

MRT (Marriage Restoration Team)

The Short Version:

The purpose of the MRT is to work with couples with significant marital problems by developing, coordinating, overseeing, and monitoring a plan for marital Restoration.

In view of the holiness of marriage and its great potential for Christ-exalting impact in our community on the one hand, and the sad reality of the ongoing presence of several dysfunctional, sin-riddled marriages in our midst on the other hand, the development of a team committed to the restoration of marriages has been developed called the Marriage Restoration Team (MRT).

This team is composed of at least one Elder and both men and women who have experience working with troubled marriages. They meet once monthly to examine potential new cases and monitor progress or regress of ongoing cases. Their purpose is as follows.

In collaboration with the couple desiring help, the purpose of the team is:

- Receive referrals from SG Leaders, NW Ministry Staff or Elders, or from couples that could self-identify.
- Collect information about the couple (interviews with couple or other relevant individuals, questionnaires, marital satisfaction inventory).
- Discuss and identify problems and potential solutions.
- Develop a comprehensive recovery plan, which is then presented to the couple for modification and consent. The following are potential resources that could be part of the recovery plan offered to the couple.
 - Marriage Counseling
 - Individual Counseling
 - Marriage Mentoring
 - Focused Individual discipleship, i.e.,
 - Marital Roles- Husband/Wife
 - Leadership
 - Financial Management
 - Conflict
 - Communication
 - Retreats, i.e.
 - Winshape
 - Twelve Stones
 - Family Life
 - Psychological evaluation, psychiatric care.
 - Advocates (a friend couple who accompanies them for support and accountability and takes a special interest in praying for them regularly.)
 - A shepherding Elder who would touch base and pray with the couple for at least 15 minutes per week.
 - Fitting involvement of Small Group Leader, who would also stay in touch with the Restoration Team.
 - Church discipline through NW Elders

North Wake is in process of developing proactive resources, such as marital mentoring. If you have proactive ideas, please share them with Mike Derstine (mpderstine@gmail.com) or Craig Morrisette (craigmorrisette@northwake.com).

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

- **What is the general process of the MRT?**
 - The first step in the process is the referral of the couple to the MRT team by a NW leader, who has already discussed this referral with the couple themselves. Subsequently, the second step in the process is that the Coordinator of the MRT will set up an interview for assessment and evaluation with the couple, which is crucial to the development of the recovery plan. The results of this assessment will be shared with the MRT, along with other information that is collected from others that have been involved with the couple and have been aware of their marital struggles and that might help in developing a viable recovery plan (i.e., small group leader, pastor, counselor, family member). The MRT will discuss this information, and conjointly develop a recovery plan, which will subsequently be offered to the couple by the Coordinator and/or the MRT itself. Following the couple's feedback and acceptance of the plan, the MRT Coordinator will monitor the implementation of the plan by the couple by means of updates from the couple and any other persons that are taking part in its implementation (i.e., small group leader, pastor, counselor, family member, doctors, etc.) The MRT, via the Coordinator or an elder that is on the MRT will keep the elders of NW apprised of the couple's progress on an as needed basis.

- **What is the level of confidentiality with the MRT?**
 - Confidentiality is important to the MRT, and we will carefully guard the information entrusted to us. The couple will supply the MRT administrator with a Release of Information waiver in order to interview persons the couple feels knows them best and could offer a time-line and/or pertinent information concerning their care. Persons that may also be interviewed to provide insight on their care for the couple includes: a small group leader, pastor, counselor, or family member. There are situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others not expressly stated in our guidelines.
 - When there is reasonable suspicion of child or elderly abuse or neglect;
 - When there is reasonable suspicion of suicidal or homicidal or criminal intent and/or actions;
 - When a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of elders via church discipline to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20).
 - If we believe that information needs to be shared with others, we will attempt to discuss this with the couple first, unless to do so would put someone at risk of harm.

- **How does a Small Group Leader refer a couple for the MRT?**
 - There is a form called the "MRT Referral Form". This form is to be completed by you, the Small Group Leader. It is imperative that you NOT do this in secrecy from the couple. It is expected that you, the Small Group Leader, have attempted to care and pray for this couple already. It is also expected that you have shared with the couple the purpose of the MRT and shared your recommendation that they be referred for the MRT. The couple must be desirous for the care from the MRT. No successful restoration can occur without willing participation by both the husband and the wife.

- **How many cases can the MRT take?**
 - Currently and realistically the team can provide care for four couples. Additional MRT teams could be created in the future.

- **What constitutes the level of marital conflict that would warrant an MRT referral?**
 - The MRT seeks to tackle marital dysfunction when it reaches a level that the marriage is at risk. The MRT is more of a re-active approach to marital crisis. It is not a pro-active approach to marital discord.



MRT (Marriage Restoration Team) Counseling Recommendation

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Names of Couple you are referring: _____

1. Which of these items have you done (check all that apply and provide time-frames if applicable)?

- I have purposefully prayed **with** the couple about their marriage from (___/___/___ to ___/___/___)
- I have attempted to counsel the couple myself from (___/___/___ to ___/___/___)
- I have spoken to the couple **more than once** and expressed my concern for their marriage. (_____) times.
- I have personally told the couple that I am referring them to leadership (MRT) for *additional* care and counseling.

2. Your spiritual assessment of the couple (Use black ink for husband and blue for the wife):

	Poor-----	Avg-----	Great----	Don't Know							
• Spiritual disciplines?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Consistency & quality of Bible study & devotions?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Scripture memorization?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Consistency & quality of prayer?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Sharing the gospel?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Stewardship of time & resources?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Understanding & application of the Gospel?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Biblical conviction and love for the local church?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Compassion and love for others?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• SG attendance?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Mort & Viv (Killing of Sin & Making Alive Righteousness)?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Purity?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
• Unity with everyone in the current SG?.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown

3. The couple responded to your decision to refer them to the MRT (either verbally or in writing):

Husband: Favorably Unfavorably Wife: Favorably Unfavorably

4. On a separate document, please provide a typed "Explanation of Referral" (your concerns for the couple). Why do you feel they need additional counseling and care? What have you done to help?

Signature: _____

By affixing my signature above, I am:

- Recommending the leadership of the MRT team consider this couple for *additional* counseling and care.
- Aware that by referring the couple to the MRT, I am not decreasing or discontinuing my shepherding and care for them; rather I acknowledge that my care for them will likely increase.
- Affirming that I have personally told the couple I am referring them to leadership (MRT) for additional care and counseling.
- Acknowledging that my referral can be read and seen by: the couple I am referring, the Elders, Counselors, & MRT team.



What's Next?

1. Attach your "*Explanation of Referral*" to this completed document and turn it in to the MRT administrator (Craig Morrisette).
2. Upon receipt of this referral, the MRT will discuss your referral at their next monthly meeting. Once a decision is made you will be notified.
3. If the MRT decides to move forward with your referral, the couple will be contacted to complete a marital assessment and be interviewed to ascertain the challenges within the marriage from both perspectives (husband and wife).
4. If you have not heard anything after 1 month, contact the MRT Administrator, Craig Morrisette.
5. Pray for the couple often and expect to be involved in some way with their care.