



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rabbi Charles Savenor named Executive Director of Civic Spirit

Civic Spirit is excited to announce and welcome its new Executive Director, Rabbi Charles Savenor.

Rabbi Savenor joins Civic Spirit after 8 years of serving as Director of Congregational Education at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City. In this role, he promoted lifelong learning, led communal travel, and taught all age demographics. Rabbi Savenor previously served in an executive role at the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism overseeing organizational and leadership development throughout North America, as the Associate Dean at the Jewish Theological Seminary Rabbinical School, and Associate Rabbi at the historic Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago, IL. A graduate of Brandeis University with a B.A. in History and Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Rabbi Savenor was ordained as a Rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary and earned a Master of Education at Columbia University, Teachers College.

Rabbi Savenor said: *“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this vital mission-driven organization. Civic Spirit’s commitment to collaborative close-reading of primary sources, celebrating the shared assets of faith-based schools, and cultivating informed and engaged citizenship deeply resonates with me, especially as it aligns so beautifully with Judaism’s textual tradition.”* After a three-month sabbatical devoted to writing a book, Rabbi Savenor will begin the Executive Director position in July.

Civic Spirit is grateful for the exemplary service of its outgoing Executive Director, Lindsay Bressman. Under her capable and dedicated leadership, the organization has advanced the urgent work of educating for civic responsibility. Civic Spirit has been fiscally sponsored by Hillel International since its creation in 2017.

On the forefront of ensuring a healthy American democracy, Civic Spirit educates, inspires, and empowers schools across faith traditions to enhance civic belonging, knowledge, and responsibility in the next generation. To date, Civic Spirit has worked with 210 educators from high schools and middle schools in 30 states. Civic Spirit’s approach addresses three major challenges affecting civic life: (1) low levels of trust in American institutions and democratic norms; (2) limited knowledge or comfort with founding and pivotal texts; and (3) few opportunities for students in faith-based communities to cultivate civic skills and agency needed to sustain robust self-governance.

In four years, Civic Spirit has become a trusted source in faith-based communities seeking to design high-quality, meaningful, and comprehensive civic education. It elevates the centrality of educators by providing exemplary professional development with renowned university faculty, field experts, museums, and content scholars. By joining the Civic Spirit network, schools gain access to a vibrant network of diverse communities and enriching programming for both teachers and students to learn and partner with peers from distinct demographic differences. Recently accepted into Upstart Lab’s 12-month [Venture Accelerator](#) program, Civic Spirit is poised and equipped for sustained growth.

For more information, contact Lindsay Bressman: lindsay@civicspirit.org or visit: www.civicspirit.org