



## The Unification Church North American Headquarters

481 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10001  
Tel: 212-997-0050 | Fax: 212-997-0051 | E-mail admin@unification.org

### USA National Celebration of the International Blessing Ceremony

Joshua Cotter and Phillip Schanker  
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MEMO: BFM 2012-03-09

**To:** District, State, Church and Lovin' Life Pastors, Blessed Central Families  
**From:** National Blessed Family Ministry  
**Re:** USA National Celebration of the International Blessing Ceremony- March 23, 2012  
**Date:** March 09, 2012

The Unification Church in the USA will hold a National Celebration of the March 24, 2012 International Blessing Ceremony at the Manhattan Center in New York, NY. We will welcome and celebrate couples and their families in the spirit of Lovin' Life, and with the heart of our Senior Pastor, Reverend In Jin Moon. Due to the time difference, the Blessing will take place Friday evening, March 23rd, and our celebration will begin with a banquet with family and friends, and continue through the Lovin' Life Worship Service on Sunday, March 25th. Accommodations will be provided for candidates who are traveling from out of town, and we have inexpensive accommodation suggestions for family and friends as well. We encourage that ceremonies be held in each district as well. Guidance for district or local ceremonies will follow soon. For those planning to participate in New York, please be aware of the following:

#### I. Who Should Participate in the USA National Ceremony

- A. Matched First or Second Generation couples registered with the USA Blessed Family Ministry.
- B. Previously married couples, (including those with one partner in the Spirit World).
- C. Ambassadors for Peace or clergy couples renewing their commitment through the Blessing
- D. Blessed Central Families who did not participate in the October, 2009 or 2010 Blessings- this Blessing can represent an opportunity for renewal for families that did not take part previously.

#### II. Main USA National Ceremony – Manhattan Center, NY, NY

The Blessing ceremony itself will take place on Friday, March 23rd at 10:00 PM NY time, simultaneously with the ceremony in Korea. Our national celebration will be held at the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center in New York, NY. Couples are welcome from throughout the nation, but participants must report their plan to attend through their district office or BlessedLIFE team by Monday, March 19th to attend. NOTE: In addition to completing the application for the Blessing, participants must let us know if you are coming to NY. Couples may not participate in the Blessing without pre-registration. See registration instructions below.

#### A. Tentative Schedule

5:30 PM	Participants dress and prepare for the Blessing
6:30 PM	Holy Wine Ceremony for First Generation Couples
7:30 PM	Celebration Dinner for Blessing participants and their guests
8:30 PM	Dessert and Coffee
9:00 PM	Entertainment
9:30 PM	Commencement of Ceremonies and Inspiration
10:00 PM	Blessing Ceremony
11:00 PM	Cake-cutting, photos, celebration, dancing, etc.

**NOTE:** Blessing Participants must visit the Photo Booth to take their official Blessing photo between 8:00-9:30PM, 11:00PM-12:00AM.

#### B. Weekend Schedule

A family brunch is planned on Saturday March 24th, the morning after the Blessing, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at the Lovin' Life Learning Center (4 W. 43rd Street) with testimonies, fellowship and family time. The brunch is free for participants and their families, and you can join anytime from 9:00-11:00. But you must reserve the number of guests who plan to attend the brunch at the time you register. We will also provide ideas and suggestions for family and couple activities in New York City.

We will also welcome and honor Blessed couples and their families at Lovin' Life worship Service on Sunday, March 25, 2012.

C. Celebration Dinner

A celebration dinner is complimentary for couples who have paid their full Blessing fee. Each couple will receive up to eight additional complimentary dinner tickets for their guests, but please do not take more than you need or give them away to other couples. Please provide the name of each guest receiving your complimentary tickets when you register.

For those with more guests attending, additional tickets can be purchased for your guests at a cost of \$25 each, but should be reserved when you register. More tickets can be ordered later, as long as they are available.

**III. Registration**

All couples participating in the NY Blessing ceremony must register by March 19th. To register, visit <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=butvqyeab&oeidk=a07e5p1dlr9e31451a5> to submit your couple's name, contact information, and all necessary information regarding dinner tickets, brunch reservations and hotel space needed for Blessing participants.

**IV. Accommodations**

All those being Blessed who are traveling more than 100 miles to NY City will be provided with shared accommodations by gender at the New Yorker Hotel or a nearby hotel on Friday night, March 23rd, and Saturday if needed. Please indicate hotel space needed when you register. For family or guests who need accommodations, there are 3 suggested options:

- A. New York hotels and hostels, including some bargain options under \$100/night.
- B. New Jersey hotels with shuttle service to Manhattan, or near public transportation to NYC. There are hotels under \$100/night with shuttle service or NJ Transit bus or train service to NY in Secaucus, North Bergen, Fort Lee, Jersey City, Newark, Clifton, East Rutherford and elsewhere. You may find others on the internet.
- C. Dormitory accommodations at the Lovin' Life Learning Center, 4 W. 43rd Street. The cost per person is \$25/night, and space must be reserved by contacting [BFAdmin@unification.org](mailto:BFAdmin@unification.org).

**V. 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: While the following will be provided at the ceremony, we recommend that couples that so desire bring their own:

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

C. Wedding Rings

Each participant should prepare a Blessing ring. These may be purchased 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](mailto: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.



Rev. Joshua Cotter  
Executive Vice President  
Unification Church – USA



Rev. Phillip Schanker  
Director, Blessed Family Ministry  
Unification Church - USA