



# Marriage Encounter

## What Is Marriage Encounter All About?

- Marriage Encounter United Methodist helps couples learn to live their marriages as a covenantal relationship.
- Marriage Encounter is not-for-profit organization, affiliated with the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church.
- The purpose of the Weekend is to provide the opportunity for a couple to develop deeper knowledge of Christian marriage, a fuller understanding and acceptance of each other, and the ability to communicate with each other in a significantly deeper and more fulfilling way.
- The format of the Marriage Encounter Weekend is designed specifically to allow a couple time to pause and focus on each other, their commitment, and their relationship.

## Who Should Attend these Weekends?

- Married couples from a few months to over fifty years have found the weekend an exciting experience.
- Persons of any religious faith or background are welcome. Couples should understand the Weekend experience is presented in the framework of the Christian faith and from the perspective of the United Methodist Church.
- Persons who are receiving marriage counseling or psychiatric therapy should check with their therapist before registering.

## Is the Weekend for Couples Experiencing Difficulties in their Relationship?

No, a Marriage Encounter Weekend is not intended for couples experiencing marital difficulties, although the weekend has been helpful for some couples in distress. There is a weekend structured with these couples in mind. Relationships in serious trouble may benefit from a weekend planned for marriages in crisis called Retrouvaille. See <http://www.retrouvaille.org> or call 1-800-470-2230.

## What Happens on a Weekend?

- The Weekend generally begins on Friday at 8 P.M. and ends at about 3:30 P.M. on Sunday afternoon.
- This is a work weekend where couples attend a series of presentations led by a United Methodist clergy couple and one of several United Methodist lay couples.
- The presentations are about significant concepts of the couple relationship illustrated by personal experiences of the presenters. These are designed to inspire the attending couples to look at themselves as individuals, at their relationship, their relationship with God, and the world around them.
- Couples are invited to respond and reflect on the presentation and **privately** share these responses with their spouse.
- **There are no group discussions** and couples are not required to disclose any aspect of their relationship to the group.

## What are the Results of a Weekend?

The National Institute for Family Study reports these findings about Marriage Encounter:

- The divorce rate for couples attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend is just 2% versus the 50% rate as a national average.
- The weekend experience benefits not only the couple and their marriage, but also has a positive effect on family communication and parenting.
- Less than 15% of the couples rated their marriage as “excellent” before, but nearly 65% did so after the Weekend.

## What is the Cost of a Weekend?

- Marriage Encounter Weekends are supported by gifts offered freely on the Weekend. However, a couple is never turned away because of their inability to contribute.
- A non-refundable registration fee of \$50 is required to reserve a space on the Weekend.

For more information and to register contact Mickey and Linda Wheeler, [JamesW3681@aol.com](mailto:JamesW3681@aol.com), 972-594-0232.