

Rabbi Maya Y. Glasser's Introduction to Conversion

Congregation Ahavath Chesed- The Temple

Hello! I am so glad that you are curious about Judaism, and that you came to us here at Temple to learn more. I know that religion can be a very personal and complex facet of life, and I admire your willingness to learn and reflect on your religious identity. While every person's story and journey are unique, before the conversion becomes official, each person on the road to Judaism should undertake intentional steps and have certain experiences so they have a full understanding of what it means to live a meaningful Jewish life.

What happens next?

- Attend a service in-person or via live stream to get a feel for the congregation
- Schedule a 15-minute video call with Rabbi Glasser to formally begin the process
- Commit to spending 1-2 years learning, exploring Judaism, and integrating Jewish practice and ritual into your life
- At the end of the journey, you will undertake the three traditional Jewish steps to make your conversion official: a visit to the *mikvah* (ritual bath), a conversation with a *Beit Din*, panel of Jewish clergy/experts, and a symbolic drop of blood (optional; we will discuss as it gets closer).

What does the period of learning, exploration and integration look like?

Rabbi Glasser's three pillars of becoming Jewish:

- 1) Take an Introduction to Judaism class. Preferably, this is the course through the Union for Reform Judaism, which meets online on various dates and times throughout the year. You can find more information by [clicking here](#).
- 2) Live as an active Jewish person for at least a year. In order to officially become Jewish, you need to know how it feels to observe holidays, practice rituals, and be part of a Jewish community. You should be attending Shabbat somewhat regularly, as well as participating in programs and holidays with the Temple community.
- 3) Explore aspects of Judaism that intrigue you personally. Read books or watch videos about topics that you connect with. Purchase ritual items or Jewish symbols. Develop a spiritual practice. Join a social group at Temple. There are many options!

Questions to reflect on along the way:

- What has led you to this moment in your religious/spiritual journey?
- How do you envision your life as Jewish person intersecting with your current life, family, and practices?
- What draws you to Reform Judaism specifically?

Suggested Introductory Resources:

Websites:

Reform Jewish information and perspectives: <https://reformjudaism.org/>

Jewish discovery for all levels: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/>

Reform Rabbinic perspectives and policies: <https://www.ccarnet.org/>

Books:

Judaism's 10 Best Ideas by Rabbi Art Green

Living a Jewish Life by Anita Diamant

To Life! by Rabbi Harold Kushner

Judaism for Dummies by Ted Falcon & David Blatner

Jews Don't Count by David Baddiel

Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth by Noa Tishby

