

Life Partner Classes

Led by Dr. Harold Guess

Rev. Guess feels strongly that couples should not only prepare for their wedding, but also prepare for their marriages. Most couples invest a tremendous amount of time and money on their wedding, but relatively little on their married life together. As a result, nearly half the marriages end in divorce. Therefore, Harold offers pre-marriage classes and individual pre-marital counseling. It takes two forms:

1. The Prepare-Enrich Inventory, put out by Life Innovations, Inc., is the basis of the first class. See www.lifeinnovations.com.
2. The Communication and Conflict Resolution materials, put out by Couple Communications, Inc. are the basis for the second class. See www.couplecommunication.com.

The classes enrich the lives of couples. One groom-to-be said,

“I really did not want to take the class, but did so because she wanted to do it. But having completed the class, I do not see how anyone gets married without covering these materials.”

Couple Communication Class

The Couple Communication class is based on Sherrod Miller's doctoral dissertation on communication and conflict resolution. The materials include a workbook for each participant, a set of communication mats, and pocket-sized cards illustrating the contents of each class session.

At the class the first session deals with taking care of one's self; i.e., getting in touch with one's own issues, and expressing one's thoughts, feelings, and wants. The second session deals with taking care of your partner, by learning listening skills. Session three puts the "learnings" of sessions one and two in a process to resolve conflict. Session four helps us examine our usual modes of communication and goal setting for change.

The cost per couple is a \$50 deposit for materials, plus \$125 for the class. The \$50 is non-refundable and is to be paid upon registration. It must be paid two weeks prior to the class (*so materials can be ordered and delivered*).

Future 2009 Communication class dates are: July 18, 2009

October 24, 2009
(Combined Prepare-Enrich/
Couple Communication 1-day class)

In both classes we break every 90 minutes and if a class is held on Saturday we take a lunch break, too. Classes are held at University Christian Church, 2007 University Avenue, directly south of the UT tower.

Notes About The Leader

Harold Guess is an ordained minister of The Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*), perhaps the first non-denominational church founded on the American frontier, soon after the forming of the United States.

Harold was the senior minister of University Christian Church in downtown Austin until his retirement in mid-summer of 2004. He is a Texas Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a certified pre-marital counselor. He has used the Prepare-Enrich and Couple Communication materials for over 10 years, and is certified by both groups.

Harold now works out of his home, and uses University Christian Church as a site for the group sessions. You may contact Harold at

Home: (512) 284 9457

Cell: (512) 796 5627

E-mail: harold.ucc@juno.com

His website is: www.austinweddingminister.com

You may register for classes by completing the attached form, writing your check to "Harold Guess," and giving both to him. Or, registration materials may be sent to Harold at

6607 Brodie Lane
Apartment 516
Austin, Texas 78745

or they may be mailed to the church at

University Christian Church
2007 University Avenue
Austin, TX 78705

***Life Partner Class
Registration Form***

Name of Bride

Name of Groom

Bride's Address

Groom's Address

Bride's Home Phone

Groom's Home Phone

Bride's Work Phone

Groom's Work Phone

E-mail addresses:

Bride

Groom

Wedding Date:

Living together? _____ How long? _____

Interested in the Prepare Enrich

(July 11, 2009)_____

Interested in Couple Communication Class

(July 18, 2009)_____

Interested in Combined Prepare-Enrich/Couple Communication 1-day class

(October 24, 2009)_____