

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 6-12 months from your orientation date.
- If this is your first marriage, you must attend a marriage preparation orientation at Mars Hill and complete the marriage ministry requirements of mentorship or counseling. If this is not your first marriage, or one or both of you has children, you do not need to attend the orientation. [See note below]

**Note:** If this is not your first marriage, or 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. Mars Hill will provide you with a list of local Christian counselors. Some scholarship funds may be available.

#### Orientation

- Register to attend our marriage preparation orientation 6-12 months before your wedding date.
- These orientations are held at Mars Hill four times a year: winter, spring, summer, and fall. The orientation is an hour and a half long and will introduce you to our marriage prep mentorship program.
- Cost for the orientation is \$50, which includes materials and the online PREPARE inventory. PREPARE is an assessment tool used by our mentor couples that assists in evaluating a couple's strength and growth areas.

#### Mentoring

- After you participate in the marriage prep orientation, a mentor couple will be assigned to you. The assigned mentor couple will contact you, and together you will schedule the dates and times of the mentor sessions.
- Meetings typically take place in the mentor couple's home, and you'll complete an average of five or six sessions.
- 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 couple's relationship.

#### Requesting a Pastor or the Mars Facility for your Ceremony

- Couples who need a pastor to officiate their ceremony or who want to use the Mars Hill facility for their wedding ceremony should download our **Pastor/Facilities Application** from our website. Fill it out completely, making sure to check the appropriate request boxes in the upper right corner. There are three ways to turn in the completed application: fax to Attn: Community Life at 616-249-3308, email to [communitylife@marshill.org](mailto:communitylife@marshill.org), or mail to Community Life, c/o Mars Hill, 3501 Fairlanes SW, Grandville MI, 49418.
- Applications should be turned in 6 to 12 months prior to your wedding, but not more than 12 months prior. Please keep in mind that a pastor cannot be scheduled for your wedding until at least three sessions have been completed with your mentor couple or professional counselor. We will contact you once we have received your application.
- 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 \$200-250. 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.
- The facility rental fee is \$500 for 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 arrived at a date. The \$250 balance is due two months prior to your wedding. The rental fee includes setup, tear-down, 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 Facilities Manager at 616-249-3337 or [facilities@marshill.org](mailto:facilities@marshill.org).
- Orientation, mentorship/counseling, and officiate questions can be addressed to Community Life at 616-406-3337 or [communitylife@marshill.org](mailto:communitylife@marshill.org).