

Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel Biography

Daniel G. Zemel served as senior rabbi of Temple Micah in Washington, DC, from 1983-2025. As a congregational rabbi, he viewed his primary role to be cultural translator—grappling with the challenge of translating our inherited Judaism into a theology and practice that speaks to our place and time.

Rabbi Zemel pursued his undergraduate education at Brown University and his rabbinic education at the Hebrew Union College -Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem and New York.

Over the years, he has been involved in numerous community and Jewish organizations but derives greatest satisfaction from being a founder of Micah House, a group home for formerly homeless women in recovery from addiction. His twenty-year involvement with Synagogue 2000 was instrumental in shaping his vision of synagogue life and the role of rabbi.

Rabbi Zemel has written many articles and essays on a wide variety of Jewish topics; he contributed an essay to each volume of the *Prayers of Awe* series, a multi-volume commentary on the High Holy Day liturgy edited by Rabbi Larry A. Hoffman. Rabbi Zemel published *A Time to Speak*, a book of his sermons and writings, in 2019, followed by *A Time to Reflect* in 2025.

A native of Chicago, Rabbi Zemel received his earliest Jewish and secular education at the Anshe Emet Day School. He is married to Louise Sherman Zemel. They are blessed with three children and four grandchildren. He regards the latter as his best friends. Rabbi Zemel is a devoted, passionate, lifelong fan of the Chicago White Sox. His favorite pastimes include being in Israel, reading, and annually napping in his *succah* dreaming of a return trip to the World Series for his beloved team.