



# Clergy Leadership Program



“Spirituality is a view of religion that sees its primary task as cultivating and nourishing the human soul or spirit. Each person, according to this view, has an inner life that [they] may choose to develop; this ‘inwardness’ goes deeper than the usual object of psychological investigation and cannot fairly be explained in Freudian or other psychological terms. Ultimately, it is ‘transpersonal,’ reaching beyond the individual and linking [them] to all other selves and to the single Spirit or Self of the universe we call God. God is experientially accessible through the cultivation of this inner life.”

— Arthur Green, *Restoring the Aleph: Judaism for the Contemporary Seeker*

**Your role as a Jewish spiritual leader** is complex and demanding, and the needs of the Jewish community, and the world at large, are increasingly urgent. The past two years have been particularly challenging and many clergy are spiritually and emotionally depleted. As clergy, you need ways to renew and reenergize in order to continue your sacred service to your congregants and communities. The IJS Clergy Leadership Program is designed to help you.

**We all serve best—with resilience, wisdom, and empathy—when we are grounded in meaningful spiritual practice**, when our spiritual needs are met, and when we are aware of the fundamental sanctity, interconnection, and interdependence of all beings. Through our own spiritual development, we catalyze transformation more broadly—interpersonally, institutionally, and communally. When we can practice mindful leadership, enriched by Jewish spiritual and mystical traditions, we can more skillfully engage our inner lives as a key force for personal and global transformation.

**The Institute for Jewish Spirituality invites you**, as a Jewish spiritual leader, to join the more than 500 other Jewish professionals who have nurtured their spiritual lives and developed their spiritual practice through the Clergy Leadership Program (CLP). You will join a diverse cohort of 40 Jewish spiritual leaders in an immersive, inclusive retreat and practice-based program designed to deepen your spiritual life.

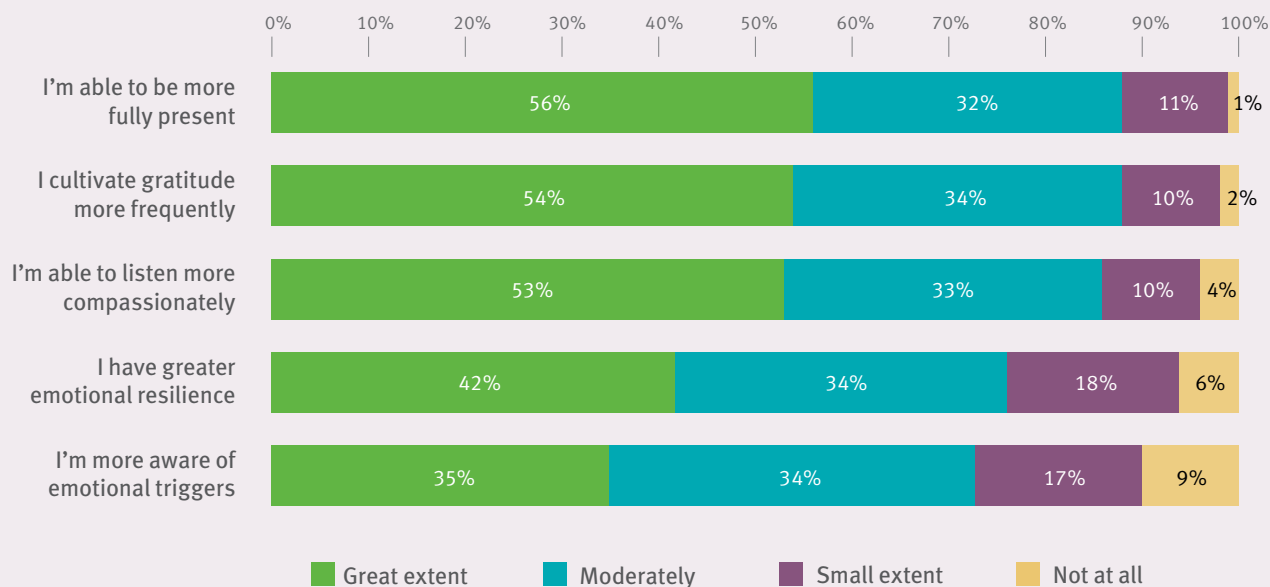
**Over the eighteen months of this program**, you will renew yourself spiritually while developing a personal spiritual practice grounded in mindfulness to cultivate resilience, authenticity, clarity, responsiveness, and a sense of sacred purpose with which to better serve your community. Grounded in contemplative practice, you will become more able to integrate your body, heart, mind, and soul into a sense of leadership grounded in wholeness that sustains you and those you serve.

“IJS introduced me to a form of Jewish spirituality that has enhanced my rabbinate and my life in such profound ways. I’m so grateful to pay it forward to my community.”

— Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, Central Synagogue, New York, NY

## Participating in CLP Changes Lives

### Personal Impact



### Professional Impact

97%

Say they use something from IJS in their teaching

92%

Say their experience influenced their approach to leading, facilitating, and teaching

91%

Say they used something they learned from IJS in their sermons or prayer services

“I don’t know what I’d be doing without my IJS training at this time. My IJS skills are the only coping mechanisms that work. God bless you and your colleagues. I am grateful, admiring, and beyond appreciative.” — **CLP Alum**, April 2020

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“We work to amplify and extend our consciousness so that our spiritual perception is not a fleeting spark but a sustained awareness.”

— **Kalonimus Kalman Shapira (1889-1943)**,  
Rebbe of the Warsaw Ghetto

### Practice Self-Care

The mindfulness practices that IJS teaches will help you learn to slow down, still yourself, and hold your own heart with compassion. As you cultivate inner quiet, you will deepen your access to a nourishing inner source of vitality, sacred purpose, and loving connection. The spiritual practices you learn in community on retreat and sustain during the interim periods between retreats will help you show up in your personal and professional life with greater calm, balance, clarity, and resilience. This, in turn, will help you respond with greater wisdom and compassion to the many demands and challenges of life in general, and life as a Jewish spiritual leader in particular. Special attention will be paid to the needs of JOC, LGBTQ+, and participants with disabilities to ensure space and program content that promotes their well-being.

### Cultivate Dimensions of the Soul

The Clergy Leadership Program is designed to help you grow in consciousness and character. You will explore ideas about the nature of the spiritual self and God through study and discussion—and experientially through meditation, prayer, song, yoga/mindful movement, and spiritual direction. Text study focuses primarily on the Hasidic tradition as a source of inspiration and practical instruction, taught in a neo-Hasidic idiom that is fully egalitarian and inclusive. Prayer and meditation are informed by both classical Rabbinic and Hasidic traditions. At the same time, our faculty aspire to center and elevate marginalized Jewish voices and experiences. Over time, the program will help you develop greater access to the soul dimension of your being, leading to greater authenticity as well as equanimity grounded in compassion for self and others, all leading to more flexible, responsive, and skilled leadership.

### Grow in Community

One of the most important ingredients in sustaining spiritual growth is the support of community. Over the program’s eighteen months, we cultivate a strong sense of community, with members who support each other’s growth and practice in an atmosphere of safety, honesty, and depth. You will be supported in your growth through periodic calls with faculty, learning and practicing with a *chevruta* partner, and larger group meetings.

“The faculty of IJS have become my greatest teachers, rabbis, and mentors. I went nearly 20 years through rabbinical school and serving as a rabbi without kindred mentors until I began with IJS. My life is forever enriched and nourished because of these extraordinary teachers, who for the first time, speak the language of my Jewish soul.” – CLP Alum

### Retreats

CLP is a retreat-based program of study and practice. Participants live and learn together during four retreats held at six-month intervals, each lasting five days. Retreats combine prayer, meditation, text study, singing/chanting, and embodied practice. Participants learn and practice through group discussion, paired study, and deep listening. They also receive one-on-one guidance with faculty members.

One of the most direct paths to non-judgmental self-knowledge, compassion, and social responsibility is through contemplative practice while on retreat—with minimal distractions related to family life, work obligations, or professional roles. **To help cultivate inner reflection, participants are expected to maintain silence from the end of each evening’s activities through the following day’s lunch.** Even during the afternoons, however, participants hold a contemplative stance.

### Interim Study

The periods between retreats are an essential part of the program. You will continue to learn and grow through sustained practice of mindfulness meditation or yoga/mindful movement, a guided program of weekly *chevruta* study, and regular contact with faculty.

### Participants

Participants join from across denominational backgrounds, and they serve in a range of roles and settings, including synagogue rabbis and cantors, educators, chaplains, ritualists, and clergy at educational and activist organizations. This diversity enriches the CLP experience.

### Faculty

CLP is led by an outstanding faculty, each of whom is deeply committed to supporting the spiritual and professional growth of each participant. Faculty members include:



Rabbi Sam  
Feinsmith  
(he/him)



Rabbi  
Myriam Klotz  
(she/they)



Rabbi Dorothy  
Richman  
(she/her)



Cantor  
Richard Cohn  
(he/him)



Cantor Elizabeth  
Shammash  
(she/her)

They are students, teachers, and practitioners of Hasidic, Kabbalistic and modern Jewish texts, sacred music, Jewish meditation, spiritual direction, yoga/embodied practice, and psycho-spiritual growth.

## Apply Online

### Locations

Winter retreats take place at the Brandeis Bardin campus of the American Jewish University in Simi Valley, CA. Our summer 2023 retreat will take place at Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD. The location for the summer 2024 retreat is to be determined. Food will be kosher. Retreats will begin on Sunday evening and conclude on Friday morning.

### Retreat Dates

- January 22–27, 2023
- July 16–21, 2023
- January 28–February 2, 2024
- July 14–19, 2024

### Costs

**Tuition** includes all program and retreat costs, including room and board. All participants stay in single rooms at retreats. We offer tuition at three levels. Level 1 covers the full cost of your participation.

- *Level 1:* 4 payments of \$3,250
- *Level 2:* 4 payments of \$2,250
- *Level 3:* 4 payments of \$1,500

“What IJS has given me is invaluable — infusing my Jewish practice and my leadership with mindfulness, a deep connection to my body, and the understanding and language to draw others into contemplative practice.”

— **Rabbi Rachel Timoner**, Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn NY

Participants commit to a single tuition level for the full extent of the program. Tuition will be split into four equal payments. The first payment is due upon commitment to the program, and subsequent payments are due at the time of registration for the last three retreats.

### Financial Support

Financial support is available upon request. Jews of Color, LGBTQ+, and participants with disabilities will receive priority support.

### Deadline

Applications are due by June 15, 2022.

We strongly encourage JOC, LGBTQ+, and participants with disabilities to apply. Admissions decisions will be shared with all applicants in early September 2022.

### Application Fee

The program has an application fee of \$120, which also grants you access to the IJS 8-week, online course, *The Gift of Awareness*. This course provides instruction in the fundamentals of Jewish mindfulness meditation. Prior to attending the first retreat, all participants are required to complete the course, which will be available to all applicants in the fall of 2022, regardless of whether or not one is accepted into the program.

### For More Information

Please contact Rabbi Sam Feinsmith, Program Director, at (646) 851-0133 ext. 012 or [sam@jewishspirituality.org](mailto:sam@jewishspirituality.org).

### To Apply

Applications are available online at: [ijs.regfox.com/clp5-application](https://ijs.regfox.com/clp5-application).

**All applications must be received by June 15, 2022.**