

Rabbi Berman is happy to work with students toward conversion to Judaism. Conversion is a journey that is highly personalized. Even so, there are a few steps that guide each individual's process. These include:

-Taking an Introduction to Judaism Course. If no course has been started or previously taken, Rabbi Berman refers students to the online course offered by the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). For information, visit: <https://reformjudaism.org/learning/judaism-classes/intro-judaism>

-Regular attendance of worship services, holiday events, and other synagogue activities. In general, becoming part of the Jewish community is one of the steps in the conversion process.

-Regular check-in meetings with Rabbi Berman to discuss progress and any questions or concerns, generally about every two months.

There is no exact timeline for the conversion process, but conversion students should live through at least a full Jewish calendar year so they get to experience the full range of Jewish life. Learning about the holidays and the cycle of the Jewish year in books is no substitution for experiencing the rituals first-hand as part of a Jewish community.

At the end of the conversion process, candidates work with the Rabbi to finalize choosing their Hebrew name. When ready, Rabbi organizes a Beit Din to assess the candidate's readiness for conversion as well as help welcome him or her to the Jewish people. Mikveh – and Brit Milah or Hatafat Dam Brit for a man – are also typically parts of the process that the Rabbi discusses with each individual candidate. After the Beit Din is complete and the conversion is official, students receive a special blessing and get formally welcomed by the community at a Shabbat service.