



600 Shepherd Street Jonestown, PA 17038 (717) 865-9900

# Pre-Marital Application

### Dear Bride & Groom:

Congratulations regarding your decision to marry and start a new life together! Thank you for considering us as your ministry team for this great event! We are honored and will do our best to prepare you for both your wedding day celebration as well as your future together as husband and wife.

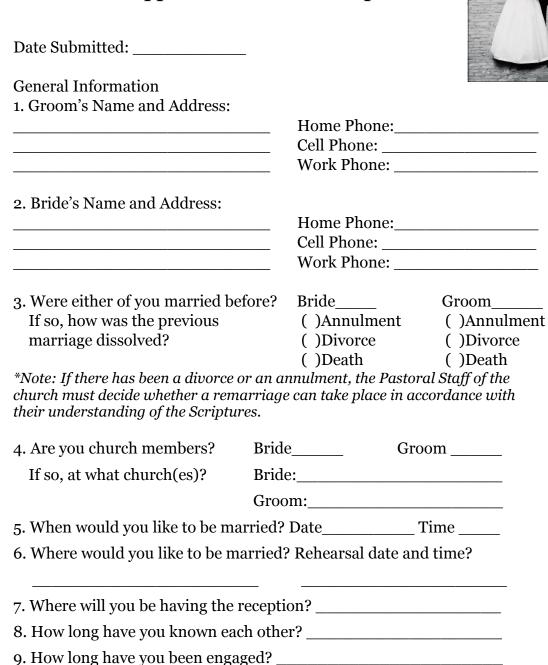
Please read through this "Wedding Packet" and complete the applications provided, returning them to our office as soon as possible. You'll also find other documents which will need your signatures before we can move ahead. Be sure to include them with your returned applications. We'll review your materials and contact you in follow-up to your request, or feel free to call us.

Thank you and God bless you!

The Pastoral Staff of Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church.



# Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church Pre-Marital Application For <u>The Couple</u>



## **Communication Release for Pre-Marital Counseling Process:**

As a couple involved in the premarital counseling process of Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church, Jonestown PA, we understand that the experience will be a multi-faceted process facilitated by different church leaders and lay-leaders. For example, we understand that one component of the process involves meeting wit a "Shepherd Couple" who will serve as our pre-marital mentors. Another component will involve attending a class taught by a lay leader of the church. Yet a third component consists of meeting with one or more pastors on staff of the church, etc.

Given this multi-faceted approach, we realize that in order for the overall premarital experience to be most beneficial to us, it would be advantageous if those leaders could freely interact with one another, about our relationship or us as individuals, offering feedback to us—when helpful and appropriate—to prepare us for married life together.

Our signatures on this document permits those leaders to speak freely with one another, as their discretion, regarding us as individuals or about our relationship in general, without such interactions being construed as breach or confidence or a violation of privacy. Persons included in this release are: the Family Life Minister, Senior Pastor, Lay leaders over the Shepherd Couple Ministry, the specific Shepherd Couple assigned to us for premarital guidance, lay-leaders/teachers of the pre-marital class offered at the church and:

We understand that these individuals will only discuss details regarding us as persons or our relationship in general, as those details concern our future together as husband and wife, or as they concern our actual wedding event. We understand that those interactions will be for the furtherance of the premarital process and for our overall growth in general.

Our signatures on this document releases the specific church leaders noted above, to exchange information about us, as we participate in the premarital process.

Groom:	Date
Bride:	Date
Church Leader:	Date

- 6. The LAEFC Board has compiled a "schedule of fees" regarding weddings conducted at this church. Your sensitivity to that document is appreciated.
- 7. Please note that the LAEFC pastoral staff reserves the right to withdraw or postpone agreement to perform any marriage, AT ANY TIME IN THE PREMARITAL PROCESS, if in its judgment, they believe a couple is not emotionally, mentally or spiritually ready for marriage. Under those circumstances, such consideration will be brought to the couples attention as soon as the staff comes to the conclusion and counsel will be offered as to the best way to proceed. Your signature on this document acknowledges your understanding of this statement and your agreement to accept it as a stipulation for being married at this church.
- 8. The LAEFC pastoral staff recognizes that weddings are 'family events,' and therefore, there are those occasions when parents, friends, or other relatives of the bride or groom sometimes contact our staff with 'concerns' or 'advise' regarding the bride and groom. When this occurs, our policy will be to suggest that the person meet with the bride and groom and if necessary, with the pastor of the church, for open disclosure and discussion of any concerns being voiced. The pastoral staff will strive to avoid being "triangled" between the bride and groom and other family members, and instead re-route communication in a more direct fashion.

Thank you and God bless you! We are here to serve you, seeking to do so in a God honoring fashion, with our ultimate goal being to prepare you for your new life together. Join us as we work diligently to that end!

The Pastoral Staff of the Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church

Your signature below indicates your willingness to abide by these guidelines and submit to LAEFC leadership through out this premarital process.

Groom's Signature	Date
Bride's Signature	Date

# **Application For <u>The Bride</u>**



What strengths do you see in your fiancé?	
What strengths do you bring to your marriage?	
What goals do you have for your marriage?	
What weaknesses do you see in your relationship?	
What areas of your future marital relationship would you like most your pre-marital counseling? (i.e. areas in which you have a number areas of potential conflict, areas of special concern or interest, etc.)	
What does God mean to you?	
What does Jesus Christ mean to you?	

APPLICATION FOR THE <u>GROOM</u>
What strengths do you see in your fiancé?
What strengths do you bring to your marriage?
What goals do you have for your marriage?
What weaknesses do you see in your relationship?
What areas of your future marital relationship would you like most to discuss in your pre -marital counseling? (i.e. areas in which you have a number of questions, areas of potential conflict, areas of special concern or interest, etc.)
What does God mean to you?
What does Jesus Christ mean to you?

# **Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church Wedding Policy**

The goal of the Pastoral Staff of LAEFC is not merely to perform wedding ceremonies, but rather to help establish solid, Christian marriages. With that in mind, please read the following guidelines designed to help facilitate your understanding of our values as church leaders, as we believe God intends regarding healthy marriages.

- 1. LAEFC pastoral staff will perform weddings if both the bride and groom submit to the overall pre-marital counseling process as outlined in the pamphlet entitled "What Can You Expect From Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church When It Comes To Your Premarital Counseling Experience." (included with this packet.)
- 2. LAEFC pastoral staff will perform weddings if both the bride and groom profess to be Christians. (followers of Jesus Christ) and have never been married before or are widowed.
- 3. LAEFC Pastoral Staff cannot, in good conscience, perform a wedding for a couple if they believe one person is a Christian and the other is not.
- 4. In the event that couples applying for marriage, where one or the other party has been divorced, LAEFC pastoral staff will perform a wedding ceremony provided the divorce occurred due to infidelity. Divorces secured for reasons other than that, will be taken on a case-by case basis and couples will defer to the judgment of the pastor's) of LAEFC as to whether or not the wedding ceremony can be performed.
- 5. LAEFC Pastoral Staff cannot perform wedding ceremonies for couples who are cohabitating-living together— or engaging in premarital sex. If this applies in your situation or if you should begin a sexual or cohabitating relationship prior to the wedding ceremony while in the course of this premarital process, you will be asked to separate and refrain from such activities until the ceremony has been conducted. The Pastoral staff reserves the right to withdraw from this process— and not perform your ceremony— if they believe you are choosing to maintain a sexual or cohabiting relationship prior to being legally married.

Continued on the next page.