



Dear Members of the JTS Community,

It is with deep gratitude, humility, and excitement that I prepare to serve as the next Chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary. It is an honor to join an institution that has shaped Jewish life, including my own, for generations, and that plays a vital role at a moment of both challenge and opportunity for the Jewish community.

Thanks to the stewardship of my predecessors, including Chancellors Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Arnie Eisen, and Ismar Schorsch, as well as the dedication of our esteemed faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and supporters, JTS enters this transition from a position of remarkable strength. I envision the next chapter of JTS to be one that not only upholds what others before me have built, but also one that expands JTS's ability to help Jews across North America live more inspired and empowered Jewish lives.

My ambition for JTS is rooted in a deep, personal connection. My years in the Rabbinical School were among the most formative of my life, during which my teachers and fellow students challenged me to think rigorously, engage seriously with Jewish text and tradition, and appreciate the power of diverse perspectives. That experience has guided my work ever since, and it is one of the many reasons I am proud to return to JTS now.

Over the past 20 years, a cornerstone of my rabbinic work has been to pioneer new ways to engage those who feel disconnected from Jewish life and foster greater access to Jewish wisdom, ritual, values, and community. Returning to JTS, I see an

opportunity to apply these decades of experience to help JTS expand on its rich history and play a transformative role in building a brighter Jewish future in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

JTS will always remain steadfastly committed to educating and inspiring generations of students and leaders who will shape Jewish life. The JTS campus is a powerful gravitational center for Jewish leadership—a place where ideas are exchanged, relationships are forged, and the future is shaped. At the same time, as communities across the continent are searching for new ways to revitalize their connection to Jewish life in this moment of turbulence and change, JTS's authentic and accessible approach to Jewish life has the power to reach far beyond the campus walls.

That is the work we will take on together, and I am grateful for the opportunity to build on the extraordinary foundation already in place.

Thank you for all that you do to sustain and strengthen JTS. I look forward to the next chapter we will write together.

Warmly,

Rabbi Mike Uram  
Chancellor Elect  
The Jewish Theological Seminary