

סֵדֶר גְּרִים

SERVICE OF CONVERSION



Temple Sinai
North Miami Beach, Florida

But Ruth replied: "Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God"

Ruth 1:16

(Giyor / Giyoret stands in front of open ark)

RABBI

Baruch shenatan Torah I'amo Yisrael ... Praise be the One who in holiness has given the Torah to the people Israel. (Close ark) O God, we thank you for your many blessings. We thank you for the truth You have revealed to all humanity. Above all, we thank You for the gift of Torah, which has always been a light for our path.

The Torah tells of the Covenant that God made long ago when our people stood at the foot of Mount Sinai.

Throughout the history of our people, there have been others who came to affirm *Adonai* as we do, and to accept Israel's covenant with God. These individuals knew of the hardships that the Jews have suffered throughout the centuries and yet asked with sincerity to join themselves to our people. We read in our tradition, "Dearer to God are the converts who have come of their own accord than all the crowds of Israelites who stood at Mt. Sinai. For had the Israelites not witnessed the thunders, lightnings quaking mountains, and trumpets, they would not have accepted the Torah. But, the converts, who saw not one of these things, came and surrendered themselves to the Holy God and took the yoke of Heaven upon themselves. Can anyone be dearer to God than such persons?"

RABBI & GER / GIYORET

This day, you, _____ have come here requesting to accept this covenant and its responsibilities.

Do you accept Judaism upon yourself as a living and growing faith?

Do you seek to identify yourself with the Jewish people and its history, past, present, and future?

Do you actively commit yourself to the establishment of a Jewish home, adorned by the symbols of the Jewish faith and reflecting an awareness of the Jewish calendar and life-cycle?

Do you promise to live according to the Jewish ways of justice, committed to improving the world through kindness and social action?

Do you dedicate yourself to continued Jewish study, ever approaching our sources with an open mind and an open heart?

(Torah is given to the ger / giyoret)

GER / GIYORET

I accept the Torah as if I were standing this day at the foot of Mount Sinai. In this sanctuary, in the presence of God, and before this congregation, which represents the Household of Israel, I affirm as did the Jewish people then, "*Na'aseh Venishma* - We will do and we will obey."

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ. יְיָ אֶחָד:

Shema Yisrael: Adonai Eloheynu. Adonai Echad
Hear O Israel: *Adonai* is our God, *Adonai* is One.

RABBI

We welcome you as a Jew to the House of Israel

GER / GIYORET

I embrace the faith of Judaism exclusive of any other religious association or identification I regard the teaching of Judaism - its ethics, folkways, literature, and culture as my own. I consider myself a member of the Jewish community

(Torah is returned to the ark)

RABBI

Our God and God of our ancestors: We ask Your blessing upon _____ who is prepared to accept the heritage of the Jewish people and the values of Torah. May You strengthen his/her commitment. On behalf of the whole House of Israel, may he/she be known in Hebrew as:

May this name always bring respect and honor.

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ

יְאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְךָ

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

May the God bless you and keep you.

May the God always shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the God always be with you and give you peace.