

Madrikh: UMJC Licensure

A course in leadership for Messianic Jewish men and women

Imagine a Messianic Judaism filled with leaders, men and women who read the scriptures of Israel, who know the traditions and history, who are conversant with the texts and issues that people in the Jewish community and in the broader world wonder about. Imagine a Messianic Judaism with many Torah scholars who can instruct and help those who would know more about God.

The Jewish community promotes education, and Messianic Judaism has the potential for an abundance of Torah teachers in its midst. Becoming a teacher, a respected guide, in a Messianic Jewish synagogue does not mean leaving your current work and seeking full-time employment as a congregational rabbi. Nor does it require a four-year program of full-time study which is beyond your means.

The UMJC Madrikh Program is a part-time, two-year course of learning to set you on a lifetime adventure of study and leadership. If you are already functioning as an elder, cantor, Torah reader, teacher, or in any other form of leadership and service in the synagogue, the Madrikh Program is especially for you. If you are not serving yet in leadership, the Madrikh Program will prepare you.

A Madrikh or Madrikhah* is a guide or teacher. The Messianic Jewish community needs many educated and mentored leaders to make a movement that will change the world.

The time to study is now, despite the many reasons people find to put off education, Yeshua's disciples had to lay aside their occupations and follow. Torah scholars throughout history have sacrificed, working extra hours in spite of busy careers and growing families. Yet, with the right balance and plenty of love for God and people, we are up to the task in Messiah.

The ten-course program may be completed at either Messianic Jewish Theological Institute (MJTI) or Netzer David Yeshiva, a branch of St. Petersburg Theological Seminary. Both are approved schools in the UMJC and have complete course options for



"I chose the UMJC Madrikh program because it is the most respected program so far in preparing leaders for Messianic Jewish ministry. The program raises the bar to a new height, preparing better equipped leaders for the future. For those pursuing leadership at any level within the Messianic Jewish movement, I strongly recommend the Madrikh program."

Rabbi Joshua Brumbach,
UMJC Young Adult Liaison
Former Madrikh student

* Madrikhah is the feminine form of the Hebrew word Madrikh, meaning guide or teacher.

Madrikh and Madrikhah candidates. Coursework includes theology, Bible survey, training in speaking, and practical courses in spirituality and Jewish life.

Program

The Madrikh Program provides a core curriculum of ten courses.



“It takes more than a rabbi to grow a successful messianic synagogue. Trained leaders are necessary at all levels, and this program provides training for effective service in a variety of capacities. In addition, licensure provides evidence of the calling and accountability of each individual – an essential ingredient to any successful program. I recommend the Madrikh program to anyone interested in messianic leadership at any level.”

Howard Silverman,
UMJC President and
RO'I Instructor

Academic courses (offered online):

1. Messianic Jewish Theology
2. Tanakh: The Beginnings of Judaism and the Jewish People
3. Apostolic Writings: The Early Messianic Jewish Community
4. Jewish Practices in a Messianic Context
5. Messianic Jewish Spirituality

Professional development courses (normally offered as intensive seminars at UMJC conferences and events, and occasionally online):

1. The Personal Life of the Spiritual Leader
2. Congregational Growth and Development
3. The Basics of Synagogue Worship
4. Effective Public Speaking
5. The History of Judaism and the Jewish People

Equivalency: Formal or informal learning may be used to meet the requirements for the five professional development courses (the online Jewish History course and the four live courses listed above), as evaluated and approved by the UMJC Credentials Committee.

The program also involves a one-year mentoring relationship with a UMJC leader, and a reading plan that will take students through the entire Bible twice during the two years. Because a Madrikh is a guide in Jewish life and Scripture, he or she will also be required to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Hebrew.

How to Apply

Go to www.umjc.net and look under the Education tab for the Madrikh Program. If you have questions, you may contact the program coordinator, Rabbi Barney Kasdan, directly at bkasdan@kehilatariel.org.

To be eligible for admission to the licensure program, students must possess an undergraduate degree and participate in a UMJC congregation.



Rabbi Barney Kasdan
UMJC Credentials Chair
and Madrikh Coordinator

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