



**Family Federation for World Peace and Unification**  
**North American Headquarters**

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*MEMO: BFD 2010-07-13*

**To: District Directors, State & Church Leaders, Blessed Central Families**  
**From: National Blessed Family Department**  
**Re: PARENTS MATCHING CONVOCATION IN CHICAGO- CHANGE OF DATE:  
AUGUST 13 – 15, 2010 (Delayed One Week)**

**Date: July 13, 2010**

Due to unavoidable events in the city of Chicago on the weekend of August 6-8, 2010, the Parents Matching Convocation (PMC) originally scheduled for that weekend will be held on the following weekend, August 13-15. We regret any inconvenience that this may cause to the previously planned schedules of participants. We are pleased to invite parents to this third in our series of PMCs this year. One final convocation will be held in New York in November, and will include BC candidates aged 24 and older.

PMC registration and submission of candidate information and photos will be entirely online for these PMCs. The Blessed Family Department and Blessed Family Association have worked to integrate the application and profile process for convocations with the registration process for “Matchbook,” the online matching site at [www.blessedfamilies.org](http://www.blessedfamilies.org). Candidates and their families can now complete one application on Matchbook, and by clicking “Show Profile at PMC” at the end, your profile will be displayed at every PMC in the USA as long as that choice remains clicked. You can also indicate how accessible to others your profile and photo information will be, from total privacy, by permission only through advocates or advisers, or open to everyone.

The PMC provides an excellent opportunity for parents to learn about the matching process and network with other parents to identify potential matching candidates. It is not a place to conclude matches, but to learn, plan, and connect with other families. Because a healthy matching process depends upon a communicative relationship with your adult child and a clear plan with their input, 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. Participants can:

- Learn the new international guidelines and recommendations for parents’ matching, and receive the new matching handbook
- Hear testimonies and insights from parents and Blessed Children who completed the matching process successfully
- Meet and network with other parents from outside their own community, and consider potential matching candidates for their sons and daughters
- Learn about websites, matching advisers and advocates, international matching, and other materials and resources to support them in the matching process
- Learn how to deepen the parent-child relationship, and how to address the matching process in diverse ways, depending upon where your children are at

The PMC experience will help parents understand and prepare to support their children’s matching process, and avoid many of the challenges and pitfalls experienced by others in previous efforts.

## **AUGUST 13-15<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCAATION INFORMATION:**

### **I. Location-** The convocation will be held at:

#### **The Chicago Family Church**

7077 North Ashland Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60626-2724  
(773) 274-7441

### **II. Schedule**

Onsite registration opens at 4:00 PM Friday afternoon, August 13<sup>th</sup> (pre-registering online will save you money and time at the conference registration). Dinner is served at 6:00 PM. The program begins with at 7:30 that evening, and closes at 1:00 PM on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **III. Who Should Attend**

Parents of matching candidates; Blessed siblings of matching candidates are also welcome. Parents of younger BCs 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.

### **IV. Registration (Meals Included)- Save Money by Registering Early!**

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

- **Pay by July 21<sup>st</sup>:** \$75/individual; \$120/couple; \$60 for each additional family member
- **Pay by August 8<sup>th</sup>:** \$90/individual; \$150/couple; \$70 for each additional family member
- **Pay after August 8<sup>th</sup>:** \$120/individual; \$180/couple; \$75 for each additional family member

Accommodations are the responsibility of each participant. The Best Western University Plaza Hotel in nearby Evanston, IL offers PMC participants a reduced room rate of \$75 per night.

To register, visit [www.blessedfamilies.org](http://www.blessedfamilies.org), and click on the pink PMC registration banner on the right side, below login, groups and summer camp sign-up. Or visit the members area at [www.familyfed.org/members](http://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 August 8<sup>th</sup>. If you need assistance registering for the PMC, or uploading profiles and photos, contact your district BFD or Email us at [BFDadmin@unification.org](mailto:BFDadmin@unification.org).

### **V. Transportation and Accommodations**

Accommodations are the responsibility of each participant. The Best Western University Plaza Hotel, 10 minutes from the PMC site in nearby Evanston, IL, offers rooms at a special rate of \$72 (plus tax) per night. The Chicago Family Church will provide shuttle service to and from the hotel each morning and evening. To obtain this rate, call the Best Western at (866) 579-8381 or (847) 491-6400 as soon as possible, and ask for the **PMC Group Rate**. Please register soon. To learn more about the hotel and rooms, visit <http://www.bwuniversityplaza.com>.

Transportation will be provided from Chicago OHare International Airport (ORD) and, if needed, from Chicago Midway Airport (MDW), for \$10 each way. Once you are registered for the PMC, we will send you a transportation form. We must know your flight itinerary and

arrival and departure times in order to provide transportation for you. In addition, free shuttle service will be provided between the Best Western University Plaza Hotel and the PMC site.

## VI. Preparing Candidate Profiles

Parents may attend the PMC without displaying any of your children as a candidate. 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 involvement.

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

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. 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 June 20<sup>th</sup> for the Hayward 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.

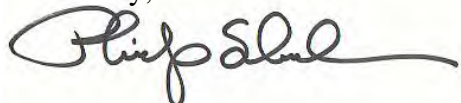
Some other good ideas for preparing for the PMC include:

- 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](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 [BFDadmin@unification.org](mailto:BFDadmin@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 [BFDadmin@unification.org](mailto:BFDadmin@unification.org). We look forward to seeing parents at UTS, and to supporting candidates in the process of matching and Blessing. May God be with you and your family.

Sincerely,



Rev. Phillip Schanker  
National Blessed Family Department