



UNIFICATION CHURCH USA
HOLY SPIRIT ASSOCIATION FOR THE UNIFICATION OF WORLD CHRISTIANITY

Parents' Matching Convocation -- September 21-22, San Francisco, CA

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To District Pastors, Community Leaders and Blessed Central Families

PARENTS' MATCHING CONVOCATION: SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2012, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

We are pleased to invite parents to the second Parents' Matching Convocation (PMC) of 2012, to be held in Emeryville, CA (near Oakland) on September 21-23, 2012. All of the necessary registration and schedule information is contained in this memo. A third and final PMC will be held in New York on November 2-4, 2012. Details and registration for the New York convocation will be available later this month.

Matching Candidates 24 years or older are also welcome to attend, in order to learn more about the matching process and take a more active role. A separate program for these young adults includes innovative educational materials, special breakout sessions, and personal meetings with Matching Advisors.

The PMC provides an opportunity for parents to understand the matching process, learn from those who have matched their children successfully and network with other parents to learn about potential matching candidates. The PMC is not a place to finalize matches but to connect with other families, discover potential candidates and help formulate a clear Family Matching Plan, to be finalized with your candidate. We recommend that parents attend a PMC before beginning the matching process with their children. Parents whose children are at least 16 should participate in a PMC simply to learn and prepare.

Participants in this PMC will learn the updated guidelines for the matching process and receive the newly published Family Matching Handbook. They will learn about the matching websites, the international matching process and other resources to support them in matching their children. They can also meet Matching Advisors who are prepared to assist and support them.

The PMC registration process and submission of candidate information and photos is entirely online. The PMC application and profile process is integrated with the registration process for "Matchbook," the online matching site at www.blessedfamilies.org. Candidates and their families can apply once and indicate where and to what extent their profile and photo information can be accessed by others, from total privacy, by permission only, through advocates or advisers, etc.

SEPTEMBER 21-23TH CONVOCATION INFORMATION

Location - the convocation will be held at:

Hilton Garden Inn San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge
1800 Powell Street, Emeryville, CA 94608
Telephone: (510) 658-9300; Fax: (510) 595-1914

Learn more about the hotel at: <http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/california/hilton-garden-inn-san-francisco-oakland-bay-bridge-SFOBBGI/index.html>

Schedule

Onsite registration will open at 4:00 PM Friday afternoon, September 21 (pre-registering online will save you money and time at the conference registration). The program begins with Orientation at 7:30 that evening, and closes at 2:00 PM on Sunday, September 23.

Who Should Attend

Parents of matching candidates, matching candidates 24 years or older, and Blessed siblings of matching candidates are also welcome. Parents of younger BC's are encouraged to attend, to familiarize and educate themselves about the process and their role and begin developing a family plan for matching their children.

Registration - Save Money by Registering Early!

To encourage prompt registration and facilitate planning and organization, participants can save money by registering early. You can pay directly online by credit card:

Pay by September 7th: \$100/individual; \$150/couple; \$50 for each additional family member

Pay after September 7th: \$120/individual; \$200/couple; \$75 for each additional family member

BC Candidates 24+: Special Rate: \$80/individual

The registration fee covers the convocation program and materials, a Matching Handbook and refreshments during the program. Accommodations and meals are the responsibility of each participant. There will be substantial time for meals and there are affordable restaurants within walking distance of the conference hotel.

To register, visit www.blessedfamilies.org, and click on the pink PMC registration banner on the right side, above the Matchbook logo. 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 at the registration site and should be completed by September 12th. If you need assistance registering for the PMC or uploading profiles and photos, contact your District Pastor or e-mail us at bfd@unification.org.

Transportation and Accommodations

There are large, comfortable rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn, San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge (where the PMC will take place) for \$109 per night. To obtain this rate, call the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel at (510) 658-9300 as soon as possible and ask for the "Family Federation" room rate. If the block of rooms is full, email us at bfdadmin@unification.org and we will try to obtain more.

The PMC hotel is 25 minutes from the Oakland Airport. There is a private shuttle that will provide transportation to the hotel for \$25 - The Bay Porter Express shuttle at (415) 467-1800. Taxi is approximately \$42.00.

Dining

There are a number of affordable restaurants within walking distance of the conference hotel. Next door is a Chevy's and Denny's. Three blocks away is a giant food complex with an international food court: Indian, Mexican, Thai, Japanese, etc.

Preparing Candidate Profiles

Parents may attend the PMC without displaying a candidate, and candidates can be displayed at the PMC without their parents being present. But candidates can only be displayed with their permission and involvement. No parent should attempt to display their adult child as a candidate or pursue a match without the candidate's agreement. Every candidate and family should do the following:

Complete the candidate profile page at the PMC registration site. This will allow candidates to participate in Matchbook, PMCs, or both, and to designate their preferred level of accessibility.

Complete the additional 9-question personality profile at the profile page – optional for Matchbook participants but required for candidates at the PMC. Candidates should complete these profiles themselves. NOTE: unless all 9 questions are answered, the profile cannot be printed for display.

Upload three good-quality photos at the profile page – one half-length (head and torso) and one full-length of the candidate and one family photo. The profile and photos are required, but can be uploaded after registration. These must be uploaded by September 12th for the San Francisco 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

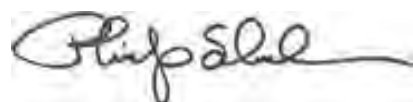
If your candidate’s profile has not been updated since September 2011, you must contact us at BFAdmin@unification.org if they still wish to be displayed. We strongly recommend profiles be updated and improved, with your adult child’s permission and participation. We will not display any old profiles 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 at this PMC and to supporting candidates in the process of matching and Blessing.

May God be with you and your family.



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Rev. Philip Schanker
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