

Rabbi Y. Kliel Rose was born in Jerusalem to a rabbinical family and grew up in Winnipeg, Canada. Kliel earned a BA in Judaic studies from Gratz College, in Philadelphia, after which he studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary. As a student, Kliel served a number of congregations in New York and one community in London, England, under the auspices of Masorati Olami. As a senior rabbinical student, Kliel received the prestigious Rabbi Marshal T. Meyer Rabbinic Fellowship at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in New York. He was ordained in 2005.

Rabbi Rose served as Rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Miami Beach, Florida, before becoming the Rabbi of West End Synagogue in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2008.

Kliel's community work includes service on various boards: The Nashville Board of Rabbis, The Jewish Federation of Nashville, Akiva Day School, the advisory committee of St. Thomas Hospital's Clinical Pastoral Education program, The Nashville Conflict and Mediation Center, and Community Nashville.

Kliel's work in Sichat Rabbanim is aimed to support and enrich his involvement with social justice as it is both learned and lived within the synagogue community and in the larger Nashville community. He sees the value of his study with Rabbi Sager in his own description of further community building:

My learning as a Ben Sicha has been directed to various aspects of the theme of Social Justice as that concept is developed in ancient traditions of Hesed and Tzedakah.

I approached this personally valuable theme with an eye towards how I might share it and seed it in many levels of community learning and practice. Together with Rabbi Sager and our synagogue educator, we came up with a model of synagogue wide education. In this model, some aspects of Hesed will learned and enacted through the school, through a parallel parent learning program, and through congregation wide projects.

West End Synagogue is now seeing a fabulous rebirth of effort in the area of Social Justice. I truly believe this had much to do with my Sichat Rabbanim work.

Our learning has helped me to stimulate learning that has led to some great volunteer work and dialogue about "food justice" and about economic disparity within the public schools. We are partnering with local social welfare agencies to help a population that is vastly different than the makeup of our particular synagogue community

Hesed is also the likely topic of an Interfaith Bet Midrash-Learning Project in which clergy and lay leaders from all religious communities share the insights of Jewish tradition on a theme that broadly characterizes the good work of religious communities.

My association with Sicha and Sichat Rabbanaim has also made me familiar with B'almah – a Sicha program in which ancient texts dealing with loss are brought into conversation with the lived experience of loss. I see the B'almah project as a possibly viable initiative to bring to our community. It will be especially helpful to the local burial society and to committees of the various synagogues. Even here the theme of Hesed continues, as "hesed," "loyal kindness" is precisely what Jewish community offers to those in grief. We would like to see B'almah become a community resource.