

Marriage Mentor Information

Definition

A marriage mentor couple can be defined simply as one more experienced couple willing to invest themselves in the lives of another couple by sharing their life experience, wisdom, guidance, faults and successes, with the intent of shepherding their mentoree couple into a deeper, more inspired married life in Jesus Christ.

Criteria for Mentorship

There are a variety of criteria that are key for mentor couples.

- Belief in and commitment to Jesus Christ as the central focus of their marriage.
- Healthy humility knowing that, imperfect as they are, God can use their availability in remarkable ways.
- The recognition that no marriage is perfect and that room for improvement and growth exist in every relationship.
- Their marriage should be reasonably stable so that they are able to make a commitment to another couple without introducing a negative impact on their own relationship.
- Willingness and availability to share life with another couple and an expectation to grow more deeply in their walk with each other and with Christ.
- A mentor couple is not expected to be a professional counselor and is not responsible to “fix” broken or damaged relationships.
- Finally, every mentor couple shall have completed the introductory mentor training class.

Relationship Focus

The mission of the mentoring ministry is to inspire marriages into deeply committed relationships in Jesus Christ through one-on-one relationships between couples. This one-on-one relationship is a strictly confidential relationship that is specifically intended to accomplish one of three objectives.

- Preparation for marriage or transition into married life (Prepare)
- Recovery from a difficult situation in the marriage (Repair)
- Guidance into a richer more fulfilling relationship (Renew)

In any case, the focus is on supporting, encouraging, and enriching the marriage of their mentoree couple by sharing life and drawing upon their own experience.

It is recommended that, in addition to the mentoring relationship, both mentors and mentoree couples participate in community group ministry within the larger body of the CCC.

What does the mentoring relationship look like?

Mentors and mentoree couples will be matched, based on the desires of the mentorees and the history/experience of the mentor couples. Establishing rapport and authentic connection is key in establishing a successful relationship. Contact

between the mentor couple and ministry leadership is critical, particularly early in the mentoring relationship, to ensure that a good couple match is established and create an environment to facilitate the highest probability of success, based primarily on the objectives of the mentoree couple.

The mentoring relationship is intentionally flexible. Once the mentor and mentoree couple engage, they have the opportunity to establish specific goals and objectives that they hope to accomplish in the relationship. As a result, meeting times, lengths, frequency can all be adjusted to meet the objective of the relationship, but should be no less than monthly. Both couples, with the understanding that there may be unique/emergency situations that may require special care and understanding to work through, should mutually agree upon boundaries for communication (frequency, methods, etc.). Upon completion of the initial goals or objectives of the relationship, the couples may mutually agree to establish new goals, focus on another area in their relationship, or may dissolve the relationship.

Commitment

Upon completing the mentor training and agreeing to be available as a mentor couple, a minimum commitment of availability of 1 year is requested for mentor couples. This is because an exact mentoring match may not present itself immediately.

Ministry Support

A "Lead Couple" will be designated in order to support, coach, and encourage mentor couples on a regular basis. Further, several times per year, there will be opportunities for mentor couples to meet, share, and learn from experiences. Again, confidentiality of the mentor/mentoree relationship shall be maintained in any such setting.

Resources:

There are many resources that are available for the mentor couples, from study curricula to support from other mentors to professional services. It is key to recognize that the mentoring relationship is an intimate and confidential one. During the course of the mentoring process, it is possible that professional services may be required to address addictive behaviors, other counseling needs, financial advice, etc. The mentor couple is not expected to be the professional or to provide these services. However, it is important to note that the mentor couple should be prepared/trained to recognize the need for such services and be willing to shepherd the mentoree couple through the process of securing such services, while maintaining relationship with their mentoree couple. CCC will do its best to refer appropriate professional Christian support resources according to the specific needs of the individual couple.