

Premarital Mentoring FAQ

What does “premarital mentoring” mean?

Premarital mentoring is a process where trained couples walk alongside those preparing for marriage. Using *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts* and the SYMBIS Assessment, mentors help engaged couples explore key areas of healthy marriage. These tools provide a foundation for meaningful discussion, personal stories, and practical guidance. Our mentors are not professionals or perfect couples—they simply share their own experiences of growth and grace in marriage.

What are the requirements to become a premarital mentor?

- Married for at least **5 years** (for couples mentoring those entering a first marriage)
- Married for at least **10 years** (for couples mentoring those entering a remarriage)
- Be a **baptized member** of Third City
- Have **completed required training**

Is there specific material Premarital Mentors are to use?

Yes. All premarital mentors are trained to use *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts* by Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott and the accompanying **SYMBIS Assessment**.

Is there a set time commitment that Premarital Mentors have to adhere to?

We ask each mentor couple to serve a **minimum of two years** once they begin mentoring.

When and where do we meet with an engaged couple?

The timeline and meeting you set is between you and the couple you are mentoring. We encourage mentors to meet with couples **in their homes**, creating a comfortable and authentic environment for honest conversation.

What is the time expectation when meeting with couples?

Each mentoring relationship is flexible based on schedules, but typically couples meet for **1.5 to 2 hours per session** over the course of **8–10 sessions**.

Do we need to attend the training in order to be premarital mentors?

Yes. All mentors are required to complete:

- **SYMBIS online training**
- **In-person mentor training**
- **In-person care training**

Do I need to purchase our own material as a mentor couple?

No. The church provides all materials and covers the cost of SYMBIS training and assessment tools.

What is the difference between “mentoring” and “professional counseling”?

Premarital Mentoring is a guided, curriculum-based conversation led by couples who walk alongside those preparing for marriage. Our mentors help engaged couples explore key topics, share real-life experiences, and build a foundation for a lasting relationship. Unlike professional counseling, which is more clinical and goal-oriented, mentoring is relational, personal, and often takes place in the home—allowing couples to see what real life and marriage look like up close.