

Congratulations...on your decision to enter into the holy covenant of marriage! If Open Door is your church home and you'd like to get married here, read on for more on our premarriage process.

This is an exciting time in your lives and we are happy for you. It is also an important time to talk about expectations. We take our responsibility as a church very seriously in regards to who we will marry. We care about your individual souls as well as your united soul.

There are two main factors that lead to our decision regarding who we can enthusiastically marry: a couple's preparedness for marriage and a demonstrated connectedness to the Open Door community of faith.

### **Preparedness?**

Open Door offers a premarriage process that is required for those who seek to be married at Open Door or by an Open Door Pastor. You'll need to begin this process at least 6-9 months before your desired wedding date for Open Door to make a decision to marry you and provide the emotional and spiritual space you'll need to prepare for marriage.

### **Connectedness?**

Since resources are limited (e.g. time, space, staffing), we are not able to accommodate everyone's wedding needs. Our first priority is to those who are connected to the Open Door community of faith. Our Marriage Application Questionnaire helps us get to know you and determine if we will be able to assist you in this process. If it is determined that Open Door is able to officiate your wedding, then a Pastor will walk you through the necessary process. If the Pastoral staff discerns that a couple needs more time to prepare for marriage, we reserve the right to delay the wedding.

## **The Premarriage Process**

1. Complete the [Marriage Application Questionnaire](#). Each of you must complete a separate questionnaire and return with a photo of you and your fiancée to: Marriage Ministry, Church of the Open Door, 9060 Zanzibar Lane North, Maple Grove, MN 55311. We will contact you within two weeks of receiving them.
2. PREPARE/ENRICH – We will set you up to take the PREPARE inventory online. This inventory measures your strength and growth areas as a couple. You'll walk through the results with a Prepare certified facilitator (3-5 sessions). Fee: \$35/couple payable online.
3. Meet with your marrying Pastor to plan your wedding ceremony (1-2 sessions).

If you have any questions regarding the premarriage process, contact Annie-Claude at [atoll@thedor.org](mailto:atoll@thedor.org) or call ext 1300. Ask for the *Planning Your Wedding* booklets, [The Ceremony](#) and [Event Details](#) for an overview of Open Door resources and helpful tools to plan your ceremony.