PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

April, 2017

Covenant and Counseling Application
ANY MSC COUPLE who would like to be married by an MSC pastor OR use our church for their wedding ceremony is **required** to go through premarital counseling. MSC couples who plan to have their ceremony elsewhere and performed by someone other than an MSC pastor, are also encouraged to go through our program.

Getting Started:

1) **Separate copies** of the forms contained herein must be filled out by BOTH THE BRIDE AND GROOM to-be and returned to the church office by e-mail, fax, mail, or dropped off at the church office (contact information below).

2) Once we receive your completed forms, you will be contacted to schedule a pastoral interview.

3) A $55 fee is due at the time of your pastoral meeting. This covers the cost of your materials for the program.

4) After your initial pastoral interview, you will be connected with a *Preparing for Marriage* mentor couple who will walk with you through the program.

Our Preparing for Marriage program consists of mentoring couples who are **not** professional counselors but friends who have worked through marriage issues of their own and are willing to come alongside an engaged couple to help prepare them for marriage. They are a group of couples who have been married for several years, love the Lord and are willing to be open about their marriage walk. Mentoring couples assist MSC Pastors in preparing couples for marriage and then walk (as friends) with the newly married couple for the first 12-24 months.

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MSC Position on Marriage and Sexuality

**Marriage.** The testimony of the God-breathed Holy Scriptures is that the marriage covenant shall be reserved only for one man with one woman. The idea that marriage is a covenant only between one man and one woman has been the traditional definition of marriage for all of human history (“Traditional Definition of Marriage”). Because of the longstanding importance of the Traditional Definition of Marriage to humans and their relationships and communities, and, most importantly, the fact that God has ordained that marriage be between one man and one woman, as clearly conveyed in God’s inerrant Scriptures, including for example in Matthew 19:4-6 where in speaking about marriage Jesus referred to the fact that “he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,” the Church hereby creates this policy, which shall be known as the “Marriage Policy.”

Under Mountain Springs Church’s Marriage Policy, the Traditional Definition of Marriage is the only definition of marriage that will be recognized or accepted. No director, officer, employee, servant, agent, or any person, corporation, organization, or entity under the direction or control of Mountain Springs Church shall commit any act or omission, or make any decision whatever, that would be inconsistent with, or that could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with, full support of Mountain Springs Church’s Marriage Policy and strict adherence to the Traditional Definition of Marriage rather than any alternative to the Traditional Definition of Marriage.

Mountain Springs Church’s Marriage Policy specifically prohibits acts or omissions including but not limited to permitting any Church assets or property, whether real property, personal property, intangible property, or any property or asset of any kind that is subject to the direction or control of the Church, to be used in any manner that would be or could be perceived by any person to be inconsistent with Mountain Springs Church’s Marriage Policy or the Traditional Definition of Marriage, including but not limited to permitting any church facilities to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities to convey, intentionally or by implication, what might be perceived as a favorable impression about any definition of marriage other than the Traditional Definition of Marriage.
Mountain Springs Church’s Marriage Policy is based upon God’s will for human life as conveyed to us through the Holy Scriptures, upon which Mountain Springs Church has been founded and anchored, and this Marriage Policy shall not be subject to change through popular vote; referendum; prevailing opinion of members or the general public; influence of or interpretation by any government authority, agency, or official action; or legal developments on the local, state, or federal level. (See Gen. 2:18-24; 1:27-28; Matt. 19:4-6; Eph. 5:23, 25, 31-32.)

**Common-Law Marriage.** In no case shall persons be accepted into membership and/or employment who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

**Sexuality.** Sexuality and the divinely prescribed boundaries for the expression thereof is covered clearly in the Holy Scriptures, which limit sexual expression to the marital relationship of one man with one woman. Homosexual acts, adultery, bestiality, and all forms of fornication are categorically condemned in the Holy Scriptures. (See 1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Thes. 4:3; Rom. 1:26-27; Prov. 5:3-5, 8-13; 7:21-27; Gal. 5:19; Exodus 20:14; Deut. 5:18; Matt. 5:27; 19:18; Luke 18:20; Rom. 13:9; James 2:11; Lev. 20:10-21; 1 Cor. 10:8; 6:18; Jude 7.) Furthermore, the Church believes that sexuality is assigned by God at birth, whatever that may be, and the Holy Scripture does not permit an individual from altering their sexual identity physically or otherwise. (See Deut. 23:1.)
Pre-Marriage Covenant

We, as a couple, agree to regular church attendance at MSC.

We, as a couple, agree to fill out this pre-marital counseling form, take the PREPARE inventory and participate in all pre-marital sessions with the pastor and/or Preparing for Marriage (PFM) mentor couple to discuss the information on these forms.

We, as a couple, agree to live separately until marriage.*

We, as a couple, agree to refrain from sexual involvement until after our wedding.*

If divorced, I agree to at least a one year gap between the end of the last marriage and this one.

We, as a couple, acknowledge MSC’s position on Marriage and Sexuality.

We, as a couple, agree to meet with our Preparing for Marriage mentors at least three times within the first year after being married. These mentors will be assigned by the church.

*In order to enter into a God-honoring, biblical, and pure Christian marriage relationship, if you are currently living together and/or are sexually active with each other, we would ask that you covenant/agree to live separately and refrain from further sexual activity until after your wedding in order to focus your attention and energies on building a God-honoring relationship and building a biblical and God-honoring foundation for your future marriage.

I agree to faithfully follow the Pre-Marriage Covenant:

Signed

Print Name ________________________________ Date ___________
Pre-Marriage Counseling Form  
Confidential

In order to best serve you for pre-marital counseling, the following information will be extremely helpful. If there is anything you are uncomfortable answering in writing, please leave it blank and it can be discussed on a personal basis with the pastor and your mentors.

If you are seeking to use our church facility for your wedding, but have someone else to perform the ceremony and/or pre-marital counseling, the pastor will determine at the end of this meeting if our church would be appropriate for your wedding ceremony.

**Pre-marital counseling at Mountain Springs Church will cover spiritual foundations for a Christian marriage and family, temperament/personality assessments, finances and wedding plans.**

See our Wedding Policies, Procedures and Pricing booklet for policies, procedures and prices for weddings at MSC.

**Note: Each person is to fill out his/her own form**

1st choice for wedding Date:_______________ Time:_________ AM or PM

2nd choice for wedding Date:_______________ Time:_________ AM or PM

Where would you like your wedding ceremony to take place?

- [ ] Mountain Springs Church
- [ ] Other location or church:______________________________________________________________

Whom would you like to perform your wedding ceremony?

1st choice* _____________________________________________________________

2nd choice* _____________________________________________________________

* If you do not have a pastor that you are close to and you are uncertain about the person to perform your wedding ceremony, you may consider a life group leader, spiritual mentor, or your mentor for the PFM program. It is your responsibility to obtain the officiator.
Personal

Full Name: ________________________________ Current Age: __________
Address: __________________________________________ Date of Birth __________
City: __________________________ State: __________________________
Home Phone: ______________ Work Phone: _______________ (ext) ______
Cell Phone: ______________ E-mail: __________________________
Race: Caucasian__ Other (State race) __________ Mixed (State mixed race) __________

My current housing situation: I am living…
☐ Alone ☐ With roommate(s) ☐ With Family ☐ Other: __________________________

Have you been married before? ☐ No ☐ Yes, how long? _______ years _______ months

On what grounds/basis did the marriage end? ________________________________
Date? __________________________

Is your former spouse: ☐ Still Unmarried ☐ Remarried

Relationship with your former spouse:
☐ Non-existent ☐ Hostile ☐ Difficult ☐ Cordial ☐ Friendly

For engaged individuals who currently have children from this relationship or a previous relationship:

Name __________ ☐ M ☐ F Age: ___ Grade (K-12): ___ Custody: ☐ Full ☐ Partial ☐ None
Name __________ ☐ M ☐ F Age: ___ Grade (K-12): ___ Custody: ☐ Full ☐ Partial ☐ None
Name __________ ☐ M ☐ F Age: ___ Grade (K-12): ___ Custody: ☐ Full ☐ Partial ☐ None

Education

☐ Currently in High School ☐ High School Graduate ☐ Some College

☐ Tech/Trade/Community College Graduate. Degree in: ______________________________
☐ College Graduate. Degree in: ______________________________
☐ Advanced Degree in: ______________________________
Employment

☐ Full-time employment as: __________________________ Company __________________________

☐ Part-time employment as: __________________________ Company __________________________

☐ Self-employed as: _________________________________________________________________

☐ Student at: __________________________ Will graduate (year): ____________

☐ Currently unemployed

☐ Homemaker, formerly employed as: __________________ Company: __________________________

☐ Retired, formerly employed as: __________________ Company: __________________________

☐ Other: __________________________________________________________

Church Background

Attendance:

☐ Mountain Springs Church, since __________________________

☐ Other (name) __________________________ Since________________________

I attend Saturday or Sunday services …

☐ Regularly (With my fiancé ☐ yes ☐ no)

☐ Sometimes ☐ Special occasions ☐ Not at all

Reason for sporadic, infrequent, or non-existent attendance: __________________________

_________________________________________________

As a child, I grew up:

☐ Not attending church ☐ Attending church a few times a year

☐ Attending church semi-regularly ☐ Attending church regularly

Previous churches I have attended:

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<tr>
<th>Name/City</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
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Spiritual Journey

Which of the following best describes where you are in your spiritual journey with Jesus Christ?

- **#1 Little or no religious background:** I seldom or never attended church while growing up. I have little or no knowledge of the Bible and what it means to be a Christian.

- **#2 Somewhat religious:** I grew up attending church on a fairly regular or occasional basis. I have a basic understanding of some of the Bible stories. I have a concept of God in my life, but for the most part I live my life according to what I think or feel is best for me. If I died today, I would hope to go to heaven but I am uncertain if a person can know with 100% confidence that they will go to heaven when they die.

- **#3 Spiritual Seeker:** I feel I am at a point in my life where I have a genuine desire to have a better understanding of the Bible, Jesus Christ, and the Christian faith. I am still investigating Biblical Christianity and I am open to God becoming more real to me. I have not yet fully yielded my life to Jesus Christ and I have not yet put my trust in Him to forgive all my sins. If someone asked me if I have been “born again”, I would say “no” or I would not be sure what they were talking about.

  The thing(s) I feel are holding me back from yielding and giving my life fully to the Lord are:

  __________________________________________________________

  __________________________________________________________

  __________________________________________________________

- **#4 Wayward Christian believer:** In the past (approximate age(s) : ), I had a genuine love for God and had asked Jesus Christ to be my personal Lord and Savior. In recent years, I have been out of fellowship with the Lord, have not been active in a Bible-believing church, have not developed or maintained close Christian friendships, and have spent little or no time in the Bible.

- **#5 New/Young/Recommitted Christian Believer:** I have recently become a born-again Christian and I am excited about my new relationship with Jesus Christ OR I have been a born-again Christian for a long-time, but am only recently discovering God’s deep love for me and His desire to work in and through my life.

- **#6 Stable/Growing Christian Believer:** I am confident of God’s active working and leading in my life. I look to Him and His word on a regular basis. I am regularly involved on a weekly basis in a Bible-believing church and I look for ways to serve the Lord and others.

- **#7 Mature Christian Believer:** I have a deep and consistent walk with the Lord. I am actively attending and serving on a weekly basis in a Bible-believing church. I understand my spiritual giftedness and actively use my time, gifts and resources in influence others for the Lord.
For those who checked #4, #5, #6 or #7: How and when did you come to know Jesus Christ personally?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

For those who checked #5, #6, or #7: What do you currently do to actively maintain your relationship with the Lord?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Family Background

During your growing up years, who raised you: □ Natural parents  □ Single parent: □ Mom  □ Dad  □ 1 Natural/1 Step parent □ Adoptive parents □ Relatives (relation: ____________)

How would you rate your growing up years?

Pre-School: □ Happy □ Okay □ Difficult - Because: __________________________________________

Primary School: □ Happy □ Okay □ Difficult - Because: __________________________________________

Middle or Jr.High: □ Happy □ Okay □ Difficult - Because: __________________________________________

High School: □ Happy □ Okay □ Difficult - Because: __________________________________________

College-age: □ Happy □ Okay □ Difficult - Because: __________________________________________

Number of siblings: __________ Brothers _______  Sisters __________

In birth order, which number are you (#1 being the oldest): _______

If your parent(s) are still living, where are they living (City/s, State/s): ________________________________

What was the primary vocation of your Father: _______________  Mother: ______________________

List up to 4 Cities/States where you lived while growing up and years you lived there:

__________________________________________________________________________ / _________years.

__________________________________________________________________________ / _________years.

__________________________________________________________________________ / _________years.

__________________________________________________________________________ / _________years.

Were any of your parents or siblings: □ Physically abusive □ Verbally abusive

□ Sexually abusive □ Alcoholics □ Drug users

Comments: ____________________________________________________________________________

Who has had the greatest spiritual influence on your faith in God? _______________________________

What was the religious faith of your parents?
Father: __________________ Was he… □ Strong □ Moderate □ Nominal
□ Non-existent in his faith practices?

Mother: __________________ Was she… □ Strong □ Moderate □ Nominal
□ Non-existent in her faith practices?

**Personal Issues**

How long have you known your fiancée? ________________________________

How long have you been actively dating or courting? _________________

How would you describe your relationship during your dating/engagement period:
  □ Heaven on earth  □ Happy  □ Okay  □ Rocky – up & down
  □ Very difficult because: ____________________________________________

How do your parents feel about your marriage to your fiancée?
  □ Excited  □ Accepting  □ Questioning  □ Against

Have you received a “blessing” from your and your spouse’s parents for this marriage?
  □ Yes  □ No  □ I don’t know what a “blessing” is

How do your future in-laws feel about your marriage to your fiancée?
  □ Excited  □ Accepting  □ Questioning  □ Against

How do your closest personal friends feel about your marriage to your fiancée?
  □ Excited  □ Accepting  □ Questioning  □ Against

Have you ever taken any temperament/personality tests to see how you compare/contrast to
your fiancée’s temperament/personality? □ No  □ Yes
  If you know, what was the name of the test assessment you took? ____________

How would you describe your sexual relationship up until this point?
  □ Saving yourselves sexually for marriage
  □ Physically/sexually involved with each other
  □ Have lived or are currently living together

Are there any secrets you are holding in and you feel that if your fiancée found out, you would
be afraid he/she might call off the wedding? □ No  □ Yes
  If yes, are you willing to discuss this during pre-marital counseling? □ No  □ Yes

Have you ever been in a relationship that resulted in an abortion? □ No  □ Yes- Year ________
  What are your current feelings about that? ________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________________________
  _______________________________________________________________________

Have you ever been treated for depression? □ No  □ Yes- Year(s) treated: ____________
Have you ever attempted suicide? □ No  □ Yes- Year: _________________

Have you ever had any homosexual experiences? □ No  □ One time in the past
  □ Some encounter in the past  □ Numerous encounters in the past  □ Currently involved

Have you ever: □ Used drugs- type/s:
  □ Had a drinking problem  □ Been arrested  □ Been in jail
  □ Struggled with pornography
Have you ever:
- ☐ Prayed aloud together
- ☐ Read/discussed the Bible together
- ☐ Attended a Bible study group together
- ☐ None of these

Have you discussed in detail the issue of children (timing of children and the number of children you desire?)  ☐ No  ☐ Yes

In the past, when you have gotten in disagreements or arguments with a loved one or family member, have you (check all that apply):
- ☐ Screamed
- ☐ Gone shopping
- ☐ Hurt them
- ☐ Punched them
- ☐ Slammed doors
- ☐ Gotten drunk
- ☐ Flown into a rage
- ☐ Screamed
- ☐ Covered up my true feeling
- ☐ Lied about my feelings
- ☐ Left the house mad
- ☐ Called them bad names
- ☐ Promised to get even
- ☐ Thrown or broke things
- ☐ Clammed up/refused to talk
- ☐ Blamed everything on the other person
- ☐ Brought up old issues from the past
- ☐ Prayed with them about the problem/issue
- ☐ Calmed myself down so the problem could be discussed and resolved
- ☐ Gotten a 3rd party to help us work through the problem/issue
- ☐ Given the person the silent treatment for ___ hours OR ___ days

Are there any significant health problems you are bringing into the marriage?
- ☐ No  ☐ Yes - Explain: _____________________________________________________________

Are there any financial debts that you bring into the marriage?
- ☐ Credit card bills $__________
- ☐ Monthly car payment $__________
- ☐ Home mortgage $__________
- ☐ Other debts/loans $__________
- ☐ Student loans $__________
- ☐ Personal or family loans $__________
- ☐ Medical bills $__________

Check all words that describe your financial attitudes and habits:
- ☐ Spender
- ☐ Shopper
- ☐ Saver
- ☐ Generous
- ☐ Greedy
- ☐ Orderly
- ☐ Thrifty
- ☐ Tither
- ☐ In debt
- ☐ Pack rat
- ☐ Out of control
- ☐ E-bay shopper
- ☐ Impulsive shopper
- ☐ Bargain hunter
- ☐ Parents spoiled me
- ☐ On-line shopper
- ☐ Rich pleasures/tastes
- ☐ Compare prices
- ☐ Parents deprived me
- ☐ Financially clueless
- ☐ Live for the moment
- ☐ Simple pleasures/tastes
- ☐ Have attended a Bible Study or Christian seminar on financial matters

Do you know what “tithing” your income means?  ☐ No  ☐ Yes

Read Malachi 3:8 – 12, and explain what you think this passage means: _____________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
Will you agree to place your finances under God’s order and learn to give generously to the Lord’s work? □ No □ Yes

Have you and your fiancée worked together to develop a written household income/spending plan for your marriage? □ No  □ Yes

Read Ephesians 5 and explain what you think this passage means:
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________

Are you willing to develop a home that follows God’s divine order for the home as outlined in Ephesians 5? □ Yes  □ No

Are there any fears, concerns, or apprehensions you currently have about your future marriage?
____________________________________________________________________________________________
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