



# APPLICATION FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

*Please read carefully before submitting your application form.*

## **A. REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE:**

### **1. Attendance**

The couple will be required to faithfully attend **ALL seven sessions** of marriage preparation classes scheduled for them. Should there be any session(s) missed for any reason, attending a make-up class is required. The rationale for this is that the couple must show utmost commitment in working on issues pertaining to the marriage. All assignments must be completed diligently before the wedding date can be set.

### **2. Nursery Duty**

The couple is encouraged to serve in the AMC nursery on Sundays for 5 consecutive weeks during or after the MPC. This is a holistic part of the course to prepare them for parenthood.

### **3. Member of another Church**

In the event that one partner is not a member AMC and he/she belongs to another church, he/she has to obtain a written permission from his/her pastor before he/she can be enrolled in our MPC.

### **4. Parental consent**

Parental consent is necessary for persons below 18 years of age.

## **B. REQUIREMENT FOR CHURCH WEDDING:**

### **1. Commitment**

The couple must show seriousness and commitment in preparing for the marriage and not just for the wedding. The church is not obligated to give consent to the wedding in the event of a major concern regarding the preparedness of the couple for marriage. In such cases, a postponement of the wedding may be recommended.

#### ***FAQ: Why is the church making such requirements?***

- a. There is a major difference between a wedding and a marriage. A wedding lasts for an hour or so but a marriage lasts for a lifetime.
- b. Most couples spend hundreds of hours preparing for the wedding but hardly any time preparing for the marriage.
- c. The task of the church is not just to conduct weddings. The Registrar of Marriage is fully capable of doing that. The task of the church is to help couples build Christian homes. The church blessing presumes the fact that the couple understands the teaching of Scripture concerning the marriage covenant and has seriously sought the mind of the Lord on this important decision.
- d. The pastors of the church are responsible before God for the welfare of the sheep. They are answerable to God for the lives of the people. This is why God says in Heb 13:17, "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep

watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." It is not possible for the pastors to give such a blessing without going through a process of preparing the couple for the marriage. Our wedding requirements indicate a high sense of responsibility on the part of the pastors towards the sheep.

- e. The church's involvement with the couple does not end at the wedding. In fact, the pastoral staff and the cell leaders continue to help them throughout their married life as long as they remain with the church. God has given the pastoral staff and cell leaders the awesome responsibility of caring for the sheep. They must do so with great diligence. As pastors and cell leaders, they are to watch over and be shepherds to the flock God has entrusted to them (Acts 20:28).

## **2. Wedding Date**

We would advise couple to only book a tentative date but not fix or book the banquet until they finish the Marriage Preparation Course (MPC) and have a personal meeting with the Pastor who will be marrying them. These will help the couple iron out major issues, should they have, and that they are indeed ready for marriage.

### ***FAQ: Why the advice that the wedding date be fixed only after the completion of the MPC?***

In the course of the MPC, couple may discover that there are major issues to iron out and may indeed not quite ready for marriage. By not fixing the date, this will provide them the time to work through these issues without feeling the pressure to get married if the date has been fixed and the banquet booked.

Some possible problems are:

- a. Lack of ability of one or both partners to adjust emotionally.
- b. Refusal of one or both partners to respond spiritually.
- c. One or more parent withholding consent for the marriage.
- d. Failure to show commitment during the preparation stage.

## **3. Baptism**

Both the man and the woman must be baptized Christians, and at least one of them must be a member of AMC.

### ***FAQ: Why is baptism tied to the Church Wedding?***

As Pastors, we take our role seriously, not just to conduct weddings but also to prepare our members for marriage. As shepherds to our sheep accountable to our Lord Jesus Christ, we seriously view marriage as the dedication of a couple's lives to the Lordship of Christ when they make their vows before God. Baptism is the individual's first step in acknowledging Christ as Lord, and therefore it only make sense that each be baptized before taking the step in Holy Matrimony. If one simply wants to have their wedding conducted, going directly to ROM for solemnization will suffice.

### ***FAQ: Why at least one of us must be a member of AMC before the pastor will conduct our wedding?***

Obviously the couple must be members of another church. One need to understand the need to submit to the spiritual covering of the church that one belongs to for protection and pastoral care. If the couple is from another church, they should approach their pastor to conduct their wedding. If the couple are not member of any church or not baptized, then the couple should consider getting baptized and be member of AMC first before their wedding.

#### **4. Registration with ROM**

Those who have been officially registered and have consummated the marriage will forfeit a church wedding. A Marriage Blessing Service may be held instead.

### **C. PROCEDURES**

1. The couple should first fill in the MPC Application Form and submit it to the Church Office.
2. After their pastor has approved their application, the couple will be contacted to do the PREPARE-ENRICH assessment. Please submit application form together with:
  - a. Photocopy of individual Identity Cards.
  - b. Photocopy of Baptism and Church Membership Certificate.
  - c. If applicant is from another church, a letter of blessing from the pastor of that church.
  - d. Make cheque payment for fees payable to Aldersgate Methodist Church (\$150/- for member/\$200 for non-member).
  - e. Collect the course materials.
3. You will then be required to attend **seven sessions** of MPC.
4. After completion of **all seven sessions** and the marrying pastor is satisfied that the couple has shown commitment to the marriage and that no serious problems exist between them, he/she will be given consent for a church wedding.
5. The couple will then go ahead, in consultation with the marrying pastor, to fix a wedding date.
6. **Next, it is the responsibility of the couple to file notice of marriage at least 25 days ahead of solemnization date with the ROM, to obtain a marriage license. This license must be given to the Church Office at least three days before the wedding.**
7. What if the Housing and Development Board (HDB) wants the couple to produce their Certificate of Marriage upon the collection of keys, but the wedding is some months away. What should the couple do?

In such cases, the couple should first present their problem to their marrying pastor who will then help to appeal to the HDB for delay in producing the Marriage Certificate. Only when the appeal fails, then the couple is allowed to go to the ROM. After the registration at the ROM, the couple is now legally man and wife. The church will still allow a church wedding provided the couple does not stay together, does not consummate their marriage.

***\*(Pls submit application form from pages 4 to 9 and retain pages 1 to 3 for your information)***



# APPLICATION FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Passport  
Size  
Photo of  
Applicant.

(Please complete the Form & submit either to Church Office or at the Info Counter)

*\*Delete where not applicable.*

## Details of Applicant

1. Name as in I.C. : \_\_\_\_\_ I.C.No : \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (S) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Telephone No: (R) \_\_\_\_\_ (O) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Dialects spoken: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Highest Qualification: \_\_\_\_\_ Employment/Position: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Year of baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Church Membership: AMC/Others\*: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Church activities involved in: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Name of Cell Group Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport  
Size  
Photo of  
Partner

## Partner's Details

10. Partner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ I.C.No : \_\_\_\_\_
11. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_
13. Highest Qualifications \_\_\_\_\_ Employment/Position: \_\_\_\_\_
14. Christian YES/NO\* If YES, state name of Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_
15. Year of baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Church activities involved in: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Name of Cell Group Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

## Couple's Details

17. How long have you known each other? \_\_\_\_\_  
How long have you been dating? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Are you currently engaged: YES/NO\*  
For how long have you been engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

Has any party been previously engaged? YES/NO\*

Who is the party? \_\_\_\_\_

How many times have the party been previously engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Is any party married & currently separated? YES/NO\*

Who is the party? \_\_\_\_\_

When was the separation? \_\_\_\_\_

20. Is any party widowed? YES/NO\*

Who is the party? \_\_\_\_\_

When was the party widowed? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Is any party divorced/ has the marriage been annulled : YES/NO\* *(If yes, you will be required to complete an "Approval for Remarriage Form" obtainable from Church Office)*

22. Has any party undergone sex-change operation? YES/NO\*

23. Is any party presently suffering from any health problems?

\_\_\_\_\_ (E.g. heart problem, kidney, blood condition  
or on any form of medication)

24. Has any party ever been charged in any court of law? YES/NO\*

If YES, state the offence: \_\_\_\_\_

### **General Info**

25. Have you registered your marriage with the Registry of Marriage? YES/NO\*

If YES, state the date of registration: \_\_\_\_\_

If YES, has the marriage been consummated? YES/NO\*

26. (A). Have you applied for a flat with HDB? YES/NO\*

If YES, when? \_\_\_\_\_

If NO, are you in the process of purchasing a property/condo/resale flat. YES/NO\*

(B). If your above response is YES, when will you be collecting the keys to your flat/property?

\_\_\_\_\_

27. When is your intended date of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

28. Have you ever taken the PREPARE-ENRICH Instrument? YES/NO\*

29. If YES, when was Instrument taken? \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument administered by \_\_\_\_\_

## **Declaration by Applicants**

### **For Marriage Preparation Course:**

1. \*We / one party \*are/is member(s) of Aldersgate Methodist Church. *(In the event that one of the partners is a member of another church, a written permission from his/her pastor should be obtained & attached to the application, before enrolling in the Marriage Preparation Course (MPC).*
2. \*We/one party \* attend(s) Aldersgate Methodist Church but are not baptized members yet. *(Both should work towards being baptized members if they wish to have their wedding in AMC).*
3. \*Both parties are members of another church. *(A written permission from each respective pastor should be obtained & attached to the application, before enrolling in the Marriage Preparation Course (MPC).*
4. \*We/one party \* are/is not Christian(s).
5. My partner & I need to attend ALL classes and will complete ALL homework assignments.

Note: Please tick (✓) item 1, 2, 3 or 4 where applicable.

\*Delete where necessary.

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Name and Signed by Applicant & Partner

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Date

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### **DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE**

To complete your application, kindly go through the list of items below and tick (\_\_\_) accordingly:

1. \_\_\_ duly completed and signed MPC Application Form
2. \_\_\_ 1 recent passport-sized photograph **each** of applicant & partner
3. \_\_\_ A copy of NRIC of applicant & partner
4. \_\_\_ A copy of Baptism Certificate of applicant & partner
5. \_\_\_ An official document certifying of annulment/divorce (if applicant is a divorcee)
6. \_\_\_ A documentary proof from Registry of Marriages (if your ex-spouse has remarried)
7. \_\_\_ A written permission from your church pastor (if applicant is not AMC member)
8. \_\_\_ Payment in cheque made to Aldersgate Methodist Church (*\$150 per couple for applicant who is a AMC members; \$200 per couple for non-member applicant*)

#### **Important Note:**

Please ensure that the application forms / all the necessary documents have been completed / furnished.

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU.**

**This Declaration is applicable only to couples planning for a Church Wedding in AMC :**

1. We should NOT set a wedding date until we have met with the Marrying Pastor upon completion of the Marriage Preparation Course. *(Please discuss with your pastor if the date has been set)*
2. It is our responsibility to file notice of our wedding at least 25 days before our actual wedding date with the Registry of Marriages.
3. It is our responsibility to make arrangements and secure a church for our wedding.
4. I fully understand that to be married in this Church, the above conditions need to be adhered to.
5. I declare that the information given is true, correct and complete.

Sign by Applicant & Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION ACT**

I acknowledge that I am providing my personal data for my application for the Marriage Preparation Course. I consent to the Church collecting, using or disclosing my personal data for the purposes of maintaining and updating the Church's records and purposes related to this Course.

I also consent to the Church contacting me by telephone or sending text or e-mail messages to me in relation to my application for this Course.

Sign by Applicant & Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FOLLOWING TO BE COMPLETED INDIVIDUALLY WITHOUT CONFERRING WITH ONE ANOTHER:**

**MAN:**

A. What do you hope to learn from this Course?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

B. What do you think marriage will bring you?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

C. What do you think you can bring to the success of your marriage?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**THE FOLLOWING TO BE COMPLETED INDIVIDUALLY WITHOUT CONFERRING WITH ONE ANOTHER:**

**WOMAN:**

D. What do you hope to learn from this Course?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

E. What do you think marriage will bring you?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

F. What do you think you can bring to the success of your marriage?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.