



The Unification Church
North American Headquarters

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MEMO: BFD 2010-10-22

To: District Directors, State & Church Leaders, Blessed Central Families
From: National Blessed Family Department
Re: PARENTS' MATCHING CONVOCATION AT UTS IN BARRYTOWN, NY
November 19-21, 2010; BC's 24 and Older Welcome
Date: October 22, 2010

We are pleased to invite parents to the fourth and final Parents' Matching Convocation (PMC) this year on November 19-21, 2010 at the UTS Conference Center in Barrytown, NY. Blessed Children aged 24 and older are invited to participate, to learn about the parents' matching process and take a more active role in their own candidate search. There is a discount for early registration, and a penalty for late registration. BFD Representatives and Matching Advisors are, as always, encouraged to attend to support parents and candidates, at a greatly reduced fee.

The PMC provides an excellent opportunity for parents to understand the matching process, learn from those who have matched their children successfully, network with other parents and consider potential matching candidates. We strongly recommend that parents attend a PMC well before beginning the matching process with their children. Parents whose children are at least 16, who plan to support them in finding a match but have not yet attended a PMC should participate simply to learn and prepare.

1. **Who Should Attend**

Parents of matching candidates; Blessed siblings of candidates are also welcome. This convocation also welcomes BC candidates themselves who are 24 years of age or older, so they can learn the parents' matching process and take a more active role in their own candidate search. Parents of younger BCs are also encouraged to attend, to educate themselves about the process and their role, and begin developing a family plan for matching their children.

2. **Location**

The PMC will be held at the **UTS Conference Center** in Barrytown, NY from Friday evening through early Sunday morning, and finish after Lovin' Life Worship and activities at the Manhattan Center Sunday.

3. **Schedule**

Onsite registration opens at 4:00 PM Friday afternoon, November 19 (pre-registering online will save you money and time at the conference registration). An a la carte dinner will be available for purchase from 6:00 PM. The official program begins at 7:30 that evening, and closes at 4:00 PM on Sunday, November 21 at the Manhattan Center.

4. **Registration (Meals Included) – Save Money by Registering Early!**

The registration fee for this convocation includes the convocation program and materials, the updated Matching Handbook, and five meals: Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch. Participants can save money by registering early. You can pay directly online by credit card.

Registration Fee for Parents and Family

Pay by November 1: \$100/individual; \$160/couple; \$70 for additional family member

Pay by November 16: \$125/individual; \$200/couple; \$80 for additional family member

Pay after Nov. 16: \$150/individual; \$250/couple; \$100 for additional family member

SPECIAL RATES for BC Candidates 24 years and older:

Pay by November 1: \$80

Pay by November 16: \$100

Pay after Nov. 16: \$120

To register, visit www.blessedfamilies.org, and click on the pink PMC registration banner on the right side, the below login area. Or visit the members' area at www.familyfed.org/members, and click on the PMC banner near the top. Candidate profiles and photos can also be uploaded or updated at the registration site, and should be completed by November 12. If you need assistance registering for the PMC, or uploading profiles and photos, contact your district BFD or e-mail us at BFDadmin@unification.org.

5. **Accommodations**

While meals are included in the registration fee, accommodations are the responsibility of each participant. Housing choices include UTS dorms (at \$16 per person per night), UTS private rooms (\$60 per room per night) or semi-private rooms (\$32 per person per night), nearby hotels, or with friends. A very small number of private rooms for one or two persons, and four family rooms with private or semi-private bathrooms are available at UTS on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve any of these, contact Sammi Vanderstock at housing@uts.edu.

6. **Preparing Candidate Profiles**

Parents may attend the PMC without displaying a candidate, but the display area is intended for parents who are representing a candidate, or designated advisors or advocates. Candidates can be displayed at the PMC without their parents being present. But candidates can only be displayed with their permission, and should complete their profiles themselves, with the support of their parents. No parent should attempt to display their adult child as a candidate or pursue a match without the candidate's involvement.

To be available at the PMC, every candidate and family should do the following:

1. Complete the candidate profile page at the PMC registration site. This allows candidates to participate in Matchbook, PMCs, or both, and designate their desired level of accessibility.
2. Complete the additional 9-question personality profile at the profile page. This is optional for Matchbook participants but required for candidates at the PMC. Candidates should complete these profiles themselves, with the support of their parents.

3. Upload three good-quality photos at the profile page: one half-length (head & torso) and one full-length of the candidate, and one family photo. The profile and photos are required, but do not necessarily need to be uploaded at the time of registration. They must be uploaded by November 12 for the New York PMC. If parents bring photos or profiles to the PMC that require scanning or copying to be displayed, there will be a \$20 charge, and we cannot guarantee how quickly the material will be ready for display.

Some other good ideas for preparing for the PMC include:

Visit the link below and use one or more of the resources recommended there to more fully understand your adult child's character, and prepare a fuller profile:

http://www.familyfed.org/members/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=949&Itemid=626

Be creative! A poem, photo montage or personal story also conveys who you are, and can be added to your profile at the PMC. Parents can also prepare "contact cards" with the candidate's picture and your family's contact info to give to other parents at the PMC.

IMPORTANT: If your candidate submitted a profile for the PMC in 2009 or earlier and it has not been updated, you must contact us at BFAdmin@unification.org if you wish to still be displayed. We strongly recommend profiles be updated and improved, with your adult child's permission and participation. We will not display any old profiles unless we have heard from the candidate that they wish to be displayed.

For additional information visit the registration site, or contact BFAdmin@unification.org. We look forward to seeing parents and older candidates at UTS, and to supporting families in the process of matching and Blessing. May God be with you and your family.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'Joshua Cotter' and the second signature on the right is 'Phillip Schanker'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Joshua Cotter
Executive Vice President
HSA-UWC USA

Rev. Phillip Schanker
Director, National BFD
HSA-UWC USA