

November 28, 2022

Dear Sukkat Shalom Community,

“*Zeh hayom asa Adonai, nagilah v’nismicha vo* – This is a day that God has made, let us exult and rejoice (Psalm 118).” Since I first met Cathy and Andrea, the search committee and many of you when I came in person, I have felt your joy. The energy, spirit and excitement that everyone feels for the Sukkat Shalom community is infectious. So much that I spent most of my interview smiling and I left knowing that if selected I would be honored and humbled to share in that joy as your next Senior Rabbi.

The more I learn about this community the more I feel a sense of exultation. From the early days of Rabbi Gordon founding the community in his home, starting Family School, and securing a beautiful sacred home, Sukkat Shalom has been on the forefront of innovation in the Jewish community. By drawing on our rich ancient tradition, the congregation sits firmly atop shared Jewish values of welcoming everyone, regardless of their background, engaging in beautiful, spiritual worship with Kenny and Rabbi Tick Brill, learning together in the dynamic Family School, led by Rabbi Daniels and now Missy Bell, and engaging in *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. I am privileged to join this amazing team in partnership with Andy and work with both the professional staff and incredible leaders within our community.

As I continue to learn about the *minhag hamakom*, the traditions of the community, I am excited to develop relationships with you and partner together to ensure that Sukkat Shalom remains a model of innovation, study, and spirituality.

On a personal note, moving to the North Shore is a returning home for my family. My wife, Jenny, graduated from Northwestern and worked for 10 years in the Chicago Arts scene and this move brings us closer to our family in Illinois and Ohio. We can’t wait to introduce Maggie (5), and Aiden (3), to the community in which they will develop their Jewish identity and which I know will spread over them a *Sukkat Shalom*, a shelter of peace.

From the moment I read the application and with each moment since, I have used the word *beskert*, when a relationship seems so good that perhaps God intervened. Perhaps the psalmist was right – “This is the day God has made, let us exult and rejoice!”

Thank you again for this opportunity and I look forward to rejoicing with you soon!

With gratitude,
Rabbi Brian Immerman