



EVERY MARRIAGE MATTERS

GREATER PORTLAND COMMUNITY MARRIAGE POLICY®

We, the undersigned faith community leaders of Greater Portland, have the unique opportunity and obligation to help strengthen marriages in our community. With this policy we establish community-wide standards for premarital preparation and marriage enrichment resources, which will benefit all marriages and families.

Our common mission is to positively impact marriage and decrease divorce.

WE AFFIRM:

1. That God has established in Scripture the sanctity and companionship of marriage;
2. That marriage is a lifelong and unique covenant between one man and one woman;
3. That healthy marriages are good for spouses, children, and the community in general;
4. That it is important to proactively promote and encourage a healthy image of marriage;
5. That we have a responsibility to provide ongoing support to strengthen and nourish existing marriages;
6. That we can accomplish these goals together in community better than working separately.

THEREFORE WE WILL WORK TO:

- Encourage a courtship of at least one year which includes at least four months marriage preparation;
- Teach commitment, faithfulness and integrity within marriage; promote sexual purity and abstinence outside of marriage;
- Require a minimum of four pre-marital mentoring sessions, utilizing both Scripture and a premarital inventory. Schedule two post-marital counseling sessions within the first year of marriage;
- Endeavor to train mature, married couples to serve as mentors for dating, engaged couples, newlyweds, blended families, and those experiencing marital difficulties;
- Provide marriage enrichment opportunities, such as classes, small groups, and/or retreats. Place an emphasis on marriage building during Marriage Week (February 7-14 each year);
- Model skills that build healthy marriages (such as kindness, communication, respect, conflict resolution, tenderheartedness, quality time, trust building, forgiveness, teamwork, adaptability, generosity, romance and intimacy);
- Restore troubled marriages whenever possible by proactively promoting recommitment to relationship via mentor couples, marriage coaching and/or counseling;
- Support marriage and families in prayer.

COVENANT

I commit to seek the endorsement of these standards by my congregation and to encourage others to do so, for the glory of God and the good of our whole community.

SIGNATURE

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DATE

CHURCH / MINISTRY

STREET

CITY