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With the understanding that humankind is the product of a fallen history and lineage, “First Generation” refers to those who engraft into the lineage of God through the Blessing of True Parents. They become true sons and daughters of God, and the first ancestors of their own renewed lineage. Their Blessed children are the first fruits of that lineage. Blessed families such as these are the citizens who create the Kingdom of God.

The international Blessing developed by the Unification Church is not a wedding which is limited only to Unification Church members. This is the official course that all human beings must pass through. We should clearly understand this fact. Then what is the ultimate reason we need to do it? It is because our human ancestors fell. If our first ancestors had not fallen, it would not be necessary for us to receive the Blessing. But we have to reverse the fallen process. We have no other way to return to God’s realm of authority than through a course that restores the fall. That is why human beings until now have pursued religion, for this is the direction and purpose of human history.

What is the ultimate goal? It is to realize a true family. This is the highest purpose that fallen human beings have been seeking. In order to establish a true family, a true person should come first. A true man comes first, so that he can find a true woman and establish a holy wedding centered upon on God, leading to a true family in the end. We can never establish God’s original ideal of a kingdom without beginning with a true family through marriage. The reason that the Unification Church emphasizes the Blessing for all men and women is to make the ideal of God’s kingdom a reality. It is not only single people, but married couples as well who should join the Blessing, making the proper conditions. Everyone should ultimately receive the Blessing to return to the original world of God’s ideal of creation. The original Principle is that the ideal world should be established through the Blessing of true men and women. However, in the history of love throughout the world, it has never been realized due to the fall.

Rev. Sun Myung Moon

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
I. Overview of the Matching Process and Guidelines.....	4
II. True Parents’ and True Family’s Guidance.....	6
III. Preparing for the Matching Process.....	11
IV. The Matching Process.....	13
V. Resources and Reference Materials.....	25
VI. Appendix 1: Suggested Questions for Candidates.....	29
VII. Appendix 2: Contact Information.....	31

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

FIRST GENERATION MATCHING HANDBOOK

Introduction

In September of 2009 we received new international guidelines for the matching process of First Generation Unificationists from HSA-UWC International President Hyung Jin Moon. The essential points of this guidance included:

- Only True Parents have the authority to make “absolute” matchings.
- Previously, the matching process was focused upon the Blessing as a providential event to build the foundation for the Kingdom of Heaven. It emphasized Blessing people first to complete historical conditions, and often left education for later. In the Cheon Il Guk era, the emphasis must be upon educating and preparing members well, and then Blessing and supporting them.
- While parents have an original and natural role in matching their children and can therefore inherit some aspects of True Parents’ role, leaders do not automatically have the authority or capacity of True Parents. Therefore, a new matching system is required, that respects candidates’ input and gives them enough time to build a relationship and take ownership of their final commitment.
- A group of gifted Matching Advisors who feel called to this task should be educated and certified by each nation’s HQ, and should operate within the framework of the international guidelines. **Matching advisors do not make matches.** They work to educate, encourage and get to know candidates, and network with other advisors to make recommendations. Candidates then take time for communication and commitment. Church leaders are not automatically authorized to make recommendations, but should be certified through the same process as all Matching Advisors.
- The matching process for First Generation Unificationists should have clearly defined stages of qualification, recommendation, couple communication and finally, commitment. Education, guidance and a clear vertical process that empowers candidates will result in healthier, everlasting Blessed Families.

This First Generation Matching Handbook was written to develop and apply these international guidelines to a comprehensive matching system for the USA. It is intended as a resource for matching applicants and candidates, matching advisors, spiritual parents and advocates, as well as pastors, church leaders and BFDs. Unlike the parents’ matching process for Blessed Children, which is family-centered, the process for First Generation Unificationists must be supported by the church. In addition to working with particular candidates, matching advisors will work in teams to facilitate matchings for members in their community, state or district. Matching advisors will meet regularly, at least once a year in person, with virtual meetings held several times a year.

The goal of such meetings is to network and consider candidates to recommend as a potential match. Advisors can certainly communicate with one another directly, and district teams can coordinate with each other whenever they want. But the result of this communication and networking will be a **recommendation**, not a finalized match. Recommendations will pass through one additional step before being presented to the candidates themselves: review and

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approval by a Matching Committee, acting on behalf of True Parents, President In Jin Moon and the BFD.

Once a recommendation is approved, it will be conveyed to the two candidates through their matching advisors or church leadership. Ideally, they can come together in a supportive educational environment, get to know each other, and commit not to a match, but to enter a mentored and supported “communication phase.” They should invest a minimum of seven months to know each other and own their commitment, with the freedom to end the process at any time through their matching advisor (MA). The details of this process and resources to help it be safe and productive are the essence of this handbook.

Under the previous leader-centered matching system, while important providential conditions were fulfilled, the matches made were often unsuccessful. Candidates lacked adequate education and preparation. Leaders lacked authority and insight. When couples struggled, they more readily questioned or doubted matches that were not made directly by True Parents. In America, the majority of matches made by leaders proved unsuccessful. In this era of settlement and Cheon Il Guk, this process must inevitably evolve, and True Children are leading that evolution.

This handbook lays out a clear process for the matching of First Generation Unificationists, providing experience-based guidelines for candidates, matching advisors and other advocates. Unfortunately, some of its most important lessons have been learned from painful mistakes. As this new, healthier matching process develops, we look forward to your feedback and suggestions to continually improve it.

This handbook also provides candidates with clear ideas on how to prepare for the matching, and when it is best to begin. It offers helpful tools and suggestions for the sometimes uncomfortable process of getting to know a prospective match, and the daunting task of figuring out whether we should be together for eternity! Doubts about the matching process; fears about how to make it work; questions about how to approach it and what role to take; all these and more are addressed in these pages.

We believe that this simple handbook, when read thoroughly and considered prayerfully, will help matching advisors and advocates find God’s heart and motivation, and work effectively to support candidates to find a solid match and build a lasting, loving Blessed Family.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The BFD wishes to thank Rev. Hyung Jin Moon, who created the new international guidelines, and our beloved Rev. In Jin Moon, who inspired and empowered us to develop a more healthy and thoughtful matching process. We are grateful to Marjorie Buessing, Chen Fong, Gertrud Yasutake, Anne Marie Weinman, the European BFD, and the many others whose comments and suggestions helped to shape this first draft.

The National BFD

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OVERVIEW OF THE MATCHING PROCESS AND GUIDELINES

Important Policies

- A. Applicants should have a minimum of one year of church membership, and be fully educated and qualified as candidates before beginning the matching process.
- B. Only True Parents have the authority to make “absolute matches.” Matching Advisors, trained and certified by the National BFD, will recommend potential matches and support the matching process on behalf of True Parents.
- C. Matching recommendations will be reviewed and approved by a Matching Committee, acting on behalf of True Parents, before being presented to candidates.
- D. If candidates decide to explore a particular recommendation, they should spend a minimum of seven months after being introduced, to build a relationship and take ownership of their commitment before preparing for the Blessing.
- E. Matching Advisors should present only one approved recommendation to their candidate at a time, and communicate with other candidates only through their appointed matching advisor(s).
- F. Candidates’ must fully disclose their situation and background to God and True Parents through the application and interview process. There should be no secrets or hidden past.

Overview of the Matching Process

- A. Be a member in good standing for at least one year.
- B. Meet with your matching advisor and begin the application process.
- C. Fill out all forms with documentation and complete your interview and confession.
- D. With your completed application, District Pastor’s signature and letters from your local church leader and a sponsor, you become a candidate.
- E. The matching advisor and candidate review the process and make a matching plan. The best tool we have is our secure Online Matching System (OMS). As a candidate you are now qualified to upload your information there.
- F. The matching advisor searches for the best matching candidate.
- G. When 2 or more MAs agree on a possible match they offer the suggestion to the BFD Matching Committee for their review and approval.
- H. The 21-day Introduction Phase: After the recommendation is approved candidates are introduced to each other and have the opportunity to decide to explore this match or not. If “yes,” they move to the communication phase; if “no,” they go back to the planning stage.
- I. The 25-week Communication Phase (for a total of 7 months): Candidates build a relationship as a true brother and sister, with an eye toward the Blessing. By the end of this time they will decide to be matched or not. If “yes,” they begin planning their commitment ceremony; if “no,” they go back to planning.

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

- J. Plan and complete a Commitment Ceremony and submit the Matching Report Form to the BFD.
- K. After reporting your match, announce it officially and publicly at church.
- L. Prepare for the Blessing as a betrothed (promised) brother and sister.

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TRUE PARENTS' AND TRUE FAMILY'S GUIDANCE

True Father's Words:

THE VALUE OF THE BLESSING

"In the entire life of True Father, do you know what the most valuable thing I can imagine is? It is the Blessing. For all of you, the ultimate gift in human history is the Blessing. The value of the Blessing cannot be exchanged even for the world. The Blessing is one man and one woman, centering on God's will, becoming true father and true mother, producing true love."

"The perfection of a man and woman's love is the perfection of the universe. The day this love was broken, the universal order was destroyed and the vertical world was broken. Therefore, you must know how important marriage is from the providential viewpoint. Through true love, man and woman gradually get closer to the center of the eternal world. Man and woman centering on God will unite into one in the center. Man and woman centering on God, giving and receiving love, will become one and will give birth to sons and daughters. Sons and daughters who are born as the fruit of love, through give and take action centering on parents who are one with God, will produce the four position foundation."

The Blessing Ceremony of the Unification Church is not simply a wedding through which a man and a woman come together and form a family. Until now, all weddings were solely for the sake of the people getting married. But our wedding ceremony is significant and necessary to set a condition to indemnify the past and return joy to God. Therefore, we conduct our ceremonies in a sacred and splendid manner. Divine Principle clearly explains to us that our wedding ceremony alleviates God's bitter grief that was caused by the Fall of Adam and Eve. It goes beyond the standard of husband and wife, which Jesus was unable to attain.

Who is supposed to carry out the conversion of the lineage? It cannot be performed by just anyone. You must know that in order to become the one who can perform it, I walked the tearful path of the cross. Because I set such a standard, you are able to become a part of the tradition of the Blessing without having to do anything for it. It took thousands of years of hard work on God's part and my substantial life course, which was filled with hardships and suffering, to establish the victorious realm of the conversion of lineage. You are now standing on the foundation thus laid down. To receive the Blessing is to completely cut off the evil lineage and to engraft a new lineage. By engrafting, the lineage is completely changed.

God wants everyone reborn. From His position, He is trying to bring all of humanity, which is still in the realm of Satan's false love, to His side through His greater love. Since all humankind was born through the parents, ancestors and lineage of false love, they need to be reborn through the parents, ancestors and lineage of true love. In this way, they can become the children of God and the people of God's Kingdom.

God exists with dual characteristics. Therefore, when the time comes for matured Adam and Eve to form the connection of love with each other, God's masculinity can reside in Adam and His femininity can reside in Eve. By residing in our minds and bodies, God Himself can also be a part of the marriage. Adam's mind is like the holy of holies, his body is like the most holy place, and God is residing in him, both in mind and body. If this had come to pass, Adam and Eve

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

would both have become the body of God. Adam would resemble the male characteristics of God, and Eve the female characteristics. When they come together in holy matrimony, that wedding ceremony would be where the kingship of the universe is established. What is that kingship? It is the kingship of love.

Can you imagine how happy God will be on this day? On the day every evil disappears and we usher in a new era with the bright rays of the rising sun, nature will rejoice, everything in the universe will dance with joy, and we will finally celebrate the dawn of victory.

TRUE FATHER'S WORDS ON MATCHING:

“The ideal partner (ideal mate) in Father’s mind is completely different from the ideal partner we imagine. The ideal partner that True Father thinks of is a match of completely opposite types, such as spring and fall types, summer and winter types, etc. True Father says, “When a North-pole type person is matched with a South-pole type person, then out of such a couple a child will be born who has a huge capacity to embrace the entire globe.

“In order for a spring-like woman to pass through summer and winter, she has to meet an autumnal man. A woman who corresponds to spring has to pass through summer in order to meet an autumnal man, and the autumnal man has to pass through winter in order to meet the spring-like woman. Therefore both ultimately pass through all four seasons.

“More than anything, one’s love partner should establish an ideal harmony and balance. You should think that the person who appears as your beloved spouse is a son or daughter of God, whom He truly loves, and that therefore He may come disguised as the ugliest person. If you love your husband or wife with those eyes, it has the same significance as loving God’s son and daughter.

CANDIDATE’S ATTITUDE AND HEART IN THE MATCHING PROCESS

“The term “ideal spouse” is very good, is it not? Until now, you have thought that an ideal spouse is like this or like that. No matter how good your partner is, you will not find his or her value unless you have within you the quality to do so. Do you understand what I am saying? Where is your capacity to discover whether or not your spouse is excellent? Without you yourself being the best, you cannot find the very essence of your spouse’s excellence.

“It is through the merit of investing myself that my partner is moved and comes to appear as an object with value. God created heaven and earth not just to see them as they are. He created in order to love, with heart as the basis. In the same way the only thing that matters in re-creation is acting with the heart as the guide. Even though Adam and Eve are small, in the world they are not seen as small but big.

“Men naturally pursue women, but for what purpose- to receive love or to give it? That is the most important question. It is a serious problem that American people have not understood how universal law works. You should never think, “I’m so glad I’m getting married because now my life will be easier. I will have someone to... serve me.” But all of a sudden, that is not what happens and you start to complain, “Hey, what’s happening here?” Your first concept was wrong; you are not supposed to get married in order to make your life easier. You should think that your life will get tougher, but you should be willing to do it in order to give love.

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

“Why do you marry? It is to inherit the foundation of thousands of years and of ten thousand generations of chosen people; it is for the future generations. If you marry for the sake of yourselves, you will destroy everything. That kind of decadent trend is sweeping over the world, and all of it has to be cut off. If you have that selfish thought, you are my enemies.

“Let’s say there is a good looking person among the blessing candidates. He or she might look splendid on the outside. But what is important is whether or not that person has the value to exist in the future in front of the will of God. That is the primary question for the partner whom that person meets.

“Therefore, our marriages are for the sake of our descendants. Thus, even though candidates might appear unsuitable in some way, the problem is how to match people so that their children inherit only their parent’s good points.”

Guidance from Hyung Jin Nim:

“The marriage tradition in our church is where we get to actualize all the things we heard when we were young and all the things we listened to in workshops. It’s the real place for us to actualize and refine those very important skills, such as understanding the power of the relationship, living for the sake of the other person, understanding the other person and practicing true love in the same way we always explain it. When we have differences of opinion, we recognize them; we come to deep understandings through them by natural subjugation, not by force.

“I think one of the great things about being Blessed is that we are constantly reminded that our most precious relationship is dynamic, not static. In order for it to be truly alive, it does require investment. It does require us to put in effort and to work at it. I feel some things have helped me personally—such as trying to understand my wife more. Sometimes, early on, I just didn’t get it. [Laughter] That’s okay; if you work through that, you learn. It is a process of learning, a process of growth, a process of continual improvement. I feel that the Blessing is not only a milestone; it is one of our most central practices. You may have a family soon—children—in a couple of years. Then you can also start this practice with your kids, raising them. It’s very exciting, very dynamic.

“One of the things I think is essential for Blessed Couples, Blessed Families, is to understand the concept that in giving the Blessing, True Parents have extended the Blessed life to us. That is something we can be proud of, and the Blessed life is something at which we can excel. And it does not have to stop with us. The Blessed life really is having the success and the victory God wants you to have in your lives, in relationships and so on. Then you take the next step and be that blessing to those around you, be that blessing to that person who needs a little help, your guidance, your mentoring. When we do that, we can start coming full cycle with living the Blessed life. Our view is that it can continually get better, which is very hopeful. I don’t think it has a limit in the sense that you reach some stage and just stay there. True Parents continually try to improve and grow—with the grandchildren, together, and so on.

Rev. Hyung Jin Moon: “Insights Into the Blessed Life”

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

Guidance from In Jin Nim:

What True Parents bring to this world is the concept of four-position foundation. That means we have God as our center, and as we become perfected in love, we come to understand what life is supposed to be and how we need to apply ourselves in our daily lives so that we can become responsible human beings. Together with the grace and the blessing of God, we can stand in the position of true couples and ideal families in the making, in the position to enjoy the children that are to come from our union.

The four-position foundation, if you really think about it, is like a diamond. When our Japanese members in America say the words, "True Love," it sounds like "Tu-rue Rub." I've often talked about how living a life of true love is like learning how to "rub" up against each other, going through the difficulties of life and turning ourselves, who are rough-cut diamonds, into brilliant diamonds, truly emitting the divinity within.

In this four-position foundation, for the first time in history, we have the chance to graft onto God's lineage and to have sinless children, children who are not tainted by the satanic lineage, which was the result of the Fall. What God is wanting for each and every one of us is to own a wonderful, eternal diamond that we can think of as a family. The diamond symbolizes eternity for a lot of young men and women walking down the aisle because it takes tons and tons of pressure and thousands of years to create.

Just as it takes pressure and time to turn that rough-cut diamond into something beautiful, marriage and family are like a workshop in which we can become better husbands and wives, better sons and daughters, and better brothers and sisters. My father has often talked about the family as a textbook of true love. It is a place where we work out our problems and overcome various obstacles to become an eternal diamond.

How is it that the family becomes eternal? It's because each of us, when we have our children, live eternally through them. We live on forever in our children, their children, and so on and so forth. Therefore, in this concept of a family truly owning up to itself as a brilliant diamond, connected to the true lineage of God, we can have immortality through the beauty of our children. If you really think about it, there's really nothing quite like it. Just the concept that marriage is something bigger than ourselves, bigger than the two people walking down the aisle, is something truly beautiful to behold.

**Sunday Sermon, Lovin' Life Worship
October 18, 2009**

An *ideal* family really is living a process of *dealing* with different obstacles and difficulties that arise in any relationship, learning to overcome them because we believe in something, we have a common purpose, and we want to get there together as a couple, or together as a family, or together as a community.

When you're thinking about the Blessing and marriage, you're preparing yourself for a great deal of love and happiness but also for a great deal of hard work and effort, which sometimes I think gets sideswept. A lot of young people come to marriage and the Blessing thinking that once a spouse has been found for them, it's just an easy walk in the park; automatically they

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

will be seriously in love, they will be passionately in love, and things will fall into place. But marriage and the Blessing are not like that.

In order to live with another person, to deal with another person, you have to have a common denominator, a common purpose. You have to have a vision and plan for what kind of marriage and relationship you want, what kind of a family you want to build, and what kind of parent you want to be. Not only are we coming together because we love each other, but we're coming together because we believe that God is our Heavenly Parent. We believe that the vows of matrimony should be shared with our Heavenly Parent, with the rest of humanity, and between husband and wife.

You can be reassured when you think, "I am going to this Blessing with someone who shares my vision and my goal in life to live as an eternal son or daughter joined in matrimony and loyal to this person for the rest of my life." Both of you can affirm, "I will be a man or woman of integrity, and together we want to build an ideal family that understands and recognizes God as our Heavenly Parent, that recognizes the philosophy of living for the sake of others, that recognizes a sincere desire to bring forth great children and to substantiate the Generation of Peace that we so desire." A successful marriage needs to have a common goal and vision.

When our True Father talks about an ideal subject and object relationship, he uses the diagram of a 90-degree angle, meaning there is God and there are children in the Four Position Foundation, but also man and woman. At the center of the Four Position Foundation, there's a 90-degree angle, meaning that the man is not slightly higher than a woman in terms of divine value, but that they have equal and the same divine value because they are both eternal divine beings.

Implicit in the philosophy of living for the sake of others is the notion that you have to take care of the other person better than yourself. Implicit in the philosophy of living for the sake of others applied to marriage is the notion that the two spouses will grow together becoming better people because the more we serve, the deeper we grow; the more we serve, the wider become our heartistic capacities; the more we serve, the more inspired our lives will be as we realize the extreme beauty in loving another person.

Then we're not going into this marriage relationship for our own gratification because we want a husband or wife, but we are entering this relationship because we honor the dynamic teamwork of a man and a woman truly respecting, honoring, and loving each other, and thereby empowering, inspiring, and encouraging each other. In the marriage relationship, teamwork is very important. It's not what you take away from the Blessing, but it's really all about what you bring to the table, what you bring as a part of that team.

The goal of every couple, really, is to experience the parental heart of God. God created Adam and Eve because he and she wanted to experience what it felt like to have a child, what it felt like to be a parent, what it felt like to truly love something more than yourself. In this beautiful environment called the Blessing, we have a wonderful opportunity to experience exactly what God experienced.

Sunday Sermon, Lovin' Life Worship, October 17, 2010

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

PREPARING FOR THE MATCHING PROCESS

- I. Your journey of life with God has led you to consider becoming a candidate for the matching and Blessing. It is one of the most important decisions in your life. You will need to be aware of the initial steps to prepare your heart and submit your application. The process outlined below is in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the international BFD. Please read it carefully to make sure that you understand clearly and adhere to these guidelines in order to be qualified for the matching and Blessing.
- II. By now you should have one person who will help you complete and submit your application. This person may be your matching advisor, pastor, or BFD representative. If you have any questions, please ask this person.
- III. Until the application process has been completed, you will have the status of an **Applicant** and are not yet in the position to be introduced to someone. When **all** the information has been submitted, you will have the status of a **Candidate** and will be eligible to be introduced to another qualified candidate.
- IV. We are guiding you through a serious qualifying process so that you and your future spouse can start out with mutual trust. Some questions you will be asked are sensitive and personal. It is our experience that full disclosure of information will help each applicant make a new beginning. It also helps the BFD make the best recommendation and to reduce the possibility of future misunderstandings. The BFD follows strict standards of confidentiality. None of your information will be shared outside of your matching process. Your confession will be kept confidentially by your local district interviewer and destroyed after your Blessing. All persons responsible in the matching/Blessing process have been trained and certified by the national BFD.
- V. **Applicant Qualification Checklist**
 - A. You must be legally single and at least 20 years of age.
 - B. You have participated in 7-Day Divine Principle education or its equivalent with the intention to study further (21 or 40 day workshop content).
 - C. You affirm the existence of God as revealed by the Divine Principle and respect True Parents and their messianic mission. You follow the Divine Principle teachings and the heavenly traditions of the Unification movement.
 - D. You have been an active member of the UC for at least one year as demonstrated by regular attendance to Sunday Service and other UC functions.
 - E. You have been sexually abstinent for at least one year.
 - F. You tithe regularly.
 - G. You have demonstrated good character and possess basic social skills.
 - H. You have completed Level 1 Blessing education.
 - I. You are connected to a community of Blessed families as attested by two letters, one from a sponsor and one from your local church leader.
 - J. You are ready to fill out the forms and to be interviewed.

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VI. The Application Process: You will be required to complete the following:

- A. Application for Matching:** This 3-page form provides basic information about you that will help matching advisors know who you are.
- B. Interview, Confession and Disclosure Form:** The Divine Principle explains that our separation from God and alienation from one another result from the misuse of love. Hence, it is very important to refrain from sexual intercourse or any sexual stimulation outside of marriage when you are preparing for the Blessing. This interview and confession process gives you an opportunity to acknowledge your past mistakes, and to receive guidance so that you can make a fresh start in a new relationship on a foundation of honesty and sincerity.
- C. Supporting Documents:** All supporting documents are needed to complete your file. A checklist is provided below.

VII. When all documents are completed and signatures obtained they will be filed with the national BFD office. The Interviewer or matching advisor will notify you once you are approved to be a candidate. Then the matching advisors and others supporting your matching process can begin to look for a prospective partner for you.

VIII. Candidate Qualification Checklist:

- A.** Set up your appointment with the interviewer.
- B.** In the interview the applicant submits the following:
 - 1. The 3-page application form completed and signed
 - 2. Letter of support from your sponsor
 - 3. Letter of support from your local UC leader
 - 4. The 3-page Interview, Confession and Disclosure form completed and signed
 - 5. Two 8 x 10 photos – one head and shoulders, and another full body (head to toe). A family photo if applicable.
 - 6. Proof of age (eg. copy of driver’s license, birth certificate or passport)
 - 7. Health Report form
 - 8. A medical exam report signed by your physician or clinic
 - 9. Copy of current AIDS and STD test results
 - 10. Level 2 Blessing Workshop Certificate (must have attended within the previous 2 years)
 - 11. Proof of nationality (copy of passport or driver’s license)
 - 12. 7- Day Fast Condition (must be completed prior to the Blessing)
 - 13. Blessing Donation Payment form (Payment must be completed prior to the Blessing)
 - 14. If applicable, legal divorce papers, “I-Deal Year” checklist and BFD Dissolution form
- C.** Signature by the District Pastor verifying that you have completed the qualifications to be a **candidate** for the matching. This signature appears in two places: the first page of the application for the matching and the third page of the Interview, Confession and Disclosure form.

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

THE MATCHING PROCESS

- I. Matching Advisors should first become familiar with the candidates they are supporting, in order to represent them effectively in the matching process.
- II. The Matching Advisor and the candidate should work together to develop a **Matching Plan**. Candidates should be honest and open with their MA about their background, situation, plans and preferences. This will allow the MA to find the most qualified candidates to recommend. Full disclosure also ensures the vertical component that allows candidates to separate from selfish love and creates the opportunity for God to guide their matching process. If candidates have any preferences, such as an international matching, or suggestion of someone they know, now is the time to report it to their matching advisor.
- III. Next, the advisor will search for appropriate and qualified candidates. Centered upon God and True Parents, matching advisors will communicate with one another and prayerfully consider the most suitable recommendation for their candidate. Matching advisors may choose to use these resources in their search:
 - A. The Online Matching System (OMS) for First Generation candidates at www.cheon-il-guk.org: This is a confidential and secure website where Matching Advisors can view and consider the profiles of qualified candidates. Candidates 40 years and older will be given access to limited profile information of potential matches who are on the OMS.
 - B. Regular MA networking meetings: MAs will meet virtually at least 4 times each year, introducing their candidates and viewing candidates' OMS profiles all together. In addition to local education, there will be a national Blessing workshop at least once each year. This will be announced well in advance so that national and international candidates can attend. Matching advisors will also attend to get to know the candidates there. After the workshop MAs will meet together to consider matching recommendations.
 - C. For candidates who prefer an international match, the Online Matching System includes candidates from around the world. If the candidate prefers a specific country or region, their MA can also contact that nation's BFD directly for recommendations. International BFD contact information is listed in Appendix 2.

"The best way to receive the Holy Blessing is through a cross-cultural marriage. These marriages contribute to the great task of transcending the barriers of race, culture, nationality, ethnicity, and religion, and to creating one family of humankind. In God's sight, skin color makes no difference. God does not recognize national borders. God does not stand behind the barriers of religion and culture."

True Father

When seeking an international match, candidates should consider the extra financial burden of international travel to meet and develop a relationship with a partner from overseas. While Email and Skype communication are useful, candidates **must meet in person at least once** before finalizing any match. Cultural differences provide additional

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

challenges to the process of becoming one as a couple. Legal and immigration issues, such as visas and country of residence, must also be considered.

- D. Candidates may also be introduced during one of the regular BFD Conference calls.
 - E. Ballroom dancing, galas, and other Lovin' Life or Learning Center events are good places to get to know brothers and sisters. Workshops and worship services are another opportunity to meet those who are searching to know God and True Parents. Blessing Workshops are also a natural place to make new friends.
- IV. Matching Advisors** will then collaborate to determine if their two candidates might be a good match.
- A. Matching advisors and candidates should stay in good communication throughout the process.
 - B. Matching Advisors may want to interview the other candidate in person or by phone. This interview should be requested through that candidate's Matching Advisor. MAs should always address candidates through their MA.
 - C. Matching advisors should consider potential candidates to recommend with several important characteristics in mind: level of faith and commitment, education, age, children, who can relocate, life goals, family histories, medical situations and personal preferences.
- V. Approval by the BFD Matching Committee:** When two or more matching advisors agree they have found a good potential match for their candidates, they will submit their recommendation to the BFD Matching Committee for their evaluation and approval **before** presenting the recommendation to the candidates. The committee is composed of experienced matching advisors or elders, and will be formed under the BFD and approved by our national leadership. They will act on behalf of True Parents to review recommendations and address any potential challenges. These can include large differences in age, legal problems, or questionable information or vague aspects of a candidate's information. To report a recommendation, the following process should be followed:
- A. Matching advisors send the candidates' profiles to Matchcommittee@unification.org, together with a brief explanation of the reasons for their recommendation. Profiles from the Online Matching System should be copied and pasted onto a separate document in order to send them. MAs need to also submit their own contact information in case questions arise.
 - B. The committee will respond within 7 days, with either an approval to go forward, an explanation of why they don't support the recommendation, or a request for further information. If more information is needed, MAs should cooperate as quickly as possible, in order to reach a conclusion with the committee within 2 weeks at most.
 - C. With the approval of the committee, the recommendation can be presented directly to the candidates.
- VI. The 21-day Introduction Phase:** With the support of the matching advisors, candidates are introduced. During this period the potential couple should connect, and learn enough about

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

each other to decide whether or not they agree to pursue their relationship. If they agree they will enter the communication phase.

- A. A candidate should only be introduced to one potential match at a time.
- B. During this stage, candidates exchange basic information about themselves, such as their faith, values and life goals, family background and experience, and hobbies and interests. It is important to remember that this is just an introduction period. Each candidate should maintain an open mind and a prayerful heart, trying to see the other from God's point of view. Candidates should take care not to judge or dismiss one another quickly or externally, nor should they give their hearts to each other at this point.
- C. Matching advisors should supervise and support the introduction process so that the candidates are at their best when they first meet each other. This can be a sensitive time when the basic differences between men and women, or contrasting communication styles can undermine the process too quickly. MAs and other advocates should monitor the process carefully.
- D. Each candidate should invest wholeheartedly in this process, and be responsible for their decision to pursue a match with the other candidate. It is important that candidates approach this phase with a God-centered perspective, emphasizing the ideal and value of the Blessing.
- E. At the end of this 3 week period the candidates should each let their matching advisor know what their decision is.
- F. If both candidates say "yes," they can begin the communication phase. If both candidates say "no," they should revisit their Matching Plan with their advisor, and begin again when they are ready. If one says "yes" and the other says "no," the advisors need to try to determine the reasons, support both sides. When they are ready, MAs should help them begin once more from their matching plan.

VII. The Importance of Full Disclosure

When True Father matched the early couples, he interviewed each candidate personally, often for many hours, and followed up with couples after their matching. After matching one group of young couples, Father gave them money and sent them out to enjoy their evening and get to know each other. The next morning he gathered them, asking testimonies of what they did the night before. One young man reported, "I confessed all of my past to my fiancé." Father replied, "You shouldn't have. I already forgave you."

The purpose of the interview and confession is to allow each of us to completely separate from any unprincipled and fallen past. Honest confession removes the basis for Satan to accuse us and allows us to receive the forgiveness that True Parents offer. Then we can move forward to recreate God's ideal in our lives. This can only be accomplished with total honesty. Hiding one's past because of shame, pride or fear of condemnation will prevent us from experiencing liberation and renewal, and could allow past problems to continue their influence in our lives. The shame, guilt and fear we experience when facing confession are the very barriers that our first ancestors constructed when they "hid themselves" from God.

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Though God already knows our past in detail, and was present throughout, He can only forgive and absolve what is offered to Him honestly and sincerely.

Once we offer up our past and leave it behind we can be “reborn” as an original man or woman, born of God’s lineage through the Blessing. It is not appropriate to report every sordid detail of our confessed past to a prospective partner. On the other hand, there are issues which any potential partner has a right to know before accepting a match. These must be disclosed to them honestly.

What should be reported honestly to God and True Parents through the interview and confession? Any unprincipled and immoral past, including sexual sins, misuse of love, serious criminal activity, addictions, hurtful behaviors, as outlined in the interview and confession form.

What needs to be disclosed to any prospective Blessing partner? The things that may affect their life, lineage or plans, such as previous marriages, children, physical or psychological problems, infertility, inheritable conditions, STDs, or any history of addiction or criminal behavior. These, too, are outlined in the application process and health forms. Sensitive information about ourselves should neither be shared too quickly, before knowing a prospective partner at all, nor too late, when they might feel betrayed or misled. No serious issue that affects my Blessing partner’s lineage or future should be hidden. It is not fair to them, and will cause even greater pain when it does come out, as it inevitably will. Your MA can guide and support you in this process. If you have a specific problem or challenge, your MA will work to find prospective partners who are prepared to consider a situation such as yours.

VIII. The 25-Week Communication Phase: During the Communication Phase the candidates will have an additional 25 weeks to consider each other for their eternal spouse. At any time during this period either candidate may decide not to continue and report that decision to their Matching Advisor. Candidates should feel the ownership and freedom to say “no” at any point during this period, but should never reject, demean or criticize their prospective partner directly. The candidates should maintain an open and honest relationship with their MA, and communicate their concerns, questions or decisions to them.

It is normal to go through uncomfortable or difficult experiences as you work to understand each other and build a relationship. At these times, candidates should not make quick judgments or withdraw without communicating. A helpful “rule of thumb” is the **Three-day Rule:** at each step along the way, candidates should pray and reflect for three days before making any decision. It can be helpful to share your concern with an MA during this period.

The following elements will help make the communication phase most effective:

- A. Communication and shared activities to introduce yourselves to each other, and help you get to know your future partner.
- B. Sincere prayer and reflection as you consider making an eternal commitment and building a Blessed Family with this person.

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

- C. Think deeply about your commitment to maintain heartistic and sexual fidelity in your Blessed Marriage.
- D. Understand each other's plans and expectations for your future family. Make an absolute commitment to raise any children you have in an environment of true love, following the traditions of a Blessed Central Family, centered upon God and True Parents.
- E. Be sure to **pray and invest during this period**, in order to win the heart of your future partner.
- F. Communicate consistently and often during this time. Try to meet in person as much as possible. Even if your prospective match lives a great distance from you, you should meet and spend time with each other at least once before deciding upon this match.
- G. Use any or all of these relationship-building tools to help get to know each other on deeper levels:
 - Suggested Questions to Ask Your Potential Partner [see Appendix 1]
 - The Five Love Languages
 - The Flag Pages
 - Myers-Briggs Personality Survey
 - FOCCUS, PREPARE, or RELATE couple inventories
 - Read and discuss Father's Autobiography togetherYou can find these tools in the Resource section of this handbook
- H. Live for the sake of others. You can learn a lot about each other's characters when you get involved in a service project or volunteer together. If you live far apart from each other, you can each serve others in your own local areas, and share your experiences with each other.
- I. You may want to make spiritual conditions together. The most effective conditions are those that are practical, relevant and involve things that are important to you.
- J. You should make your growing relationship a priority, and show that it is by your **actions**, by how you spend your time. **Small things do matter.**
- K. Once communication is moving toward a commitment, be sure to begin discussing practical things such as: Where will you live? Who will be able to move? How will you merge your lives and careers? How will you take care of finances? What roles will you each have in your marriage?
- L. At the end of the entire 7 months, candidates should report their decision to their advisor.
- M. If both candidates say "yes," they will enter the commitment phase outlined below. If both candidates say "no," they should revisit their Matching Plan, reflect on the lessons they learned, and begin again once they are ready. If one says "yes" and the other says "no," the advisors need to try to determine the reasons, help the two candidates heal and learn from this experience, and begin once more from their matching plan when they are ready.

IX. Physical closeness: What is appropriate?

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

- A. From the Introduction Phase until a clear Commitment Ceremony you are getting to know each other and deciding if you have a future together. While there may be the hope of that future, this is the time to learn about yourself and each other, about your goals and aspirations. This relationship-building process is **not the same as dating**. As you come to know each other from the inside, and begin to establish trust, openness and respect, there should be no physical or sexual contact at all. The best sexual chemistry flows from internal chemistry.

NOTE: While you might send a thoughtful card or take your prospective match out for a meal, you should avoid giving personal gifts until there is a clear, established commitment to a lasting relationship.

While in the communication phase, your growing friendship should only be known by those guiding your matching process, and should not be shared with friends.

- B. After the Commitment ceremony you are a matched couple. Your matching should be announced publicly, at church the following Sunday or at a similar community event. You are promised to each other, and you should develop the trust and closeness of a true brother and sister; become best friends. Premature physical intimacy can undermine or short-circuit the development of genuine emotional intimacy and trust. Continue to learn about each other and begin to make decisions together. Like any brother and sister, it is natural to hold hands, and greet each other with a warm hug. You should not kiss, lay down together or anything that begins the process of sexual stimulation. This will be deeper and more meaningful when it is based upon knowing and trusting each other, in the freedom of God's Blessing.

NOTE: We encourage you to make your growing relationship something personal and precious between the two of you, and to be respectful and aware of the environment you are in and those around you. You should not use your newly developing relationship to get attention from others or to show off.

- C. After the 3-day Ceremony, you are free to develop an intimate, loving relationship in the realm of God's Blessing.

- X. Commitment Phase:** This is your Commitment Ceremony. It is the first thing that you and your partner will work together to create. Please take the time to plan a ceremony that reflects who you are as individuals, and who you want to become as a couple. Create a ceremony that begins your walk through life together by welcoming God into the heart of your relationship. Your ceremony may be simple or ornate; the important thing is you have worked together to create it and you are sincere in your commitment to God and each other.

- A. Recommended Components:

1. Opening Prayer by a local church leader or matching advisor
2. A few words by someone in the parental position for each candidate
3. The candidates speak:
 - What this commitment means to me
 - Why my match is the best person for me.

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

- Vows they have written, either individually or together
 - 4. Exchange of gifts
 - 5. Signing of the Matching Report Form
 - 6. Closing prayer
 - 7. Share a meal and have cake
 - 8. Photos
- B. Some other ideas that couples have included in their ceremony:
1. Offering a bow to True Parents, and between the candidates.
 2. Guests: This can be very appropriate and inspiring to share with close friends or family.
 3. Testimonies: It can be very moving to hear a testimony or two about each candidate from someone who knows and loves them, expressing hope and encouragement for the couple.
 4. The candidates may choose the order and who says the prayers and give guidance to a speaker who may be saying a **few** words about the meaning of this day or the Blessing.
- C. Gifts: These need to be agreed upon beforehand. The spiritual parents or church representatives may give spiritual gifts to the couple like Holy Salt and a CIG Candle with matches. The candidates may exchange gifts of similar value.
- D. Other things that you may want to consider for your ceremony:
1. A banner.
 2. A slide show of each person growing up, their meeting and growing together to reach this decision.
 3. Music.
 4. A reading of Father's words.
 5. Photos: This is a great chance to take photos of the couple.
 6. If there are quests from outside our church you may want to consider a brief introduction that puts our matching tradition in a historical context.

XI. Reporting: During or after the commitment ceremony, the Matching Report Form should be signed by the two candidates, a witness for each candidate and the officiator, usually the local church leader. A copy of this form should be sent to the District BFD and BFD-USA. The couple should keep the original. This match will be reported to the BFD Matching Committee, and should be announced at the next Sunday service of your local church.

XII. Preparing for the Blessing

As an engaged couple, you are now a betrothed (promised) brother and sister. During this period you should build your relationship internally, refraining from physical or sexual intimacy until God has Blessed your relationship. Some important ways to grow your relationship are:

- A. You can invite God into your growing love through a habit of prayer and of study.

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

- B. It will benefit your future together if you attend all available education especially any programs for couples.
- C. Plan to attend the first available Level 3 Blessing Workshop for engaged couples. It will have more meaning if you attend it together.
- D. Connect to your local spiritual community. Maintain an active and serving life of faith. Live for others: find creative ways for each of you to serve your community.
- E. Practical and Financial Preparation
Consider and prepare for Blessing expenses well in advance. These may include:
 1. The Blessing Fee- this offering was established by our True Parents, as a substantial condition for each candidate to receive the Blessing, and all of its historical value for their family and lineage. It is \$2,000 per candidate in the USA, \$1,500 when traveling to Korea for the Blessing.
 2. Travel costs- prepare at least \$500 for travel in the USA, and up to \$2000 for international travel.
 3. Clothing and accessories- from \$150 to \$1,000 if a candidate purchases an expensive dress or suit.
 4. The Blessing ring- A gold ring will cost approximately \$400; other types of rings are available.

XIII. The Blessing and The Change of Blood Lineage

The purpose of human life is to embody and reflect God's ideal of love. The channel for Divine love into our lives is the family. Our first ancestors' purpose was to realize an ideal family, fulfilling the Three Great Blessings. Their selfish misuse of love brought about the Fall, and separated us from God's original love, life and lineage. True Parents, standing on a historical foundation of victory, have the authority to engraft all humankind into the original lineage of God. The Blessing is the process through which we become God's original sons and daughters. It consist of these steps:

- A. Life of Faith and 7 day Fast
Before seeking the matching or Blessing, it is important to establish a strong foundation to receive it. This consists of a healthy life of faith, good character and a sincere attitude, and is the basis for the requirement of a minimum of one year as a faithful Unificationist. The seven-day fast required of all Blessing candidates represents Jesus' 40-day fast, and is a condition to separate us from our sinful past and fallen lineage.
- B. Holy Wine Ceremony

This ceremony restores the order of God's original love, cleansing us from the original sin. It is performed in precisely the reverse order of the process of the fall. True Parents give the wine to the woman first, who then shares it with her future husband. The wine, composed of 21 elements from the entire creation, represents God's original blood lineage. The condition to become the first Israel was keeping the law and the condition to become the second Israel (Christianity) was baptism and communion. The Holy Wine ceremony connects all humankind to the ultimate, final "Israel," the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

C. The Blessing Ceremony

At the public Blessing ceremony, True Parents and their attendants “baptize” the couples with holy water, signifying their rebirth into God’s lineage as a couple. The couples proclaim their commitment to the ideals of God-centered family, restoring the original ideal and raising their children to love all humankind. True Parents extend their arms and pray for the couples, claiming them as renewed sons and daughters. Then True Parents proclaim the completion of the Blessing in front of God and the entire cosmos.

D. Indemnity Ceremony

The fall took place through the misuse of our sexual organs. Therefore, Jacob could be blessed by God as the root of “Israel” only after the angel struck the “hollow of his thigh” knocking it out of joint. In the same way, God required circumcision as the condition for Israel to become His people. These were conditions of indemnity to restore the misuse of our sexuality. The betrayal of the fall initiated a history of resentment between men and women. This indemnity ceremony allows the couple to strike one another three times, as a condition to indemnify our false sexual past and end any resentment. After this “symbolic” ceremony, there should never be violence between a Blessed husband and wife.

E. 40 day Separation Period

The number “40” is the Biblical period for separating from Satan. This 40-day period separates the Blessed Couple from the history of false and fallen love between men and women, and protects them from any accusation from Satan. The newly Blessed Couple offers their married life to God, and focuses upon developing a true relationship from the inside-out.

F. 3-day Ceremony

The Fallen love relationship between Adam and Eve brought about the corruption of love, distorted the family ideal and established a false world centered upon Satan. Through this final ceremony, Blessed couples begin their conjugal life by reversing this tragic process. The couple first cleanses their bodies with the Holy Wine that linked them to God’s lineage. Then with a prayer of offering, they invite God to enter their most intimate love relationship. Through his crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus brought spiritual salvation for humankind. The three-day ceremony makes physical salvation possible for the first time in history, re-establishing the original ideal of love.

NOTE: The 3-day ceremony has profound significance. Couples should be sure to obtain the detailed instructions for this ceremony from their local or district BFD during the separation period.

XIV. After the Blessing: How to care for and protect your Blessing

- A. Spiritual education: Daily HDH, attend Sunday Service or small groups at least twice a month and attend some kind of workshop or retreat once a year.

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

- B. Relationship education: Attend small groups, men's breakfasts, sister's meetings, church gatherings of all kinds to fellowship. Attend any marriage enrichment programs. Foster all friendships in and out of the church arena with other couples and families. This promotes a marriage culture that is eroding in our society at large, and protects our Blessings. Note: If you do not have small groups in your area, share a dinner once a month with another family.
- C. Tithing: Make this a strong determination. This ancient tradition of giving back the first 10% of all God has blessed us with benefits us the most.
- D. Traditions: Celebrate our beautiful traditions in your home; An Shi II, holy days, birthdays, births and 8-day ceremonies...
- E. Family time: Dedicate one night a week or one afternoon on the weekends as family time. Talk to each other, take a walk together or find something you enjoy together. This tradition is especially important when you have children to balance out the influences of this world.
- F. Date night: Once a month minimum go out on a date alone or with married friends. When you have children trade babysitting. It is healthy for your children to see you getting ready to go out together.
- G. Identify and develop a relationship with a mentor couple, and become a mentor couple to others.

XV. The "I-Deal" Year

Any relationship between a man and woman, no matter how loving, committed and deep it may be, will face challenges and difficulties. God designed men and women as complementary opposites; we love differently, and experience love differently. Growing to understand your partner's needs, though they are unlike your own, is essential to loving and living for them. But because of insensitivity, immaturity, emotional barriers or ancestral burdens, and the stress of life's unexpected challenges, each relationship may face times of crisis.

When painful times arise, the strength of your eternal commitment is of course important. But at the time of the Blessing, each couple will be asked to make a simpler, more practical commitment to an "I-deal Year." If troubles arise and communication breaks down; if a couple cannot see eye-to-eye nor find the way to resolve their struggle, it is not acceptable to simply withdraw and avoid, drift into non-communication, or seek comfort in unhealthy ways. If you feel overwhelmed, it is important to report the situation honestly, not only to a friend, but also to a trusted mentor, counselor, or Blessed Family Department representative. The BFD is committed to providing a network of understanding, support, and guidance that can assist you confidentially and professionally.

A one-year process of counseling, support and mediation to support each couple's effort to understand, communicate, and "deal" with their problems will be provided whenever they need. An investment of at least a year in a guided process will be a minimum requirement for each Blessed Couple.

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Of course, a healthy spiritual life, honest and open communication, participation in community and regular relationship education can help ensure that your marriage never reaches a point of crisis. The Blessed Family Department's commitment is to provide such opportunities, and we encourage each family to invest in ongoing education and support. When problems arise, don't let them get so out of hand that there is no way back. If you can't find the solution within yourselves, do not hesitate to seek help as soon as you need it.

XVI. The Diversity of First Generation Matching Situations

While the basic guidelines in this handbook apply to all First Generation adults, special assistance is needed for those coming to the Blessing from various situations:

- A. Single Unificationists who are 40 or older: Due to the greater urgency of finding a Blessing partner, the complexity of finding a partner in mid-life, and their greater sense of maturity and ownership, these candidates will be given a more active role in the process of searching for a prospective spouse.
- B. Divorced or previously Blessed Unificationists: The end of a marriage or Blessing is a painful, life-changing experience, for the couple and for any children that are involved. Care should be taken to reflect upon and heal emotional wounds, resentment or anger. It is vital that any divorce or dissolved Blessing is legally documented and honestly reported, leaving no unclear or shadowy past. When children are involved, their well-being comes first. The decision for a parent to be Blessed is a family decision, and should be embraced and supported by everyone. For candidates who have been Blessed before and paid their Blessing fee in full, their offering for this 2nd Blessing is \$500.
- C. Previously Married Couples: Married couples can and should receive the Blessing to renew their married life centered upon God and True Parents. While there is obviously no need to be matched, most of the other requirements do apply, and can be profoundly important for couples to experience the deep significance and power of the Blessing. Blessing education, a simple interview and confession, and spiritual conditions together are helpful. The couple should observe 40-days of sexual abstinence and the 3-day Ceremony after the Blessing, like the separation period for all First Generation couples. This engrafts their couple into God's lineage, and is extremely helpful in healing past hurts or resentments, renewing their relationship and trust. The Blessing fee for previously married couples is \$2,000 per couple.
- D. Jacob Generation Young Adults: These are First Generation adults who entered our church as children, because their parents joined. While they need the process of renewing their lineage through the Blessing, their parents may take an active role in their matching process. A separate handbook is being prepared for the Jacob Generation.
- E. Friends and Associates of the Unification Faith: The Blessing is more than a Unificationist rite; it is a ceremony to realize one human family through engrafting people of all faiths and backgrounds into God's lineage. Many non-Unificationists embrace the ideals of the Blessing: Building a God-centered family, uniting the human family under God, no divorce or infidelity, and raising children of peace. Clergy from many faiths have

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participated in the Blessing through being matched or as previously married couples. Many among the global movement of Ambassadors for Peace and other outreach organizations founded by True Parents have done the same. The guidelines in this handbook are extremely helpful for associated Blessing candidates. Each case should be understood individually, and the standards applied to the greatest degree possible.

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RESOURCES AND REFERENCE MATERIALS

Online and Networking Resources

- *International Matching Website*- www.bcmatching.org
- “*Matchbook*” BFA’s online matching site at www.blessedfamilies.org
- *Parents Matching Convocations*- several times a year in the USA and internationally
- *Matching Advisers*- each nation and region will identify, train and certify first and second generation elders who, by spiritual gift, calling and/or experience, can support and assist parents and candidates in the matching process. To find a matching adviser, or find out how to become one, contact matching@unification.org.
- *Utilizing an Advocate*- a candidate or family can identify an elder, friend or well-connected person to represent them in the matching process. They can recommend the candidate to others, represent them at PMCs or through Matchbook, and serve as an intermediary for them with other families.

Parenting Advice

- *Educating for True Love/ Chapter 21* - HSA Books
- *First Comes Marriage* - Reva Seth Through the advice from 300 arranged marriages, she shares the importance of knowing yourself and identifying what’s central in building a lasting marriage.
- *Best Tips on Matching for Parents* - True Father - (BFD)-resources-Matching) *website*
- *Suggested Guidelines for Family-Centered Matchmaking and The Marriage Blessing Commitments* - Dr. Mose Durst/ Ken Hardman -A discussion paper on the step by step process of parent centered matching. -(BFD-resources-Matching) *website*
- *An Outline for a Biography and Statement of Marital Readiness* - A practical, self reflective exercise to help parents and children be prepared for matching. (BFD-resources-Matching) *website*
- *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*- John M. Gottman. Based on his research with 700 couples John Gottman lays out a clear path how to build and maintain a happy marriage.
- *Five Love Languages for Teenagers* – Gary Chapman, Identifying the ways in which parents and children express their love to one another and how to use that knowledge to build a lifelong relationship.
- *Wonderful Ways to Love a Teenager* – Judy Ford: To love a teenager.

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- *Hey Dad, if you only knew....8 things teens want to tell their Fathers , but don't.* - Josh Weidman and James Weidman
- *Active Parenting for Teens, 3rd Edition* – Michael H. Poplin Provides concrete steps on how handling family problems, honest communication and respectful discipline
- *Launching Your Teen Into Adulthood: Parenting Through the Transition* – Hoolihan Teaching your teenager life skills as preparation for marriage.

Education for Candidates

- *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* - Joshua Harris- Smart love looks beyond personal desire and the gratification of the moment. A “how to”, to prepare oneself for marriage from God’s perspective.
- *True Love Volume I* - True Father’s words on marriage 1979- 1989 True Father’s Advice and anecdotes from the time of many first gen blessings 1979-1989. HSA-Books
- *Tale of Two Brains: Teen Edit*- Mark Gungor (DVD) Explores the difference between Man and woman in an honest and hilarious way.
- *The Gift for Life* - 2nd Gen Blessing Department Guidebook Compiled by Inguk Seo, includes matching /Blessing testimonies from 1st and 2nd generation. HSA-Books
- *Is it Infatuation or True Love?*- Marriage Library Archive 12-07-09 *website*
- *Can We Dance?* - “Learning the steps for a Fulfilling Relationship”, by Susanne M. Alexander. How can we prepare for and be in a relationship that is founded on character development and growth
- *The Meaning of the Blessing*- True Father (BFD-resources-matching)-*website*
- *Cheon-Hwa-Dang: House of Heaven’s Harmony* – Hyung Jin Moon Wonderful internal guidance on developing character and internal discipline. HSA-Books
- *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* – Sean Covey Applies the seven habits to the Life of teens including stories from all over the world (self image, build more active goals, your goals for parenting...)
- *Lady in Waiting* – Jones/Kendall (biblically-based marriage preparation/comes with accompanying workbook. A book about finding God’s biblically based marriage etc.
- *Top Ten Things to Think About for Matching Candidates* - Jim Stephens (BFD-resources-matching) *website*
- *Guidelines for Self Improvements* - Jim Stephens (BFD – resources-matching) *website*
- *Five Steps to Change Bad Habits to Good Ones* - James Claiborn (BFD -resources-matching)

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

- *29 Critical Matching Variables* - Neal Clark Warren (BFD.-resources-matching) *website*
- *Dae Mo Nim- Words to Second Gen.*- (BFD.- resources-matching) *website*

Building Relationships / During the Matching Process

- *Flag Page- Mark Gungor* - Helpful tool for young people to learn about themselves in preparation for matching. (BFD- resources-matching) *website*
- *Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts* - Les & Leslie Parrot- Points to prepare yourself for being a qualified candidate. Ask the reader 7 important questions, through answering, the the reader can gain valuable skills that help build a successful marriage.
- *Pure Gold – Encouraging Character Qualities in Marriage*, Susanne M. Alexander. Learn how to understand and practice positive character traits in your marriage. Great for before and after the matching and Blessing.
- *Boy Meets Girl* , by Joshua Harris. Practical guidance on how to switch from “no dating’ to building a God centered relationship that develops into commitment and marriage.
- *What is a Healthy Marriage Anyway?*- (Marriage Library Archive 2-04-10) *website*
- *Myer/ Briggs - Personality Types at a Glance* - (BFD .-resources - Matching)*website*
- *Couples Surveys*- A helpful way to learn about myself and my prospective partner: values, upbringing, communication styles, attitude toward faith, children, money, etc. “Prepare/Enrich” www.prepare-enrich.com; “Foccus” www.foccusinc.com; “Ready/Relate” www.relate-institute.org
- *Commitment Ceremony for Matched BC Candidates* - Jim Stephens (BFD-resources-Matching) *website*
- *Five Love Languages Questionnaires* - Gary Chapman -Find out how you and your fiance` differ in giving and receiving love. (BFD – resources-Matching) *website*
- *Questions to Ask Potential Matches* - Marjorie Buessing . Great conversations starters and questions to ask potential matches. (BFD- resources-Matching) *website*

Websites

- www.themarriagelibrary.com/archives/.htm
- www.smartmarriages.com
- www.twoofus.org
- BFD website: www.familyfed.org/bfd
- BFA website: www.blessedfamilies.org

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

- www.hsabooks.com
- For Better and For Ever: www.marriagepreparation.com
- www.successtoparenting.com
- www.LoveandLogic.com
- www.eHow.com – search for “Marriage Preparation”

Additional suggestions are welcome: email us at Blessing@unification.org

DRAFT EDITION ONLY

A P P E N D I X 1

Suggested Questions for Learning About a Matching Candidate

Here are some recommended questions for Matching Advisors to think about and use when communicating with others considering a potential match. These can be used in their initial communication with other MAs. They might also use some of these questions later in the exploration process when interviewing the other candidate directly. Sensitive questions should be asked with care.

1. When did you feel closest to God? What was your spiritual life like as a child? as a teen? as an adult?
2. How much Divine Principle Education have you had?
3. Which part of the Principle grabs you the most?
4. What church activities have you been involved in?
5. How do you view the roles of husband and wife in the family?
6. What expectations do you have about your spouse and about your marriage? What expectations do you think your spouse might have of you?
7. How do you envision your future family connecting to and participating in the church community and activities?
8. What kind of community and environment would you like your future family to live in?
9. Where would you like to live while you raise a family?
10. How big a family would you like to have? When do you think you would want to start having children?
11. Do you have any health concerns?
12. Is there any reason to think having children could be a problem?
13. Have there been any health concerns in your family history that are hereditary? Examples of these would be epilepsy or sickle cell anemia.
14. Have there been mental health concerns in your family history? For example, bi-polar condition or attempted suicide.
15. Have you ever seen a mental health professional, been diagnosed or taken medication for

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any mental health problem, psychological or emotional condition, learning developmental disability?

16. Ask questions about how the candidate was raised. Ask about grandparents and great-grandparents. These are precious questions about the possible joining of two lineages.
17. What are your views on aging?
18. How were you disciplined as a child? How would you like to discipline your children?
19. How do you manage your anger? Have you ever had a violent outburst?
20. What is your level of purity and experience? Have you ever given your heart to another person?
21. Have you ever experienced any addictive behavior? (Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling, Pornography) Is there any family history of addiction?
22. Do you have any "Deal Breakers" (issues that make it impossible for you to consider a match with someone)? Examples of these could be language, location, race, purity level, education, vices, etc
23. What are your passions and goals?
24. What is your career path and what are your plans to support a family?
25. Describe your educational and job experiences. What was your relationship to classmates, coworkers and bosses?
26. What are your interests and aspirations?
27. What were your hobbies and sports growing up? What do you enjoy doing now?
28. What are your political views?
29. Do you have any debts, such as college loans?
30. How did your parents handle finances? How do you see it working in your marriage?
31. Love is a verb. It is something you do, not just a feeling. After you commit to someone at the time of the matching, what will you do to win their heart and care for them?
32. Unity and love between a husband and wife is not easy- men and women are so different. What are some things you would do to continuously grow and develop a healthy friendship and marriage?
33. How do you see you and your future spouse solving disagreements? How was conflict and difficulty managed in your own family growing up?
34. If you were to find yourself struggling in your marriage, who would you go to for help?

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35. What educational activities, volunteer work or supportive friendships might you choose to participate in as a couple and later as a family.
36. What are some of the needs and desires that were never fulfilled by your parents? What were your hurts and disappointments as a child? What were your greatest joys?
37. What parts of your childhood would you like to relive and why?
38. How did your family celebrate holidays? Did your family have any special traditions? What was your favorite family vacation?
39. What did you enjoy about school activities? Who were your favorite teachers and why?
40. What awards and achievements did you win?
41. Who were your close friends growing up and where are they today? Who are your closest friends today?
42. Who are the five most important people in your life?
43. What are your unspoken personal 10 commandments?

We also suggest that candidates pray for each other every day.

A P P E N D I X 2

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