



ברית קדש

A SACRED COVENANT:
A CONFERENCE ON BRIT MILAH

Sponsored by the Rabbinical Assembly
in cooperation with The Jewish Theological Seminary

Sunday-Friday May 1-6, 2011

The Rabbinical Assembly is pleased to offer BRIT KODESH, a program for *mohalim* in the Conservative movement. Medical professionals who meet the qualifications will study a wide range of texts and traditions concerning *brit milah*.

COURSES

- Introduction and overview of *brit milah*
- *Brit milah* in *halakhah* (rabbinic literature, Maimonides and *Shulhan Arukh*)
- *Minhagim* (customs and folklore)
- *Midrash* on *brit milah*
- *Brit milah* and Jewish liturgy
- Introduction and overview of Conservative Judaism
- The process of *halakhah* in Conservative Judaism
- Conservative Jewish responsa on *brit milah*

Courses will be taught by faculty members of the Jewish Theological Seminary and members of the Rabbinical Assembly.

WORKSHOPS

- Discussions on the conflicts, confusion and risks of being both a physician and a *mohel*
- The psychological literature on *brit milah*
- Discussions on observance and personal piety
- Practicum: An experienced *mohel* will present a series of case studies of his most difficult or controversial circumcisions
- Practicum: With an experienced rabbi and *mohel*, candidates will role-play their ceremonies, presentations and explanations on *brit milah*, focusing on what the family will want to know and what is the best method of presentation

Workshops will be facilitated by leading Conservative rabbis, experienced *mohelim* and health professionals.

QUALIFICATIONS

A candidate for BRIT KODESH must be:

- Recommended by a congregational rabbi
- Approved by the local Rabbinical Assembly region
- A licensed and qualified health care professional
- Clinically trained to perform neonatal medical circumcision
- Committed to the binding nature of *halakhah*
- Committed to the observance of *mitzvot* within the framework of the Conservative movement – both in the home and in the community
- Committed to Shabbat observance according to the standards of the Conservative movement
- Observant of the Jewish dietary laws according to the standards of the Conservative movement
- Committed to ongoing personal *talmud Torah*
- Committed to regular *tefillah*
- Prepared to perform *brit milah* only according to *halakhah*

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION: Offices of the Rabbinical Seminary at the Jewish Theological Seminary, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027

DATES: Sunday-Friday, May 1-6, 2011 with optional Shabbaton beginning Friday afternoon. We will invite previous graduates of the program for the Friday morning program and Shabbaton. The program will begin at noon on Sunday and conclude by 1:00 pm on Friday.

COST: \$3500 – includes 1 conference dinner and all breakfasts and lunches. Housing and Shabbaton meals additional.

HOUSING: We will provide a list of recommendations for accommodations in the neighborhood.

CHAIR: Rabbi Leonard Sharzer, lesharzer@jtsa.edu. Rabbi Sharzer, *associate director for bioethics, Finkelstein Institute for Religious and Social Studies, The Jewish Theological Seminary*, is a graduate of the Brit Kodesh program and was a plastic surgeon before entering the rabbinate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rabbi Jan C. Kaufman, Rabbinical Assembly, 3080 Broadway, NYC, 212-280-6056, jkaufman@rabbinicalassembly.org.



APPLICATION FORM - ברית קדש - MAY 1-6, 2011

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

email _____

Business address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Date of birth _____

Birthplace _____

Medical/Professional school _____

Year of degree _____

Intern/Residency _____

Present Specialty/Practice _____

Medical License _____

Current malpractice insurance? yes no

Please indicate whether you have been the subject of professional discipline from any federal, state or local medical authorities. yes / no

If yes, please explain. _____

Please indicate whether you have ever been arrested, tried and/or convicted of any crime. yes / no

If yes, please explain. _____

Do you presently perform circumcision as part of your practice? yes / no

For how many years? _____

Where did you take your training? _____

Synagogue member? yes / no

Synagogue name & address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Rabbi _____

Religious education: years _____

type _____

Bar/bat mitzvah? yes / no

Able to read Hebrew? yes / no

Able to write Hebrew? yes / no

Will you need housing accommodations? yes / no

Are you interested in attending the post-program Shabbaton? yes / no

All applications are subject to review and acceptance by the Brit Kodesh Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly. Submission of this preliminary application does not guarantee a place in the Brit Kodesh program.

Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Rabbi _____

Please return this form to: The Rabbinical Assembly, Brit Kodesh Conference, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027, jkaufman@rabbinicalassembly.org along with a letter of recommendation from your rabbi. The letter should be submitted on letterhead either via snail mail or email.