



**The Unification Church
North American Headquarters**

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Previously-Married Couples at the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony

Phillip Schanker
February 7, 2013

MEMO: BFM 2013-02-07

To: District and Local Pastors, Blessed Families and Previously Married Couples
From: National Blessed Family Ministry
Re: Previously Married Couples at the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony- February 16, 2013
Date: February 7, 2013

As we prepare for Foundation Day, we know that our True Parents envision all of us sharing the grace and power of the Marriage Blessing with our families, friends and “tribes.” We remind you that the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony on February 17, 2013 (Feb. 16th in the USA) is for those couples receiving Marriage Blessing for the first time. We are welcoming previously married couples who wish to rededicate their marriage to God and each other, and experience the transformation and renewal of their relationship and lineage. This memo briefly describes the Blessing process for previously married couples.

I. The Path to the Blessing for Previously Married Unificationist Couples

For members of the Unification Faith who appreciate the historical mission of True Parents and want to fully inherit their foundation as a Blessed Central Family, Father prescribed the path for married couples to be engrafted into Heaven’s lineage, and the best conditions upon which to accomplish it. Unificationist couples should ideally complete the following, with education and support from spiritual mentors and pastors:

- A. One year of church membership
- B. Regular attendance to worship or church programs and tithing (basic membership requirements)
- C. Completion of Level 3 Couples workshop prior to, or within 8 months of the Blessing
- D. Completion of the essential ceremonies that constitute the “Change of Blood Lineage” process that True Parents have taught us:
 - 1) Holy Wine Ceremony (prior to the Blessing, guided by District Pastor or officiating couple)
 - 2) The Blessing Ceremony (February 16, 2013- Not the Foundation Day Registration Blessing)
 - 3) Chastening Ceremony (immediately following the Blessing Ceremony)
 - 4) Separation Period (40 days of abstinence, renewing their relationship and spiritual intimacy from the inside, beginning from the Blessing Ceremony)
 - 5) 3-day Ceremony of Renewal (the first 3 nights after the separation period)
- E. Blessing Donation- an offering of gratitude to receive True Parents’ Blessing (\$2000 per couple)

II. The Path to the Blessing for Non-Unificationist Couples

Due to the foundation that True Parents’ and earlier Blessed Families have established, the gate of the Blessing has been opened to all couples that embrace the ideals and values of the Marriage Blessing. Married Couples who are Ambassadors for Peace, clergy of other faiths, associates, friends or family of Unificationists are welcome to join the Blessing with more simple conditions and commitments. We recommend the following, with the support of Unificationist mentors or pastors:

- A. Basic education on the meaning & value of the Blessing-

See the 17-minute video and 5-minute testimony prepared for Non-Unificationist couples here:

http://www.familyfed.org/members/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=1076&Itemid=866

B. Commitment to the essence of the 4 Vows:

- 1) Creating a family of which God can be proud
- 2) Absolute fidelity to one's spouse- no adultery, no divorce
- 3) Raising children to inherit these values, passing them on to future generations, practicing purity before marriage and fidelity in marriage
- 4) Loving all people and families of the world beyond race & religion, as God does,

C. Donation of gratitude for receiving the Blessing of True Parents. We recommend \$120 or \$210 per couple, but leave the discretion about the amount to the couple, their Unificationist mentors and pastors [this can be offered to the church at which they are Blessed].

D. The 5 Ceremonial Steps of Changing the Blood Lineage for Non-Unificationists

We should clearly educate all previously married couples about the meaning and process of renewing their position as God's sons and daughters. The video linked above explains each of the 5 ceremonial steps of the Blessing process. Couples will complete the first 3 at the Blessing Ceremony, and we encourage and guide them to take the final 2 immediately following the Blessing, or as soon as they can.

III. Registration for Previously Married Couples

Couples planning to take part in the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony must register by February 12th at the Foundation Day website at <http://foundationday.unification.org/cosmic-blessing-ceremony/> in order to participate:

- A. Select and download the appropriate 1-page application for previously married Unificationist or Non-Unificationist Couples, at the upper-right sidebar.
- B. Download the Blessing fee form from the same location.
- C. Submit the original application with passport size photos to your district office. It should be signed by the District Pastor before the Blessing Ceremony. Email a scanned copy of the application to BFAdmin@unification.org, together with a completed copy of your Blessing fee payment form.
- D. If paying the Blessing fee by check or money order, mail that payment with the fee form to:

HSA-UWC Blessed Family Ministry
Attn: Esther Flores
481 Eighth Ave., Room 606
New York, NY 10001

All districts and churches should take care that Blessing participants have been registered and supported before taking part in the Blessing.

IV. Participating in the National Blessing Ceremony at "The Grove" in Cedar Grove, New Jersey

Previously married couples are welcome to join the national celebration of the Cosmic Blessing at "The Grove" banquet hall in Cedar Grove, NJ. The program begins with education at 3:00 PM. The Holy Wine Ceremony for all First Generation participants, including previously married couples, will be held at 4:30 PM, followed by a banquet, entertainment, and the Blessing Ceremony at 9:00 PM, simultaneous with the main ceremony in Korea. Dancing and a celebration will end the evening. For a schedule and details, and to register, visit http://fs6.formsite.com/hsauwc/feb16_usa_cosmicblessing/.

V. Things to Prepare for Blessing Participants at the National Ceremony

A. Blessing Attire

- 1) Grooms: Black or dark-colored suit, white dress shirt, red necktie
- 2) Brides: Wedding dress or a white or light-colored dress, white shoes

B. Ceremonial Items:

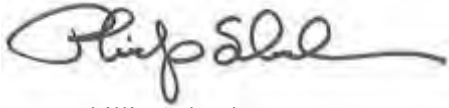
White gloves, artificial bouquets and veils will be provided at the ceremony, but couples may prepare their own fresh bouquets. Fresh boutonnières will be provided for grooms.

C. Wedding Rings

Couples may bring their original wedding rings, or purchase a Blessing ring through the Japanese bookstore in New York.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your district office or contact us at BFAdmin@unification.org. You can also reach the National BFM office from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST Monday through Friday.

We offer our congratulations to Blessing participants, and best wishes to all our members and Blessed Central Families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Schanker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. Phillip Schanker
Blessed Family Ministry
HSA-UWC USA