



Landesrabbiner Professor Dr. Nathan Peter Levinson was born in Berlin in 1921. He grew up in the religious-liberal tradition of German Jewry and, after graduating high school in 1940, began training for the rabbinate at the Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums (Liberal rabbinic seminary in Berlin) under Rabbi Professor Leo Baeck. In March 1941, he immigrated to the United States with his parents, going through Russia and Japan, concluded his studies at Hebrew Union College (the Reform rabbinical seminary) in Cincinnati, and accepted a position as rabbi in Alabama in 1948.

In 1950, after having been sent by the World Union for Progressive Judaism, Nathan Peter Levinson became the Landesrabbiner of Berlin, followed by offices as a military rabbi in Japan and in Germany. In 1961 he became the rabbi of Mannheim, Germany, and in 1964 he was promoted to be the Landesrabbiner of Baden, Hamburg and Schleswig Holstein. In 1964 Levinson was elected Chairman of the Rabbinic Conference in West Germany. Since 1965, for nearly twenty years, he was the Jewish President of the German Coordinating Council of the Societies for Jewish Christian Cooperation. At that time, together with his wife Professor Pnina Navè, he intensively promoted the foundation of the University for Jewish Studies in Heidelberg. In 1976 he was elected the President of the International Council of Christians and Jews.

Having been, for all his life, a follower of the great Rabbi Leo Baeck, Levinson promoted the dialogue between Christians and Jews. His support of the Ecumenical Fraternity lasted for more than thirty years. Rabbi Levinson died after a long time of illness, on October 27 in Berlin where he is buried.

Picture courtesy of the Leo Baeck Foundation.

LEO BAECK
FOUNDATION
דוד בייק
אברהם - י"ג
אברהם - י"ג
ל. נאכ: