



## **ALLEN COUNTY COMMUNITY MARRIAGE AGREEMENT**

The Ecclesiastical and Governmental Leaders of the Allen County do hereby covenant, before God and each other, to strengthen and empower the covenant of marriage in this community, that it may flourish as God intends, so it may be a blessing for all people. The lifelong relationship between a man and a woman will be held as the foundation of a strong and family-centered community. Therefore, as community leaders, we promise to God, our families, and our community to encourage couples to remain steadfast in unconditional love, reconciliation, and sexual purity, while purposefully growing in their covenant relationship.

### **We Believe:**

**That God has established in Scripture the sanctity and companionship of marriage.**

**That God intends the marriage bond between husband and wife to last a lifetime.**

**That we, as leaders, have a responsibility to bless, nurture, support, and encourage strong marriages.**

### **Therefore We Will:**

**Uphold the following minimum standards in our marriage ministry and ensure the best marriage possible for engaged and married couples by:**

- 1) Encouraging a minimum of one year of courtship.**
- 2) Encouraging at least four months of marriage preparation, including four to six premarital counseling sessions.**
- 3) Encouraging the use of a premarital inventory (including but not limited to the FOCUS and PREPARE/ENRICH assessments).**
- 4) Training mature married couples to serve as mentors to those who are engaged, newly married, experiencing marriage difficulties, remarried or seeking to enhance their marriage.**
- 5) Using a faith-based approach to cover issues such as communication, conflict resolution, finance, sex and parenting.**
- 6) Encouraging participation in retreats, classes, and marriage enrichment opportunities.**
- 7) Developing and implementing programs for troubled marriages.**
- 8) Promoting faithful marital relationships and sexual abstinence outside of marriage.**
- 9) Promoting God as the foundation of a happy and enduring home.**
- 10) Encouraging the development of a budget and repayment plan for financial debts.**
- 11) Encouraging participation in a faith community during the process of preparation for marriage, and continued participation for spiritual nurturing after the wedding.**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Church/Office:** \_\_\_\_\_