

## Blessings of Marriage Mentors

**M**arriage mentors are a blessing to mentorees, to themselves, to the church and to the community. Those blessings come in several ways:

- Mentors have time to invest in mentorees. It is time the pastor often doesn't have.
- Mentors display unconditional love. Rather than judging their actions and intentions, the mentor couple is encouraging the mentorees.
- The mentor couple holds the mentorees accountable in a loving way.
- Mentors reach out to hurting couples when many folks pull back from them.
- Mentor couples provide wisdom from God's Word and from their own life experience.
- Mentor couples benefit too. Often couples are separated for service in the church. She serves in the nursery, and he helps with fixing up the building. Rarely do couples have the opportunity to serve together. Mentoring is a unique opportunity for a couple to serve together.
- Mentoring creates two-for-one growth. The mentor couple's own relationship grows significantly as they work to serve the needs of another couple. The church will have enriched the lives of both couples within this one area of service.
- Marriage mentors are effective. Churches that implement mentoring see relatively few divorces (3% to 20%). With their time, love and wisdom, mentor couples can be used by God to save most marriages.
- Pastors' loads are reduced. What do you say to a spouse whose marriage is troubled or hurting? Often the only option we think we have is to send them to the pastor or a professional counselor. Statistically, counselors generally save fewer than 40% of marriages, and pastors are often overwhelmed with the all the burdens of ministry.
- Marriage mentoring is the essential element to reduce divorce and cohabitation and increase marriage rates. A marriage-valuing church will actively recruit and invest in marriage mentors.

## WFC Here To Help

*Wisconsin Family Council's deep desire is to help your church succeed in its ministry to marriages and families. We share your passion for the family and believe God has called us to serve your church and the families in your fellowship. Please let us know how we can be of help to you.*



PO Box 2075  
Madison, WI 53701  
info@wifamilycouncil.org  
www.wifamilycouncil.org  
888-378-7395

**Eric Skelton**  
Director of Marriage and Family Ministry  
eskelton@wifamilycouncil.org

**Julaine K. Appling, CEO**  
jkappling@wifamilycouncil.org

# Marriage Mentoring

## Couples Serving Couples



---

# Marriage Mentoring

## Couples Serving Couples

---

### What Are Marriage Mentors?

A marriage mentor is a relatively joyous, mature couple in a solid marriage. Some mentor couples will be “back-from-the-brink.” Their marriage may have had significant conflicts from alcohol, adultery, pornography, abuse or other issues. They must be fully recovered from those issues and be able to see how God’s hand has healed their marriage in order that they may serve others.

Mentors may also be couples who have participated in enrichment activities and know the value of them. They are enthusiastic about having other couples share with them the joy of enrichment and can work to bring enrichment programs to the church.

All mentor couples must have a sense of calling to serve other marriages. That calling may derive from the knowledge of how God has worked in their marriage. It may arise out of the anguish from seeing many of their friends’ marriages disintegrate. However it happens, God must call and equip them for the work of this ministry.

#### 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NKJV)

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.*

#### Action Steps

- Pray, seeking God’s direction. Is He calling you and your spouse to be mentors?
- Speak with your pastor to learn more about becoming a mentor couple at your church.

### What Marriage Mentors Are *Not*

- **Marriage mentors are not counselors or therapists.** They in general have no specialized counseling training. They are not professors or “know-it-alls.” One might ask, “What are their credentials?” Marriage mentors are credentialed by God and by the experience of marriage He has given them. That makes them fully sufficient for the task of marriage mentoring.
- **Marriage mentors do not replace the clergy.** They are a supplement and not a substitute for pastors and priests.



- **Marriage mentors are not alone.**

A church’s mentoring program is designed with a lead mentor couple who assists the other mentor couples in the church and reports to the pastor. Additionally, many “user friendly” training opportunities are available to mentor couples. If a mentor couple thinks that they are “over their head,” the counsel of the lead mentor couple or pastor is always available to them..

- **Marriage mentors are not available at all hours of the day and night.** Boundaries must be set with mentorees. Each mentor couple determines their own boundaries and clearly communicates those to mentorees.
- **Marriage mentors are not necessarily friends for life with mentoree couples.** They have a job of mentoring. It is specific and separate from personal friendship. Some mentors do mentor their friends or develop lasting friendship with couples, but that is not a requirement to be a mentor couple. Mentors are working the mentoree couple to independence; mentorees are not “forever patients.” Mentoring can stall when mentorees are not investing in their relationship. However, the mentor couple has the support of the lead couple and pastor to move mentorees along towards mature, strong and independent marriages—marriages that hopefully will allow the mentoree couple to one day become a mentor couple themselves.

### Goals of Mentoring

- To assign and discuss relationship assessments with mentorees and help the couple grow in key relational areas.
- To build empathy with the couple and assure them that marriage struggles are common to all marriages; and, if properly understood, the difficulties work to build character and stronger relationships.
- To model a healthy marriage for mentorees.
- To share marital wisdom with the couple so they can avoid pitfalls and amplify successes.
- To work with couples to self-discover solutions to their relationship problems.
- To help pre-marriage couples discover relationship strengths and areas for growth.
- To help pre-marriage couples build relationship skills.
- To encourage spiritual growth in the mentorees.

---

*“In the first year of our marriage, we would sometimes say, ‘What would our mentors say about this situation?’ They really left a lasting impression and insight for us.”*

*~ Chad & Erinn*



---

*“To hear my mentors share their stories, helps me believe it is not just us. Other couples have struggled with the same things.”*

*~ Pete & Beth*

---