

Application for Substitution of Premarital Counseling

Notice to Engaged Couples: Houston's First Baptist Church (HFBC) requires all couples desiring to be married in HFBC facilities to complete the Preparation for Marriage Program (PMP). If you are unable to do so, you may talk with the PMP Coordinator about acceptable alternatives. If you desire to have another minister or clergy conduct your premarital counseling instead of participating in the HFBC PMP, you will need to have them complete this form and return it to the PMP Coordinator or the Minister of Counseling Services for approval.

Bride's name: _____ **Groom's Name:** _____

Notice to Minister/Counselor: Houston's First Baptist Church (HFBC) requires all couples desiring to be married in the HFBC facilities to complete the HFBC Preparation for Marriage Program. The intent of this program is to help couples understand and prepare spiritually, emotionally, financially, and physically to fulfill God's plan for the covenant of marriage. The PMP consists of four parts: a meeting with the Minister of Married Young Adults, completion of the Prepare/Enrich Inventory, attendance at the PMP Engaged Couples' Workshop, and a final meeting with one of the counselors in the Julianna Poor Memorial Counseling Center of HFBC. In each of these meetings at least six crucial areas are discussed. The six areas are spiritual oneness, roles and expectations, communication, conflict resolution, financial responsibility, and sexual intimacy. In order to substitute for the HFBC PMP, you must certify at a minimum that your counsel will cover these areas. Below is brief description of each of these areas. Please indicate in the space provided the method of instruction (individual or couple discussion, conference, audio/videotape, book, homework, etc.) and the names of any resources you will use/recommend.

Spiritual Oneness: Individual relationships with God are explored. God's covenant relationship with us, and His plan for marriage are discussed. Explain how you will cover this area.

Roles and Expectations: The Biblical role of husband and wife are discussed. Expectations of household roles are identified and clarified. Explain how you will cover this area.

Communication: Communication with God and with spouse are an important part of the covenant of marriage. Practical approaches to communicating are developed. Explain how you will cover this area.

Conflict Resolution: How a couple resolves conflict is the most reliable predictor of marital satisfaction. Understanding the role of spiritual warfare in marriage and identifying practical ways of preventing and resolving conflicts are the keystones of this area. Explain how you will cover this area.

Financial Responsibility: Finances can be a tremendous source of stress on a family. God's plan of stewardship, tithing, and avoiding indebtedness are explored. Explain how you will cover this area.

Sexual Intimacy: Preparing for the wedding night, premarital abstinence, fidelity in marriage, and a healthy view of sexuality are discussed using the Song of Solomon as the Biblical text. Explain how you will cover this area.

Certification: I certify that I understand that I am assuming the responsibility for assisting this couple prepare for God's plan of marriage. I certify as a minimum to cover the above areas as I have indicated. I commit to pray for this couple, and to be available as a resource for this couple as they seek to build a marriage that is pleasing to God.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

HFBC PMP Approval: _____