

Premarital Counseling

Marriage is a religious rite. By far the most important member of your wedding party is the pastor. Your government recognizes this when it gives pastors the authority to legally marry persons. In addition to the legal responsibility placed on the pastor, there are also spiritual responsibilities relevant to the nature of your marriage. It is our utmost desire that you develop a lasting, happy marriage. For this reason, the pastor that you choose will want to counsel with you in every detail concerning your coming marriage, or they will refer you to a professional marriage counselor. The counselor and the pastor both want to be sure that you realize fully all of the responsibilities of marriage.

A required *Premarital Seminar* is offered twice per year; once in the spring and then again in the fall. This is a two day seminar that covers the following topics: communication, conflict resolution, sexuality, and finances. The importance of this Seminar cannot be overstated. It is part of the foundation upon which you will build a good marriage. Soon you should receive a letter containing more information. The dates are published far enough in advance so please arrange your schedules to enable both of you to attend the entire seminar.

The seminar fee is \$20.00.

Please Note: If your wedding ceremony falls between the seminars then the officiating pastor will connect you with a couple who has been trained to facilitate premarital counseling. Couples will meet several times previous to the ceremony. Please contact Pastor JoAnn Angelo at (716) 712—1707 for more information. Fee is \$20.00.

Couples will also need to make an appointment to meet with the officiating pastor to finalize the details of the ceremony itself.