



Miami Valley Healthy Marriage Policy

This policy expresses the common concerns of the faith community regarding the need to better prepare, strengthen and restore marriages and to support step-families in the Miami Valley.

We Believe:

- God has established marriage in Scripture.
- God intends the marriage bond to be between one man and one woman and to last for a lifetime.
- As religious and community leaders we have a responsibility before God to raise the standard for marriage.
- As religious leaders we believe we have a responsibility before God to strengthen and nourish step-families.

Therefore, we will:

- Encourage a courtship of at least one year;
- Affirm fidelity in marital relationships;
- Educate ourselves and our congregations about the negative effects of premarital sexual activities and co-habitation;
- Provide a premarital preparation process of four to six months;
- Provide annual enrichment opportunities in the church and community;
- Identify, inspire and train couples with strong marriages to serve as marriage mentors;
- Provide mentoring for all stages of marriage;
- Cooperate with other congregations in sharing resources and information.

Signed by:

Religious and Community Leaders of the Miami Valley

Date