

FHC Pre-Wedding Information Guide

Congratulations on your pursuit of marriage!

We are thrilled you've reached out about our premarital process. This guide will sufficiently acquaint you with Forest Hill's premarital process.

General Information

Forest Hill's Pastoral Care Ministry offers premarital counseling to active participants of the Forest Hill community to nurture and prepare engaged couples for marriage. Premarital counseling is crucial, providing biblical foundations and practical insights to strengthen your future together. ***While we are glad to help make the wedding ceremony special, our greater Christ-centered commitment and priority is to promote and support great Christ-centered covenant marriages!***

Couples will meet with a pastor for 6-8 sessions to explore spiritual teachings and discuss key marital topics including communication, conflict management, intimacy, roles, finances, and, of course, ceremony planning. We aim to deepen your relationship and faith as you prepare for married life.

Note: Because the premarital counseling involves 6-8 sessions occurring monthly or bi-weekly, a minimum of 5 months is required between the submission of the **Wedding Intake Form** (link below) and the desired date of the wedding. This is the best way to secure the involvement of a Forest Hill Pastor.

Intake Process:

1. Begin by completely reading through this **Pre-Wedding Information Guide**
2. Complete our Wedding Intake Form after clicking the link below. This collects essential details about your relationship and wedding plans. ***No commitments of dates, FHC facilities, or officiating pastors are guaranteed until post-confirmation by an officiating pastor.***
3. Complete the required **Prepare/Enrich Relationship Assessment**, a renowned tool used by over 5 million to enhance marital enrichment and success by evaluating 10 key relationship factors. Your confirmed officiating pastor will email you link for each partner to complete the assessment. Results will be automatically emailed to the counseling pastor upon completion of **both** assessments.

Fees

- Forest Hill Church members enjoy free premarital pastoral counseling, thanks to our community's generosity and our united commitment to invest in healthy, Christ-centered covenant marriages.
- **Prepare/Enrich Assessment: \$35/couple.** Payment is made through their website once you receive the links from your officiating pastor.
- Each pastor may require the couple to purchase materials to supplement the premarital preparation process. They will make that clear **prior** to confirming their commitment to pastoral involvement.
- Officiating pastor honorarium: \$350. This **does not include** travel and lodging expenses for out-of-town ceremonies, which the couple must cover. (*Mileage is \$.68/mile*)

Time and Location

- Discuss date, time, and location with your officiating pastor **BEFORE** finalizing to ensure their availability and the availability of the FHC facilities.
- Please try and avoid scheduling weddings on Sundays to respect the pastors' commitments to their congregations. Even here, discuss the logistics with your pastor before setting the date and time.
- Your officiating pastor will confirm with you the times and locations for your premarital counseling sessions

Your Next Step

If you are ready to move forward with us guiding your premarital process, click the link below to begin by filling out the form.

[Wedding Intake Form Link](#)

If you have any further questions or concerns, there is a place at the end of the form to post them, or feel free to contact us at care@foreshill.org

Regarding Civil Laws of State and County:

Important: A *valid marriage license is required before* your wedding ceremony. You are responsible for obtaining and submitting your legal marriage certificate in accordance with the laws of your county and state.

For your convenience, we have provided links to the **NC Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds** and **SC Vital Records** for marriage license information. If your wedding is outside these areas, please check with your **local municipality or civil court** for guidance.:

1. [Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds:](#)
2. [South Carolina Vital Records](#)

We are excited for you in taking this significant step and look forward to guiding you on this exciting journey!

Blessings to you in Christ,

FHC Pastoral Care Ministry
704-716-8775