

RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA – MONTREAL REGION

CONVERSION PROGRAM

Bet Din:

Rabbi Yamin Benarroch

Rabbi Maimon Pinto

Rabbi Edward Shostak

Rabbi Michael Whitman, *Yoshev Rosh*

Rabbi Dr. Mordecai Zeitz

*Member, Network of Regional Batei Din for Conversion under the auspices of
The Rabbinical Council of America and the Beth Din of America*

GEIRUT STANDARDS, REQUIREMENTS, and FEES – 5783/2023

All program standards below apply equally to the conversion candidate as well as to the Jewish partner, if applicable. Every mention of candidate below refers to the candidate and the Jewish partner, if applicable.

In order for candidates to be considered for conversion, they must be admitted to the Conversion Program and fulfill the following criteria:

1. A candidate must have attended a minimum of 18 months of weekly, in-person classes, at least 90 minutes each, and successfully complete all topics of the curriculum. The average length of time from the first meeting to completion is about 2 years, with wide variation. Attendance at these classes is mandatory. Candidates must live an Orthodox Jewish lifestyle and adhere to Orthodox Jewish law and practice in all areas of life. Candidates must have the knowledge and experiences to be able to commit to observing all the laws of Judaism. Candidates must be able to read Hebrew. Completion of the program does not automatically necessitate the candidate's conversion. The duration of the program is dependent on the rate of progress of the candidate as evaluated by the Bet Din.
2. We expect that every candidate will engage in regular, weekly Torah learning outside of, and in addition to the classes on our curriculum.
3. A candidate must be living in a Jewish community, and within walking distance of an Orthodox synagogue, at which they are active participants. Candidates must regularly attend Shabbat services, and men must also attend daily Minyan as much as possible.
4. A candidate must have a sponsoring Rabbi and a supporting family that are deemed appropriate by the Bet Din. A candidate will celebrate a number of Shabbatot and Yomim Tovim in their homes. This will be arranged by the Bet Din.
5. All candidates will study our curriculum with a tutor/mentor. This tutor/mentor must be approved by us in advance. We can help connect you with a tutor/mentor, in conjunction with your sponsoring rabbi.
6. A candidate must observe Kashrut in and out of the home. A candidate must submit the name of the approved person who Kasherred the home.
7. It is preferable for non-married couples to not live together before conversion and Jewish marriage. Couples who are living together must separate for a period of time prior to the

completion of conversion. It is the candidate's responsibility to inform the Bet Din of the arrangements for separation, i.e. addresses and date of separation.

8. A single candidate who is involved with, or who becomes involved with a romantic partner must immediately notify the Bet Din. A female candidate who becomes pregnant must inform the Bet Din. A female candidate or convert may not marry or have a romantic relationship with a Kohein. Anyone who enters a romantic relationship and does not discuss this with the Bet Din may be dismissed from our program.
9. No candidate may set a date for marriage before the approval of our Bet Din. Any candidate who sets a date for marriage before the approval of our Bet Din may be dismissed from our program.
10. A reference letter from both the sponsoring Rabbi and the support family or families will be requested prior to the Bet Din considering a conversion.
11. The candidate must have at least a minimal Jewish library (see required book list), Kosher Tefilin, Talit, and Tzitzit (for men), and Kosher Mezuzot.
12. A candidate will meet the Bet Din a minimum of 4 times during the conversion process, and usually more often, as needed.
13. Following the conversion, follow-up classes and events relating to pertinent topics in Judaism will be offered.
14. Fees for conversion program:

Single Candidate: \$800 Administration Fee
Couple or Family: \$900 Administration Fee

Plus: - \$150 NY RCA administrative fee
 - \$100 per person Assessment Test fee
 - \$150 per person Mikva fee; an adult plus a child will pay
 an additional \$75 per child)
 - Payment for Brit or Hatafa, if applicable

Contact Rabbi Whitman for details on making all payments and all banking issues.

15. Throughout the conversion process the candidate will have an opportunity to attend a variety of special events and programs, including festive dinners, weekend Shabbatons and life cycle events. You will also have opportunities to meet with others who have completed the conversion program. These activities are designed to provide you with additional experiences to assist in your integration into the Jewish community. Your attendance is expected, and additional fees may be charged to defray the costs of these programs.

I have read the statement and understand the above.

_____	_____	_____
Date	Signature of candidate	Signature of Jewish partner, if applicable