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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IISHJ Ordains Machar's Jeremy Kridel as a Secular Humanistic Rabbi

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. – Jeremy Kridel, the spiritual leader of [Machar](#), the Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism, was ordained here Friday, Nov. 10th as a secular humanistic rabbi.

Humanistic Judaism embraces a human-centered philosophy that celebrates Jewish culture without supernatural underpinnings. Kridel's ordination was performed at the Birmingham Temple under the auspices of the [International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism](#) (IISHJ), the movement's school for training humanistic rabbis and educators, and the [Society for Humanistic Judaism](#), the movement's congregational arm.

The rabbinic training program includes four years of rigorous coursework, a rabbinic thesis, and a 1-year internship with the secular humanistic Jewish community; it also requires the completion of an accredited Master's degree in Judaic Studies.

During his ordination speech, Kridel spoke of how he was motivated to become a rabbi by the difficulties he and his wife Raya had trying to get services in the Jewish community in Indiana for their autistic son. "What kind of rabbi do I hope to be? I hope to be a rabbi who opens doors, and who holds them open," he said.

"I hope to be a rabbi who opens the door to those too often defined solely by a disability. I hope to be a rabbi who opens the door to the neurodiverse, who are too often viewed as their difference and not as whole persons. I hope to be a rabbi who opens the door to the marginalized—whether because of family origin, or skin tone, or gender identity, or financial status, or any other difference."

Kridel earned Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in religion from Florida State University, where he focused on Jewish studies and Biblical interpretation, and a juris doctor degree at Indiana University. He worked for the Indiana state government and taught law at Indiana University prior to moving to Washington D.C. The Machar community will install Kridel as its rabbi on Sunday, Nov. 19th at 10 a.m. at the Milton School, 4715 16th St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20011. The event is open to the public. Go to www.machar.org for more information.