

## Senior Cantor Michael Shochet

Cantor Michael Shochet is one of the Senior Clergy at Temple Rodef Shalom, having joined the clergy staff in 1998. Cantor Shochet was Ordained as Cantor in 1994 from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, where he also received his Masters of Sacred Music degree. Following ordination, Cantor Shochet served as the first Cantor of Temple Sinai of New Orleans, before taking the position of Temple Rodef Shalom's first Cantor. In 2008, Shochet was promoted to Senior Cantor. He oversees the musical, cultural and B'nai Mitzvah programs of the congregation and shares the pastoral duties with the other Rabbis and Cantors.

Cantor Shochet gained recognition in the Reform movement through his leadership positions with the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) and the Union for Reform Judaism. He has served on the board of trustees and as Vice President of the American Conference of Cantors and co-edited the current lifecycle manual for American Cantorate used in Reform congregations worldwide. Cantor Shochet also served for many years on the Reform movement's Joint Commission on Synagogue Music and currently serves on numerous national and local committees of the ACC.

As a former police officer with the Baltimore City Police Department, Cantor Shochet focuses his Cantorate and pastoral work on public safety chaplaincy. He is certified as a Senior Police Chaplain through the International Conference of Police Chaplains and serves as the Chaplain Coordinator of the Fairfax County Police Department, Chair and Co-Founder of the Fairfax County Community Chaplain Corps, and Chaplain with the Central Intelligence Agency. He is the immediate past chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Public Safety Chaplain's Committee, and former chaplain for the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Cantor Shochet is trained in advanced Critical Incident Stress Management and in other areas of pastoral crisis intervention. Cantor Shochet was certified in 2006 as an Auxiliary Police Officer in Fairfax County and is a guest instructor at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy. He has won numerous awards and commendations for his leadership from Fairfax County, Jewish community organizations and other community groups.

Cantor Shochet lives in McLean with his wife, Denise and has two adult sons, Jake and Zack, both musicians.