

## Ordination of Women as Rabbis - 1961

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The influence and participation of women in both religious and non-religious life has increased greatly in the forty-eight years since the founding of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in 1913. It is in the democratic tradition of Liberal Judaism that women have assumed responsibility and leadership in many areas of temple life. There is considerable sentiment in favor of the admission of women to even greater areas of service as spiritual leaders and teachers through eligibility for ordination.

In Judaism, no woman has ever been ordained as rabbi despite the reality of the completion by some of the required course of study at the Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion, and despite sympathetic presentation of the subject of women as rabbis by the late Dr. Barnett R. Brickner when he was President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

We look toward the 1961-63 biennial period which will culminate with the Golden Anniversary of the founding of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. We urge that the recommendation of our Executive Director, Jane Evans, which was accepted by the body of this XXIIIrd Biennial Assembly, be implemented by all Sisterhoods in this interim period. The matter should be studied and the delegates to the XXIVth Biennial should come prepared to take a definitive stand on the question of requesting the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and other liberal seminaries to ordain women as Rabbis when they are properly qualified, and upon completion of the identical course of study undertaken by men.