

A photograph of a wedding ceremony in a modern church, overlaid with a blue tint. The bride and groom are walking down the aisle, surrounded by a large, cheering congregation. The church has a contemporary design with a balcony and a large arched window in the background.

# **Building a Marriage Pathway in Your Church**





Let marriage be held in honor among all.  
Hebrews 13:4

“What a happy and holy fashion it is  
that those who love one another  
should rest on the same pillow.”  
- Nathaniel Hawthorne



**TODAY**

**#1 State of marriage in our culture**

**#2 Marriages in the local church**

**#3 Building a Responsive Marriage**

**#4 Building a marriage pathway**



# THE STATE OF MARRIAGE

Measurement*	Base Year	Data	Compare Year	Data	Trend
% of One-Person Households to All Households in US	1960	13%	2022	29%	↑
% of Persons in US Aged 15 and Older Never Married	1950	23%	2022	34%	↑
Marriage Rate Per 1,000 Persons in US	1980	10.6	2022	4.9	↓
% of Households Headed by a Married Couple	1980	61%	2022	47%	↓
% of Households with Children Under 18 Headed by a Married Couple	1970	40%	2023	18%	↓
*United States Census Data					



## Why Marriage Ministry?

“Marriage is the most urgent ministry gap in the church today”: US study links faith crisis to family woes.

Salt and Light Article: April 30, 2024

### FINDING 1: Family Structure Shapes Faith

**1/2**

Less than ½ of young adults today had continuously married parents through childhood

**80%**

YET...80% of church goers had continuously married parents through childhood

SOURCE: [Nationwide Study on Faith and Relationships](#) by Communio

### FINDING 2: Marriage Ministry

Seriously Lacking

**72%**

SADLY...72% of all churches LACK a substantive marriage ministry

SOURCE: [The State of Marriage & Relationship Ministry](#) report with research from Communio and Barna



## Why Marriage Ministry?

Church of the Nazarene 2024 Annual Pastor's Report for  
USA/Canada Region Reveals an Even More  
Sobering Statistic...

**15%**

Of the 4,814 churches in the  
region, only 15.1% (729) indicated  
that "Marriage Enrichment" is one  
of the ministries they offer



# MARRIAGE & THE LOCAL CHURCH

Program



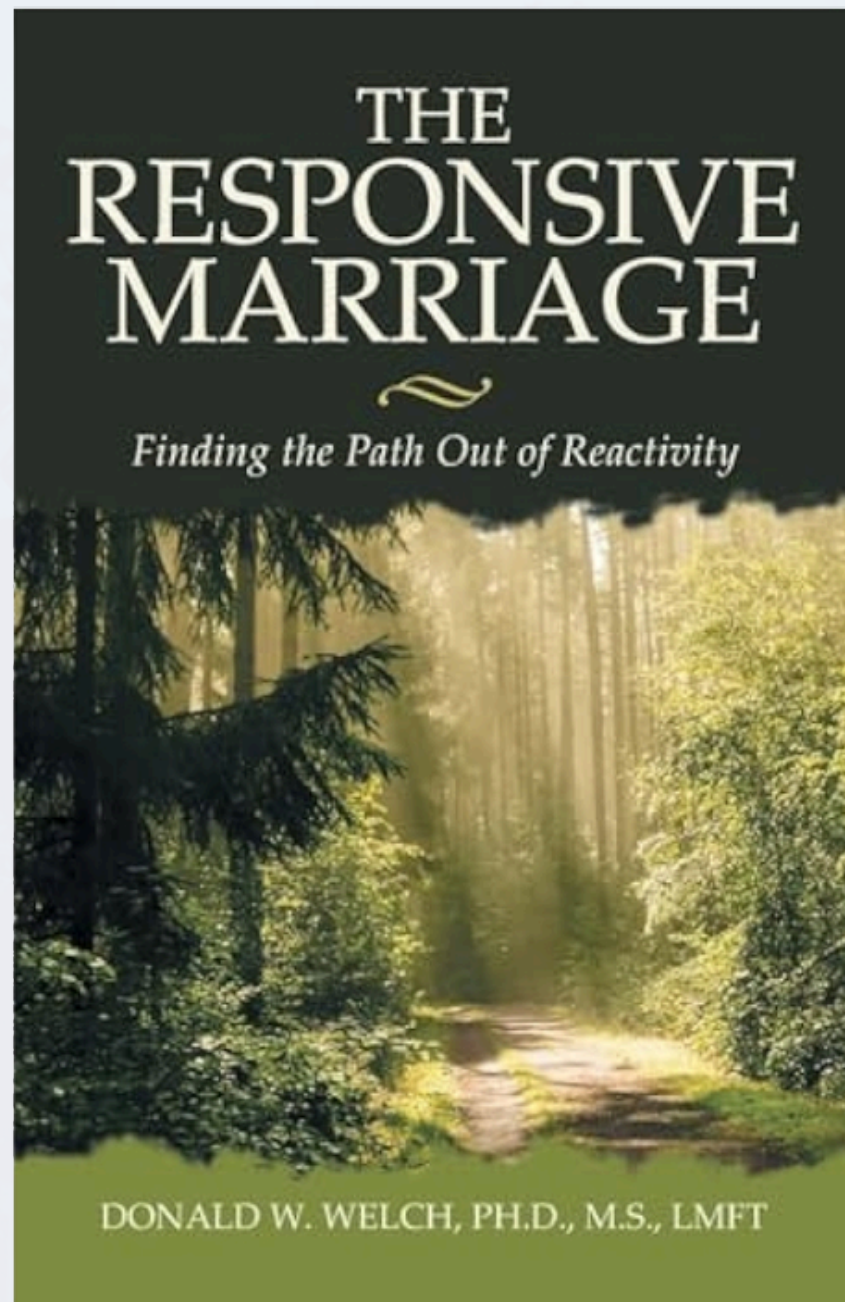
vs.

Pathway





# THE RESPONSIVE MARRIAGE



- **REACTIVITY:** involuntary, unregulated, relationship-impeding behaviors
  - **#1 contributor to marital strife and discord**
- **RESPONSIVENESS:** voluntary, deliberate, relationship-enhancing behavior
  - **Antidote for reactivity**
- **To be RESPONSIVE requires awareness, restoration, and training**



THE  
**responsive**  
↕  
**relationship**

# *Marriage Conference*

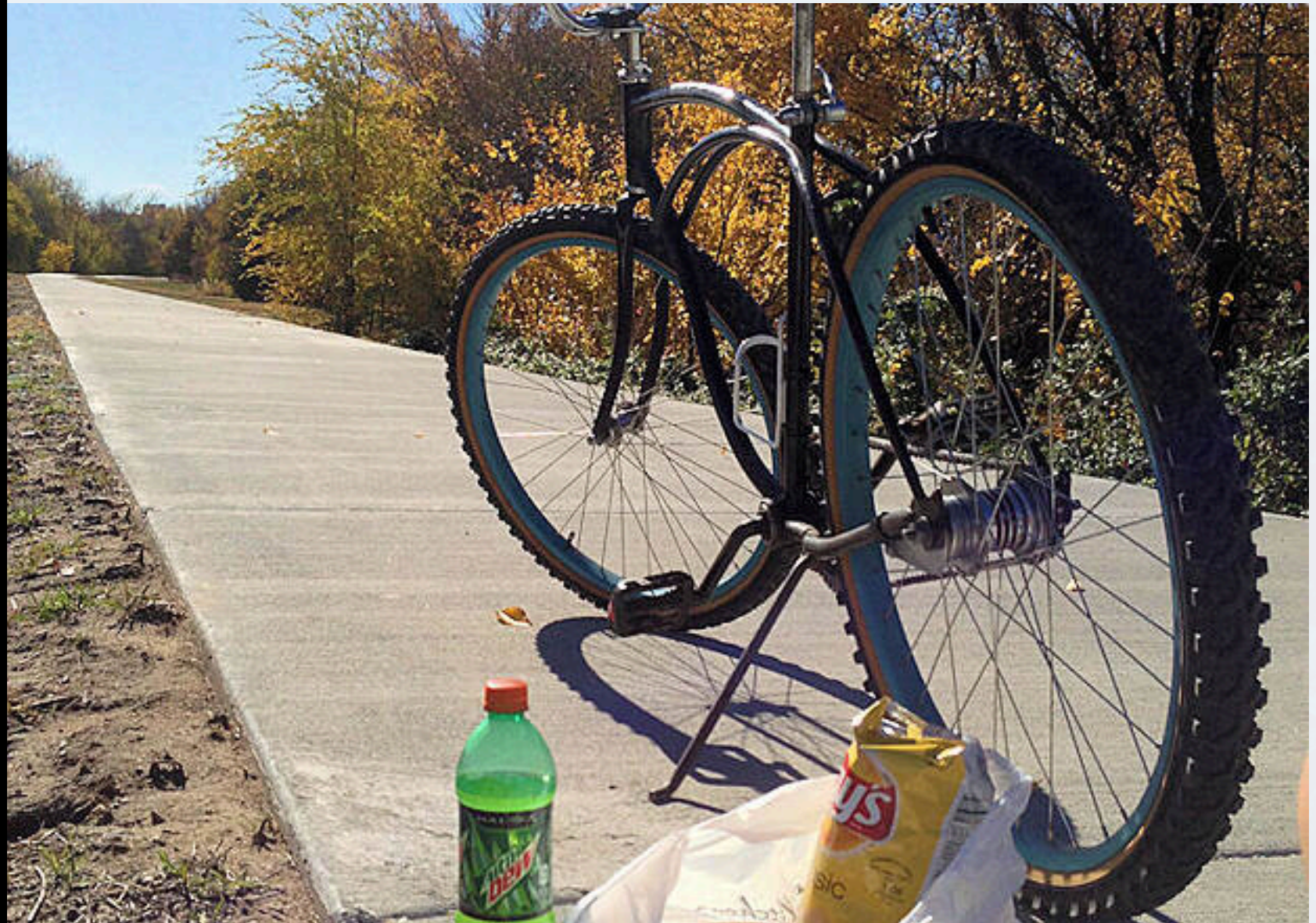
OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2025  
WICHITA, KS





# A MARRIAGE PATHWAY

- Marriage building event (e.g. conference)
- Marriage Champion couple
- A curriculum
- Date Nights



**Do a 12 month experiment**







## Building Your Pathway

**1) Attend/Encourage Attendance at the Marriage Conference**



**2) Schedule a FREE Marriage Ministry Consultation**



**3) Take/Encourage Taking the Nazarene Marriage Condition Survey**

