



Christian Assembly Church
Christian Marriage Counseling Offer Guidelines

Welcome!

We are so glad that you are interested in investing in your relationship via Christian marriage counseling. We have been praying for this effort and believe God will use this effort to serve you well. The Bible makes it clear that there is wisdom in receiving Godly counsel and input in every area of life. Certainly, this principle applies to our relationships and marriages too. For example, Proverbs 13:10 tells us, “Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.” Below you will find the guidelines for this effort as well as our answers to some of the questions we anticipate you may have. We are praying for you!

With Hope & Gratitude,

Tom, Mark, & the CA Pastoral Team

FAQs:

What is being offered? Christian Assembly Church is offering to pay 80% of the Christian marriage counseling fees for up to 24 total sessions for any approved couple who would like to do counseling with Christian counseling centers that we are partnering with for this effort. We will help couples on a ***first-come, first-served basis up to 100 couples*** which is the amount of couples our partnered counseling centers can handle for this endeavor. To be eligible, you must register. The registration window opens ***Saturday Feb. 25, 2024. It will close if we hit 100 registered couples or by March 10, 2024, whichever comes first.*** Point being, the sooner you sign up, the better.

Why is Christian Assembly offering this? As we have prayed, we believe this is a step that the Lord is asking us to take to help strengthen marriages. We believe this effort will not only serve

the couple, but also have a ripple effect impacting others around the couple including any children, extended family members, and more.

Why is the offer only for the pre-approved Christian marriage counseling centers? Our mission as a church is that “God’s grace compels us to lead spiritually convinced and unconvinced people to complete commitment to Christ.” So therefore, we believe that the counseling needs to be Christian marriage counseling to align with our mission. Also, while there are many good Christian marriage counselors, we are working with the centers that we have some personal relationship with which helps simply in terms of confidence in their competency.

Do my spouse or I have to be a Christian to participate in this? No, you do not need to be a Christian to participate. However, it is important for you to be aware that this is Christian marriage counseling, so the input you receive will be based upon the teachings of the Bible. The expectation is that both people in the couple would attend each session.

How many sessions do we have to do? You do not have to do any sessions at all! This is an investment into your marriage, not an obligation. That being said, if you are going to see one of the counselors, we recommend that you commit to doing at least 6 sessions as this is usually the minimum number of sessions to see progress and growth. Christian Assembly will pay 80% of the fees for completed sessions up to 24 sessions.

When will the date & time of the sessions be? You will schedule that directly with your selected counseling site, not through Christian Assembly Church.

Will it be in-person or online? You can work that out directly with your counselor.

Are they licensed counselors or associate counselors? The centers offer both. When you contact the center, you can ask them to explain the difference and select at that point in time from whomever is available for appointments.

Is the counseling confidential? Yes, the counseling is confidential in terms of what is said in the sessions. You can speak directly with your selected counselor about confidentiality.

Do I need to live in California? Yes. Due to counseling regulations & requirements, you must live in California.

Is the billing confidential? By registering, you are giving Christian Assembly Church knowledge that you are interested in Christian marriage counseling. We must know this information in order to pay the 80% of the fees for your completed sessions. That being said, you can trust that the registration list will be restricted to only those who need to know to execute the payments to the counseling centers.

How does the billing work?

CA will be directly billed for 80% of your cost with a therapist. You will be billed directly for the other 20% & must pay this copay per session. By registering, you agree that Christian Assembly Church is not responsible for your 20% share of the fees.

**If a couple does not show for their scheduled appointment without notifying the counselor in advance, the couple will be responsible for the full 100% cost of the session that they skipped without notifying their counselor.*

All sessions eligible for this offer must be completed no later than October 31, 2024. That date is more than 24 weeks after the registration period closes. So if you do 1 session per week, you will be able to get up to the full 24 sessions offered within that window. We need to establish an end date to the counseling sessions to be able to close our financial books on this project in a timely manner.

All final bills from the counseling centers must be received no later than November 30, 2024. This will be communicated to all the counseling centers. It gives them a month from the last possible session to bill Christian Assembly for the sessions. This also allows us to receive the bill and pay it in a timely manner while closing our financial books on this endeavor by Dec. 31, 2024.

Does our marriage need to be in crisis to do Christian marriage counseling? No. It is open to any couple who feels that their marriage would benefit from Christian marriage counseling.

Does Christian Assembly Church offer anything besides this effort to strengthen marriages?

Yes, we offer periodic marriage classes and enrichment workshops. Those opportunities are announced within our weekend services and often also through our website

(www.cachurch.com) and social media (@cachurchla).

Does Christian Assembly Church have a recommended reading list on the topic of marriage, singleness, and romantic relational items? Yes, we have compiled a recommended reading put together by the Christian Assembly Church pastoral staff. To make the list, the book had to be read and endorsed by at least 1 of our pastors. It does not mean that every pastor has read

every book. Here is a link to that list:

 CA Pastoral Recommended Dating &/or Marriage Books:

We are thinking about getting married – either pre-engaged or pre-married - is this offer open for us? If you have completed Christian Assembly’s pre-engaged/pre-married class, then you are welcome to sign up for further help. Otherwise, the “Before I Do” class is coming up in April 2024. You can register now, but we’d ask that you not begin your sessions until after you have completed the “Before I Do” class. That class will address some of the most common topics that couples need to discuss prior to getting married. After you complete that class, you’d be welcome to begin counseling sessions if you completed registration during the open registration window for this effort.

I’m single, divorced, a widow or a widower, what resources are available for me regarding navigating my relational status? We have a number of ongoing ministries that help serve people of every relational status. Those are announced regularly within the weekend services of Christian Assembly Church. So we encourage you to get involved in those efforts. In addition, part of the teaching series will have Biblical application to our relational lives no matter our romantic relational status. We will also have a reading list available of resources that may be helpful for you to consider reading. And as always, you can reach out to the CA pastoral staff if you would like someone to give you prayerful, Biblical input on your specific situation.

I love that Christian Assembly is doing this! I want to help support this effort financially. Is there some kind of fund that I can give to in order to be part of financially supporting this effort? Thank you for your generous heart! We do not have a separate fund established for this endeavor; however, if you’d like to be financially supportive, then please give to our general offering. The funds for this endeavor have come from our general offering. You can give online or in-person during the services.