July 1, 2022) – Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire conducted his first Shabbat service as rabbi at Central Reform Temple of Boston (CRT) on July 1, 2022. Rabbi Shire joins CRT following Rabbi Howard A. Kosovske who has served as rabbi and Transitional Specialist beginning in July 2020 after the retirement of our founding rabbi, Howard A. Berman.

Before the service Rabbi Shire said, "I am so looking forward to being together and meeting you for my inaugural service on July 1st whether in presence or online and our Torah study on July 2nd online. Also we have organized some small meet and greet opportunities over the summer as a time just to say hello and get to know one another. I hope to see you at one of these. There is much joy in all of these beginnings for all of us to share."



Rabbi Dr. Michael Shire



Temple President Richard A. Daynard commented, "For CRT, the arrival of Rabbi Shire is a dream come true. He brings an extraordinary depth and breadth of knowledge, which he wears lightly, and has great personal warmth and kindness. With Rabbi Shire on board, we can bring new activities and new members to our thriving progressive Newbury Street congregation."

The Rev. Pamela L. Werntz, Rector, Emmanuel Church shared, "On behalf of Emmanuel Church, I welcome Rabbi Shire to the honorary position of Rabbi in Residence. I look forward to working side by side with him as we lead our congregations in writing the next chapter in our remarkable story of deep interfaith collaboration. As congregational partners in a long-term covenant relationship, we practice modeling compassionate encounters between Judaism and Christianity that acknowledge the difficult challenges of history and aspire to new levels of understanding, while remaining faithfully rooted in our own distinct religious traditions. I am

confident that Rabbi Shire's gifts of extensive scholarship and lived commitment to making spiritual and moral meaning through story, wonder, and play, will nourish and inspire our communities."

Michael Shire grew up in the UK in the Liberal Jewish Movement and studied for a BA Hons in Hebrew and Jewish Studies at University College London. He subsequently enrolled at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in New York for a Master's in Religious Education and then a PhD in Jewish Education at HUC-JIR and University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Concurrently he served as Director of Education at Temple Beth Hillel, a large Reform Temple in the San Fernando Valley. He returned to the UK to become Director of the newly established Centre for Jewish Education and studied for rabbinic ordination at Leo Baeck College in London. Working as a Jewish educational leader, he served a number of part-time and High Holy Day pulpits in Britain and Ireland and he is currently the High Holy Day rabbi for the Oxford Jewish Centre in the UK. In 2005 he became the fulltime Sabbatical replacement for the senior rabbi of Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, VA, one of the largest Reform synagogues in the United States.

In 2011 Rabbi Shire and his family relocated back to the United States to take up the position of Dean of the School of Jewish Education and Chief Academic Officer at Hebrew College in Boston. In 2022 Rabbi Shire will assume the position of Professor of Jewish Education at Hebrew College as he takes on the part-time spiritual leadership of Central Reform Temple. He continues as the founder director of Torah Godly Play, a Torah pedagogy based on his research on the spiritual life of children and as a trustee of The Pursuit of History which sponsors History Camp Boston and other programs for history lovers

Rabbi Shire is married to Rabbi Marcia Plumb, Senior rabbi of Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Brookline. They have two adult children, Anya is a senior at Brandeis University majoring in Studio Art and Psychology and Micah is a 2nd year Chemical Engineering student at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

For more information visit CRTBoston.org and [Central Reform Temple on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8).