

Ron Hitchcock once said, “Only a decision to follow Christ will have greater impact on your life than your decision to get married.” At Heritage Christian Church, we have developed a pre-marital process that is designed to help couples celebrate their strengths and identify any growth areas that may be pertinent to address. It brings us great joy to see married couples experience a satisfying, life-long relationship that will stand the test of time.

For Heritage pastors to conduct wedding ceremonies it is important for them to be true to biblical standards and it is expected that they would be able to give their blessing to the marital union. When people approach a pastor about officiating their wedding, oftentimes the pastor doesn't know them very well. Therefore, Heritage has set up a pre-marital process, to inform each couple about the church's views on marriage and morality, and to prepare them in the best possible way for their life together. The first part of our pre-marital process is exploratory in nature.

## Step One

Contact Linda Buchan, at [lbuchan@heritagecc.org](mailto:lbuchan@heritagecc.org) (or 898-9412, ext. 215), and mention your desire to go through the pre-marital process. Linda will send out a marriage application for you to fill out and also set up a time for an initial interview. Please plan for this interview to take two hours. Linda (or someone who works with her) will spend around 45 minutes with each of you separately and then conclude with some time together.

## Step Two

*\*Please note: Steps 2-5 are not necessary to take in sequential order.*

Send in \$28 and Linda will sign you up for the Prepare-Enrich online inventory. Payment can be made by cash or check payable to Heritage Christian Church with Prepare/Enrich in the memo line. You may place it in the offering basket during any of the weekend services or mail it directly to the church office. You may also choose the option to [pay online](#). The Prepare-Enrich Inventory is an instrument that has been used worldwide by over three million couples and it provides a great roadmap for the pre-marital coaches who will be meeting with you. This important tool addresses topics like communication, conflict resolution, sexuality, finances, stress, your attitude toward leisure, and your relationship with your family of origin. Linda Buchan will send your email addresses to Life Innovations (the creator of the inventory) and they will send each of you a link to begin the process. Once you return the application to Linda via email and we receive the results of the inventory, you are ready for the next step.

## Step Three

You will then be paired up with a coaching couple who will meet with you 3-6 times to review the results of the Prepare-Enrich Inventory and assist you in mapping out a strategy for continued growth.

## Step Four

We ask you to go through a six-week group experience called Prepare2b1 that is designed for couples or individuals who want to learn more about marriage and how to choose a good partner. There is an optional seventh week for those couples facing step parenting or blended family situations. The class is free, but donations are encouraged for the materials.

## Step Five

Once the pre-marital screening process is concluded and if you want to be married at the Heritage building, the next step is to meet with our Wedding Coordinator, Jocelyn Cook. Jocelyn will assist you in finding a good date for the wedding and in planning and implementing the details of your big day. You can contact Jocelyn at [gregjocelyncook3@gmail.com](mailto:gregjocelyncook3@gmail.com) or at 614-745-4072. Please understand that before a final approval can be given for a wedding at the Heritage facility the following things must happen:

- The wedding coordinator will check the church calendar to make sure the facility is available.
- The wedding coordinator must be available for the rehearsal and the wedding date.
- The wedding coordinator must gain a firm commitment from a sound system technician to show up at the rehearsal and the wedding.
- The couple (not the wedding coordinator) has to secure a commitment from one of the Heritage pastors.

Any of the Heritage pastors could be available for weddings. Their names and email addresses are found on our website. Pastor Barb Tornatzky is also available to perform weddings if requested, at [hcctransformationalhealing@gmail.com](mailto:hcctransformationalhealing@gmail.com). There is no set fee for pastors to conduct weddings but it is customary to give them a gift for their services.

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Once confirmation is given by Jocelyn, a sound system technician, and a pastor, to reserve the Heritage facility, non-Heritage members are asked to send in a \$100 deposit to our church office. The wedding coordinator and officiating pastor will then set up meetings with you to plan the wedding.

We believe that successful, satisfying marriages are still possible but they do not happen by accident. If you are interested in getting married at Heritage Christian Church, please allow yourself at least 6 months to go through the above steps. In fact, most weddings take approximately 9-12 months of preparation and it is important not to rush through the process.

We're not trying to be rigid or legalistic in our approach — we just want you to be ready for this very important decision.

If you need any assistance, please contact Linda Buchan at [lbuchan@heritagecc.org](mailto:lbuchan@heritagecc.org).

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One more thing: We also urge each couple to meet with either their pre-marital coaches or officiating pastor for one or two follow-up sessions during the first year of marriage.