

CONVERSION GUIDELINES
BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION

I. Academic Preparation

- A. Recognize the names of five major periods in Jewish history, associate these names with approximate time periods, and enumerate at least three characteristics of each period
- B. Knowledge of Jewish history
- C. Fundamental beliefs and values as well as diverse approaches to them
- D. An understanding of the Jewish calendar and the holidays
- E. Shabbat and *yom tov* (holiday) observances
- F. *Tefilah* (prayer)
- G. *Kashrut*
- H. The *Chumash*, *Tanakh*, and *siddur*
- I. Some familiarity with the classic categories of Jewish literature
 - 1. *Mishnah*
 - 2. *Gemarah*
 - 3. *Midrash*
 - 4. Codes
 - 5. Commentary
- J. Reading knowledge of *siddur* Hebrew

II. Spiritual Preparation

- A. Connect and commit to engagement with Jewish religious beliefs
- B. Serious engagement with religious and theological issues
- C. Thinking about a range of approaches to God and to spiritual practice
- D. Work on cultivating a sense of personal Jewish religiosity
- E. Develop a personal prayer practice

III. Preparation for Life in Community

- A. Attend a variety of synagogues for Shabbat services
 - 1. Reconstructionist
 - 2. Reform
 - 3. Conservative
- B. Choose one synagogue community as a “home base”