

RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA – MONTREAL REGION
CONVERSION PROGRAMME

Geirut Bet Din:
Rabbi Yechezkel Freundlich
Rabbi Schachar Orenstein
Rabbi Michael Whitman, *Yosheiv Rosh*
Rabbi Mordecai Zeitz

Administrator:
Rabbi Eddie Shostak

GEIRUT STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

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

1. A candidate must have attended a minimum of 16 months of classes, and all topics of the curriculum were completed. The average length of time from the first meeting to completion is about 2 years. (There are no classes in July and August). Attendance at these classes is mandatory. Candidates must live a 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 of 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 programme is dependent on the rate of progress of the candidate as deemed by the Bet Din.
2. A candidate must be living in a Jewish community, and within walking distance of an Orthodox synagogue, at which they are active participants.
3. 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 administrator of the program.
4. A candidate must observe kashrut in and out of the home. A candidate must submit the name of the approved person who koshered the home.
5. 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, date of separation.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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.
9. The candidate and partner must have a minimal Jewish library (see required book list), kosher Tefilin (for men), and kosher Mezuzot.
10. A candidate will meet the Bet Din a minimum of 3 times during the conversion process.
11. Following the conversion, follow-up classes and events relating to pertinent topics in Judaism will be offered.
12. All programme standards apply to the candidate as well as to a Jewish partner.
13. Fees for conversion program:

Single candidate:	\$600 Administration Fee + \$2000 Class Fee
Couple:	\$600 Administration Fee + \$2500 Class Fee
Plus:	\$100 per person NY RCA administrative fee
	\$100 per person Assessment Test Fee
	\$150 Mikva Fee

All payments must be made in advance through monthly post-dated cheques (except the Mikva Fee, which is paid on the date of the Mikva.)

Private tutoring may be required, as needed, at the expense of the candidate.

14. 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