

## Pre-Marriage Covenant for Bethel Church

It is important for you to understand that we view performing a wedding as a sacred trust, not simply a ritual. Therefore, we consider your request for a staff member from this church to perform your wedding and/or facilities as the location of your wedding as an invitation to be vitally involved in your lives through the process of preparing for and beginning your marriage. (Hebrews 13:4)

Before any wedding will be considered, this covenant must be initialed and signed by the prospective bride and groom.

Initials:

Groom      Bride

\_\_\_\_\_

We agree to practice sexual abstinence until our wedding. If we are cohabiting, we agree to change or adjust our living arrangements until the wedding. The ability to control your sexual desire is vital to a successful marriage. Studies show that couples who live together before their marriage are considered high risk and significantly increase the risk of an affair or divorce. (1 Corinthians 6:15-20, 7:1, 2, 8, 9; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-9; 5:21, 22)

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We agree to a minimum of eight pre-marriage counseling sessions to begin no less than four months prior to the wedding date.

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We will have known each other for at least one year before the wedding date.

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We agree to a minimum four-month engagement period to help us better prepare for the marriage relationship.

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If either person has been divorced, it will be necessary for us to talk to you about the circumstances that led to your divorce. Because of Biblical guidelines we follow, there are sometimes circumstances that prevent us from performing weddings where one or both of the parties have been divorced. (Mathew 5:31-33; 10:3-9, Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-15; II Corinthians 5:17)

We have read this document, and as an investment in the future happiness of our marriage, agree to abide by the terms mentioned above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Groom

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Bride

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please bring this with you to your meeting with Dick Erickson*