

(Date)

Dear:

Warm greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

You have indicated to us that it is your desire to be married, making use of the facilities and/or staff of our church. As we mentioned in our conversation with you, before we can go ahead with the marriage, we would like to have a discussion with you about the circumstances of your divorce and where God may be leading you today. We do not want to invade your privacy, but at the same time we want to help people who may be desiring to marry not to take any missteps. Everything that is disclosed will be kept confidential.

We would like to sit down with you for an extended discussion. Included with this letter is a list of information items to be collected, questions to prepare for, and the name of a book to be read for further discussion. When you have prepared these materials and read the book, please contact us again so that an appointment can be made.

We recognize that preparing materials such as these may cause you to revisit painful memories and experiences in your life. I wish that this was not necessary, but it is part of the process of clearing you for the possibility of remarriage at our church.

We look forward, with you, to anticipating God's plans for your future and may you know the fullness of His love and blessings day by day.

Very sincerely,

Enclosure

INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION TIME

Please prepare the following information:

Date of first marriage _____

First spouse's full name _____

Date of separation _____

Date and place of divorce _____

Plaintiff in the divorce _____

If children in first marriage, who has custody? _____

Legal reason for divorce in the decree _____

Is former spouse remarried? _____ If so, give date _____

Please come to our discussion time prepared to give the following:

1. A complete account in your own words of your previous marriage(s) and divorce.
2. Any testimony or documentation of infidelity on part of former spouse.
3. A testimony of your conversion to Christ.

And please read the book And Marries Another: Divorce and Remarriage in the Teaching of the New Testament by Craig Keener (Hendrickson, 1991) (available from www.chapters.ca) and be prepared to discuss the question, "In what ways has your understanding of the issues related to divorce and re-marriage from a Christian perspective grown after reading the book?"