



**The Unification Church
North American Headquarters**

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Guidelines for the Blessing of Previously Married Couples

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March 14, 2012

MEMO: BFM 2012-03-14

To: District, State, Church and Lovin' Life Pastors, Blessed Central Families
From: National Blessed Family Ministry
Re: Previously Married Couples at the March 23, 2012 Blessing Ceremony, and Registration for these Couples Locally, or for the USA National Celebration in New York
Date: March 14, 2012

We are pleased to welcome previously married couples, both Unificationist and friends, who wish to receive True Parents' Marriage Blessing for the first time and rededicate their marriage to God and each other, to participate in the International Blessing on March 24th (Friday evening, March 23rd in the USA). This memo will briefly describe the qualifications and registration process for previously married couples.

I. The Path to the Blessing for Unificationist and Associated Couples

A. Unificationist couples seeking the Blessing should complete the following, with education and support from spiritual mentors and pastors:

1. One year of church membership
2. Regular attendance to worship or church programs and tithing (basic membership requirements)
3. Completion of Level 3 Couples workshop prior to, or within 6 months of the Blessing
4. Completion of the essential ceremonies that constitute the "Change of Blood Lineage" process that True Parents have taught us:
 - a. Holy Wine Ceremony (prior to the Blessing, guided by District Pastor or officiating couple)
 - b. The Blessing Ceremony (March 23, 2012)
 - c. Chastening Ceremony (immediately following the Blessing Ceremony)
 - d. Separation Period (40 days of abstinence, renewing the relationship from the inside, beginning from the Blessing Ceremony)
 - e. 3-day Ceremony of Renewal (the first 3 nights after the separation period)
5. Blessing Donation- an offering of gratitude to receive True Parents' Blessing (\$2000 per couple)

B. Married Couples who are Ambassadors for Peace, clergy of other faiths, associates or friends can receive the grace of participating in the Blessing with the support of Unificationist mentors or pastors, and the following conditions:

1. Basic education on the meaning & value of the Blessing
2. Commitment to the essence of the 4 Vows:
 - a. Creating a family of which God can be proud
 - b. Absolute fidelity to one's spouse- no adultery, no divorce
 - c. Raising children to inherit these values, passing them on to future generations, practicing purity before marriage and fidelity in marriage
 - d. Loving all people and families of the world as God does, beyond race & religion
3. Donation of gratitude for receiving the Blessing of True Parents. We recommend \$120 or \$210 per couple, but each couple and their mentors should decide what amount is appropriate and meaningful [this can be offered to the church at which they are Blessed]

The above are the minimum, basic requirements for associated couples to receive the Blessing. We should continue to educate and encourage each couple to participate in each of the 5 ceremonial steps of the Blessing process. Basic educational materials are being prepared and will be distributed for this purpose. If you have questions or seek information, contact BFAdmin@unification.org.

II. Registration for Previously Married Couples

All couples planning to take part in the March 23rd Marriage Blessing Ceremony must register in order to participate by March 19th. To apply for the Blessing itself, visit www.familyfed.org/bfd, and download the appropriate form from the drop-down list "Applications/Forms- First Generation," under "Other Forms:"

- Unificationist Couples should download the 1-page "Blessing Application for Prev. Married Couple"

- Associated Couples should download the 1-page “Blessing Application for AFP/Associate”

This application should be submitted, with passport size photos, to your district office or BlessedLIFE Team, together with the Blessing fee if required, and should be signed by the District Pastor before the Blessing Ceremony. Each district should report all participating couples on the Blessing report to National HQ, and Email a scanned copy of each application to BFAdmin@unification.org. **All districts and churches should take care that Blessing participants have been registered and supported before taking part in the Blessing.**

III. Participating in the National Blessing Ceremony at Manhattan Center, NY

All previously married couples are welcome to join the national celebration of the Blessing, held at the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center in New York, NY. The program begins with the Holy Wine Ceremony at 6:30 PM for ALL First Generation participants, and includes a dinner, entertainment, and the Blessing Ceremony, followed by a celebration. For a schedule and details, consult MEMO BFM 2012-03-09 about the National Celebration. All previously married couples will be welcome at the dinner and Blessing, as well as a brunch the following morning, provided you register by Wednesday, March 21st. To register for the National Celebration, reserve dinner or brunch seats, and order extra dinner tickets for your guests at \$25 each, visit: events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=butvqyeab&oeidk=a07e5pgk2ml0c0bc8b0.

IV. Things to Prepare for Blessing Participants

A. Blessing Attire

- 1) Grooms: Black or dark-colored suit, white dress shirt, red necktie
- 2) Brides: Wedding dress, white shoes

B. Ceremonial Items: The following will be provided at the national ceremony, and couples participating locally that so desire may bring their own:

- 1) Men: corsage, white gloves
- 2) Women: wedding veil, bouquet, white gloves

C. Wedding Rings

Couples may bring their original wedding rings, or purchase a Blessing ring through the Japanese bookstore in New York. (Phone: 212-302-6216)

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your district office or BlessedLIFE team, or contact us at BFAdmin@unification.org. You can also reach the National BFM office from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST at (212) 997-0055.

We offer our congratulations to Blessing participants, and best wishes to all our members and Blessed Central Families.



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