



**FFWPU-USA**

*Family Federation for World Peace and Unification*

**Parents' Matching Convocation in Oakland, CA May 31 - June 2, 2013**

Michael Balcomb and Phillip Schanker  
April 9, 2013

Dear District Pastors, Community Leaders and Blessed Central Families,

We are happy to announce the first of several Parents Matching Convocations (PMC's) for 2013, to be held in Emeryville, CA (near Oakland) on May 31 to June 2, 2013. All of the necessary registration and schedule information is attached to this memo. Dates and details for upcoming PMC's will be announced 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 a valuable opportunity for parents to understand the matching process, learn from those who have matched their children successfully and network with other parents to discover potential matching candidates. The PMC is not a place to finalize matches but to connect with other families, consider candidates and develop a Family Matching Plan, to be finalized with your candidate's input and priorities. 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 receive the newly published, improved 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 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. PMC registrations and candidate profiles are submitted through "Matchbook," the online matching site at [www.blessedfamilies.org](http://www.blessedfamilies.org). Candidates and their families need only apply once, and can then 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, at the PMC's, etc.

To register for the PMC, visit [www.blessedfamilies.org](http://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](http://www.familyfed.org/members) and click on the PMC banner near the top. See the attached PMC information sheet for fees, accommodations, how to prepare or update candidate profiles, and all convocation details.

If you have any remaining questions, write us at [BFAdmin@unification.org](mailto:BFAdmin@unification.org). We look forward to seeing parents at this PMC and to supporting candidates in the process of matching and Blessing.

**Detailed information about the PMC on May 29 to June 2, 2013 in Emeryville, CA is attached.**

Gob bless you and your family.

Dr. Michael Balcomb  
President

Rev. Phillip Schanker  
Director, Blessed Family Department

## PARENTS' MATCHING CONVOCATION

May 31 – June 2, 2013                      Emeryville, CA

### Convocation Information:

**I. Location** - This 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>

### **II. Schedule**

Onsite registration will open at 4:30 PM Friday afternoon, May 31 (pre-registering online will save you money and time at the conference registration). The program begins with Orientation at 7:30 PM that evening, and closes at 2:00 PM on Sunday, June 2.

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

Parents of matching candidates, candidates 24 years or older, and Blessed siblings of 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- 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 May 10th:** \$100/individual; \$150/couple; \$50 for each additional family member
- **Pay by May 24th:** \$125/individual; \$200/couple; \$75 for each additional family member
- **Pay after May 24th:** \$150/individual; \$250/couple; \$75 for each additional family member
- **BC Candidates 24+:** Special Rate: \$80/individual

The registration fee covers the convocation program and materials, the **new 2nd Edition Matching Handbook** and coffee/tea 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](http://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](http://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 **May 22nd**. If you need assistance registering for the PMC or uploading profiles and photos, contact your district BFD or Email us at [BFD@unification.org](mailto:BFD@unification.org).

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

There are comfortable rooms at the **Hilton Garden Inn, San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge** (where the PMC will take place) for **\$119.00 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](mailto: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 (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.

## **VI. 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:

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** - 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.

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 can be uploaded after registration. These must be uploaded by **May 22nd** 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](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 June 2012**, you must contact us at [BFDDadmin@unification.org](mailto:BFDDadmin@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.