



Preparing, Strengthening, & Restoring Marriages

2015 Community Marriage Covenant Frederick County, Maryland

This covenant expresses the common concerns of the faith community regarding the need to strengthen marriages in Frederick County, Maryland.

We believe:

1. God has established the sanctity and companionship of marriage in Scripture.
2. God intends the marriage covenant between a man and a woman to last for a lifetime.
3. God intends religious leaders to nurture the people in their care. This responsibility extends to helping couples prepare for marriage, as well as strengthening and restoring marriages already established.

Therefore, we will do the following to the best of our ability:

1. Encourage a courtship of at least one year.
2. Promote sexual abstinence outside of marriage and affirm fidelity in marital relationships.
3. Provide a premarital preparation process that incorporates a recommended minimum of three premarital sessions. Use of a premarital relationship assessment tool such as PREPARE or FOCCUS, administered by a marriage mentor couple is preferred.
4. Promote at least one annual enrichment event in our congregation or in our community to help couples enhance their communication and conflict resolution skills, and deepen their intimacy.
5. Train couples with strong marriages to serve as mentor couples for: couples in serious relationships (pre-engaged), engaged couples, newlyweds, couples wanting to strengthen their relationship, and couples experiencing marital difficulties.
6. Provide restoration services for marriages in crisis that may be at the brink of divorce, primarily through specially trained individuals, or mentor couples who have restored their own relationship.
7. Collaborate with other congregations and the *Marriage Resource Center of Frederick County* in sharing family resources for the purpose of building healthy marriages throughout the county.