

Rabbi Kim Ettlinger's Installation at Temple David

Rabbi Kim Ettlinger's Installation as Temple David's Rabbi took place during last Saturday's Shabbat Shacharit service, publicly formalising the covenant between the Congregation and the Rabbi.

Chair of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, Carole Sterling, came to Perth to share in this special moment. She spoke of the significance of Rabbi Ettlinger's Installation and linked it to the World Union's goal that all Jews have access to a vibrant and personally meaningful Jewish life.

She led a blessing which included the line: "Grant Rabbi Ettlinger a wise heart, candour and courage... *which she has already in abundance.*"

There was a murmur of agreement from the congregation, which included not only a stellar turn-out from the Temple David community, but leaders and friends from the whole Perth Jewish community, as well as a sizeable contingent from Rabbi Ettlinger's former rabbinate – Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne – and representatives of the Progressive Judaism's Leadership within Australia.

The Installation ceremony itself is simple: the congregation stands to give a blessing to Rabbi Ettlinger and she responds with a prayer of her own, followed by her vision for the congregation: a trading of promises (A true *Brit Avodah* – Covenant and partnership of Service).

David Knoll AM, Co-President of the Union for Progressive Judaism,



Rabbi Kim Ettlinger

also in Perth for the occasion, led the congregational blessing. He explained why together, we recite the *Birkat HaKohanim*: to live Jewish lives, we must get ourselves a teacher, a rabbi. "And today," he said, "we welcome a wonderful Rabbi to Temple David."

Rabbi Ettlinger then spoke with her familiar passion about her (and our) progressive Jewish value of being truly inclusive of all who would come to us. More than welcoming, she reminded us that we need to be proactive in working to eliminate all forms of discrimination and prejudice whether it is based on religion, race, gender or any other insidious hatred.

She also talked about the importance of understanding that 'dividing' Jews into denominational categories can be unhelpful, undermining the cohesion we should all honour as practising Jews, heirs to the one Judaism. The noun, Jew, is far more important than the adjectives – progressive, orthodox, reconstructionist, etc.

The seriousness of the occasion did not mar the sense of celebration, as evidenced by the festive atmosphere and engaging chatter at the kiddush after the service.

In sum, the formal Installation of Rabbi Ettlinger as Temple David's Rabbi served as a vibrant reminder of the strength and confidence which will see the congregation continue to flourish. *Jane Figgis, President Temple David*