

The following are the requirements for participating in the marriage preparation process at Mars Hill:

- You must be a covenant member or regular attendee of Mars Hill.
- Your marriage must be at least 3 months from your class start date.
- If this is your first marriage, you must attend all 3 weeks of a marriage prep class at Mars Hill.

NOTE: If this is not your first marriage, or if either one of you has children, we ask that you seek professional counseling outside of Mars Hill. Because of the many dynamics facing second marriages and blended families, we want to ensure a successful marriage preparation period. A list of our Mars Hill counseling partners is available on our website: marshill.org/crisis-need/mars-hill-counseling-partners/

PRE MARRIAGE CLASSES

- Register to attend a 3 week session of our per marriage class.
- These classes are held at Mars Hill 3 times a year: fall, winter, and spring. The class is 2 hours long for 3 weeks.
- There is no charge for the class.

MENTORING

- After you participate in the marriage class, you are welcomed and encouraged to seek ongoing mentoring from a mentor couple.
- Meetings typically take place in the mentor couple's home.
- Our mentor couples are trained volunteers who have a heart and desire to work with engaged couples and who are able to bring in personal experiences and life lessons that may enhance an engaged couples' relationship.
- Our mentor couples use an online tool to test your relationships areas of strengths and weaknesses. The cost of the Prepare Enrich test is \$35.

REQUESTING A PASTOR

- Couples who need a pastor to officiate their ceremony must attend the pre marriage class or complete at least 4 sessions with a professional counselor.
- Applications for a pastor will be made available to you at the first week of the class. You will be assigned a pastor after completing all 3 classes. [If you are seeking professional counseling, you can request a pastor application from info@marshill.org after at least 2 sessions with your professional counselor. After completing 4 sessions with that counselor they will sign the application and return it to Mars Hill to assign a pastor for your special day.]
- The men and women we utilize to officiate weddings are licensed or ordained pastors either from the Mars covenant community or from our staff. A normal honorarium, paid by the bride and groom to the pastor officiating your wedding, is \$250. In addition to the pastor's fee, please consider all extra costs incurred by the pastor, such as round trip gas mileage, food, and possibly overnight accommodations.

REQUESTING THE FACILITY

- The facility rental fee is \$500 for the use of the building for your rehearsal and wedding ceremony. Our wedding coordinator will assist you in scheduling, and a non-refundable \$250 deposit is due once you've decided on a date. The \$250 balance is due 2 months prior to your wedding. The rental fee includes setup, teardown, a sound and light person, use of a keyboard, and the services of the wedding coordinator. Please note that the facility fees are in addition to the pastor's honorarium and any other musicians or helpers you hire.
- The building is available on Fridays 5pm-8pm and Saturdays 8am-8pm for weddings and rehearsals. Weddings may not be scheduled on holiday weekends. Rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions must be held offsite.

QUESTIONS

- Facility coordination questions can be addressed to the Hospitality Manager at 616.249.3337 or akreitzer@marshill.org.
- Class/Counseling Questions and Officiant questions can be addressed to the Community Life Ministry Assistant at 616.249.3337 or communitylife@marshill.org.