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Barrytown College is the undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree program at the Unification Theological Seminary

## New Pastor Gives Credit to UTS Ed

Richard A. Panzer

January 26, 2014

It's an exciting time at UTS! We are working together with the national UC headquarters to develop new online courses for Unification leaders around the country, which are expected to start in March.

In response to requests from several young Unificationist filmmakers, we have extended the deadline for the 2014 Barrytown College Video Competition to March 10.

We thought you would be interested to read the following interview with Rev. Manoj Jacob, new pastor of the New Jersey Family Church in Clifton, NJ, one of the largest Family Federation churches in the country.

### Pastor Manoj, tell us about yourself!

**Pastor Manoj:** I was born in Kerala, India. I met the Unification Church in 1994. I was matched and blessed by True Parents in 1998. My wife and I have three children, three daughters, who are 7, 9 and 10 years old.



I have served in Clifton Family Church during the last 3 years. I started working as small groups coordinator. Later I was appointed as the local pastor. In November 2013 I was elected as the New Jersey Pastor. During these 3 years I continued my studies in the Master of Divinity program at UTS. Although I was very religious from a young age and studied Divine Principle for many years until I joined UTS I couldn't understand many fundamental things which are necessary for a person in Ministerial Leadership.

### What did you find to be most useful in your studies at UTS?



**Pastor Manoj:** I have found my studies at UTS in courses like *Worship and Liturgy*, *Homiletics* (Sermon Giving), and *Hermeneutics* (How to interpret the Bible and other Scriptures) to be extremely helpful in being a more effective pastor. In the *World Religions* and *Church History* courses I gained insights about how religions have been sustained

through thousands of years by inculturation and adaptation. A new church like ours is likely to encounter all these kinds of problems.

**What other UTS courses were important for your development?**

The Pastoral Counseling course helped me to learn how to *really listen* to our members to understand the problems they were facing. The Divine Principle courses were so helpful because we could openly discuss the Principle's deeper aspects and how it relates to the teachings of other faiths.

I have often felt that the courses in the Master of Divinity program are exactly what I needed for me to have a broad foundation to solve many issues that come up in being a pastor.

*I have a lot of hope that our church can really help people find greater happiness in their lives.*



**Any Final Thoughts?**

**Pastor Manoj:** The survival of a religious movement is not just about its teachings or acceptance, it depends more on the systematic organization of the tenets *into the span of an individual's life and building a religious tradition.*

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**Other Important Topics**

\* The next Open Houses at Barrytown College for prospective students will take place on Saturday, February 1 and 8. For more information or to register, visit B.C. Open Houses.

\* Help do outreach in your community for UTS/Barrytown College at our [volunteer sign-up page](#).

\* Help support the Barrytown Renovation Project or to pass on the gift of a Unificationist college education by donating to one of the scholarship funds by giving .

\* For those who wish to continue their graduate studies, UTS offers 3 Masters degree programs and a Doctoral program as well. Go to UTS.edu.

I invite you to JOIN WITH US in building a future at Barrytown that we can all be proud of to leave for succeeding generations.

**Sincerely,**

Richard

Richard A. Panzer, President,  
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