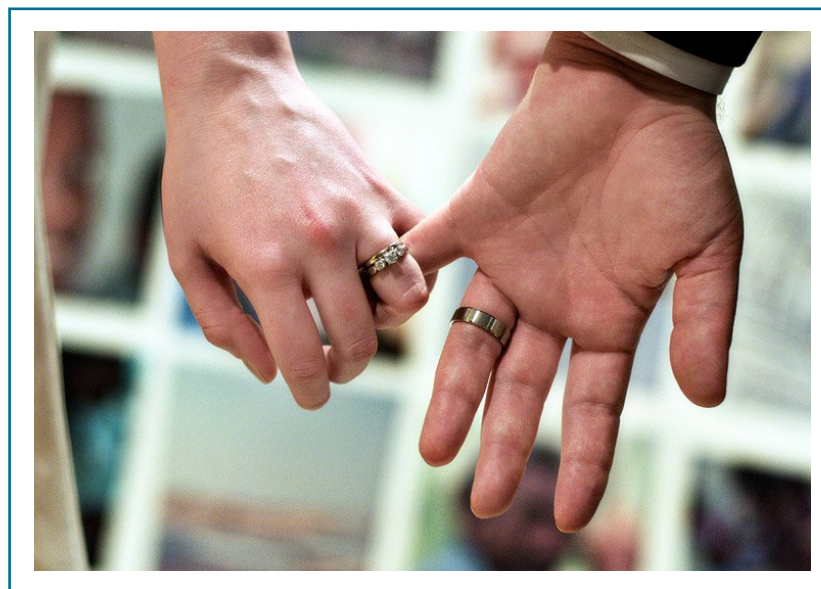

Marriages at LMPC



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MARRIAGE CAN BE HARD.

MARRIAGE MATTERS.

Anyone who has been married for a time knows that every couple can face times of crisis during which they need outside support. LMPC believes that marriage is one of the primary contexts God has designed for our good and sanctification and that he ordains these struggles as a means of increasing our dependence on his grace. We believe that the church has the privilege and responsibility to care for the husband, wife, and especially the children during marital struggles.

At LMPC, we want to remind one another of the beauty of keeping a vow, particularly when it is hard. It has been encouraging to watch God redeem deep pain and heartache, bring about mutual repentance and forgiveness, and break cycles of addiction, generational family dysfunction, and marital infidelity. We have witnessed couples who have been on the brink of divorce with clear biblical grounds, who are now not only healed but are shepherding other couples as they navigate the darkest seasons of their lives.

With this hope of God's redemptive power, LMPC has in place the following resources.

A PROACTIVE ADULT DISCIPLESHIP ministry, which includes Bible studies and small group for men, women, and couples that help to foster community and intergenerational relationships that develop organically as we seek to live as Christ's disciples in all our spheres of influence.

FOR COUPLES IN CRISIS WHO NEED HELP BEYOND WHAT THEIR SMALL GROUP CAN OFFER, THE FOLLOWING ARE AVAILABLE:

ONGOING PASTORAL SUPPORT in which the pastor discipled the individuals and couples, according to biblical principles, addressing how the Gospel speaks to their particular circumstances.

THE MARRIAGE COURSE: a class offered regularly at LMPC for married couples looking to strengthen and enliven their marriages.

PROFESSIONAL REFERRALS according to the specific struggle of the couple with the hope of finding licensed professional counselors who take a Gospel-centered approach, have a proven history of successfully shepherding couples through similar trials, and who have the greatest expertise in the appropriate area.

For couples whose insurance cannot cover the cost of professional therapy or would otherwise be unable to obtain professional services, the church can consider subsidizing the cost.

FOR COUPLES WHO ARE SEEKING BOTH pastoral support and professional counseling, the pastoral staff will request the couple sign a waiver that allows the pastor and counselor to freely communicate with each other, thus allowing a coordinated approach to shepherding the couple. This waiver is required for any couple receiving financially-subsidized counseling.

FOR COUPLES IN SEVERE CRISIS, the church provides a restoration fellowship which includes at least one elder and his wife, a couple who has survived a similar trial, a couple with whom the couple in crisis is already close, and a pastor, pastor's wife, or LMPC staff person. The restoration fellowship meets as a group once a week or once every other week depending on the situation for the purpose of providing love, support, and encouragement to the couple as they go through this trial. These restoration fellowships serve anonymously and are committed to the confidentiality of the family, and they have been known to commit to months and even years of service to the hurting couple.

