

## **PREMARITAL COVENANT AND POLICIES**

### **I. CONCERN:** “Marriage is holy”

It is the responsibility of a Pastor to set minimal requirements of premarital counseling to raise the quality of commitment in those they marry. Couples who seriously participate in premarital counseling and testing will have a better understanding of each other and what the marriage commitment involves. As agents of God, acting on His behalf, it is our responsibility to encourage couples to set aside time for marriage preparation.

### **II. CONVICTION:** “What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder” (Mt. 19:6)

God has established and sanctified marriage for the welfare and happiness of the family. For this reason, Scripture declares that a man should leave his father and mother to be joined to his wife, and the two shall be come one. Malachi 2:13-16 says, “God hates divorce ...”, therefore, the couple should approach marriage with a determination to make marriage a growing experience of lifelong commitment.

### **III. COUNSELORS COVENANT:**

- a. I covenant to help build successful spiritual families.
- b. I covenant to provide Scriptural training about the marriage relationship.
- c. I covenant to provide testing that will help couples learn about each other and grow in their relationship.
- d. I covenant to make adequate preparation for each counseling session.

### **IV. IMPLEMENTATION:** Minimum expectations

- a. Waiting period – A minimum of one month from the initial appointment until wedding date.
- b. Premarital Counseling – A minimum of five, 1 hour sessions that will include family history evaluation, and Scriptural education the marriage relationship.
- c. Sexual Relationship – The couple must covenant to refrain from sexual relationship during the course of counseling. One reason for this expectation is because Scripture teaches that we are not to engage in premarital sex. The second reason is to help the couple determine their commonalities other than physical relationship.
- d. Marriage Ceremony – The couple should see the ceremony as a time of worship and celebration. For this reason, the couple should have no alcoholic beverages, drugs, or smoking on the premises and seek a worshipful approach to the wedding ceremony.
- e. Homework Assignments – The couples should take homework assignments seriously. Each assignment is designed to make the premarital counseling sessions productive.

I agree with the premarital covenant and will keep the policies stated above.

Counselors Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Couples Signature: \_\_\_\_\_