intended to be married by chaplains at Ft. Lewis, to complete the course.

All of the instructors, or facilitators, for the various classes in the course had some expertise in each of the aspects of the marriage relationship. Classes on the religious aspects of marriage and on communication in marriage were led by chaplains. Leadership of the class on financial and legal aspects was shared by an individual from Army Community Services and a representative of the Judge Advocate General branch. The class on the physical and sexual aspects of marriage was led by an OB-GYN physician from Madigan Army Medical Center.

Little has been deleted from the original format of the course, though the content has undergone some significant changes. The reliance upon a multiple resource base for instruction/facilitation has remained and is being expanded in the current program.

Surveys of Chaplain Preferences for the Program

The Marriage Preparation Program has proven to be one of the most viable and effective chaplain programs at Ft. Lewis. During 1975, the Ft. Lewis chaplains made a focused and concerned effort to upgrade even further the quality of the effectiveness of the course. In November 1974, the chaplains on post were surveyed regarding their preferences for the program. They were asked to establish a basic goal and philosophy for the course and to answer questions regarding the course format, content, tone, and instructional methods. It was hoped that the survey would provide a direction for the program which would suit it to the needs of the supporting chaplains. Results of the survey are recorded in Table 1.

The same survey was administered in November 1975, to insure that we were still on the right track. Results of that survey are also shown in Table 1.

Responses to the surveys revealed that the Ft. Lewis chaplains were generally pleased with the outcomes of the program. Responses were analyzed and a philosophy was developed for the course which was consistent with the chaplains’ expressed preferences. Those who have participated in the conduct of the course during the past year have attempted to make the tone, content, and methods of their instruction follow closely the guidelines set by the responding chaplains.

Philosophy of the Program

The Marriage Preparation Course is conceived to be a supplement to individual counseling which a chaplain may contract with the couple anticipating marriage. It is not intended to diminish the contribution of the chaplain primarily involved with the couple. Its aim is strictly educational while the function of the individual chaplain may include some therapeutic goals. The program is designed to bring together the insights of other professionals to support and amplify the contribution of