



**The Unification Church**  
**North American Headquarters**

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**Update: East and West Coast Blessing Education for Matched and Newly Blessed Couples**

Phillip Schanker and Michael Balcomb  
December 17, 2012

MEMO: BFM 2012-12-17

**To: To District and Local Pastors, Community Leaders, Blessed Families and Children**  
**From: National Blessed Family Ministry**  
**Re: BLESSING EDUCATION FOR ENGAGED COUPLES - Preparation for the Upcoming Blessing**  
**“Start Smart” Level 3 Blessing Workshops for Matched or Newly Blessed Couples:**  
**WEST COAST: Jan. 19-21, 2013 (ML King Day weekend), Bay Area Family Church, San Leandro, CA**  
**EAST COAST: December 28-30, 2012 at UTS Conference Center, Barrytown, NY**  
**Date: December 17, 2012**

We are pleased to announce two exciting and informative “**Start Smart**” workshops for engaged couples and young Blessed couples organized in preparation for the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony that will be held on February 17, 2013 for couples receiving the Blessing for the first time. The main Blessing ceremony will be held at the Cheongshim Peace World Center in Korea, with ceremonies held around the USA via internet. We plan to organize a national ceremony for the Blessing in the New York area, with education, dinner, fellowship and entertainment. Further details on the February 17<sup>th</sup> Blessing Ceremony will follow soon.

**The “Start Smart” couples workshops are “Level 3” Blessing workshops which are required before participation in the Blessing.** They are designed to help couples deepen their relationship with God and each other, and prepare for Blessed Family Life. As previously announced, the east coast program will be held December 28-30, 2012 at the UTS Training Center in Barrytown, NY. The west coast program will be held January 19-21, 2012 (ML King Day weekend), at the Bay Area Family Church in San Leandro, CA. **All engaged or recently Blessed Couples of the First or Second Generation are welcome.** We recommend them for any couple that has not yet begun their conjugal or family life.

These workshops feature valuable content from the meaning and value of the Blessing to practical guidance on relationships, communication, male-female differences, and building intimacy. We will also specifically prepare couples for beginning life as a Blessed Couple. Presenters include Unificationist counselor and marriage educator John Williams, National Blessed Family Ministry counselor and educator Debby Gullery and Rev. Phillip Schanker, director of the National BFM.

While we cannot guarantee that Level 1 or 2 programs can be organized nationally until after Foundation Day, we encourage local communities to organize them. Some Level 3 small group programs for couples are being organized as well. Contact the National BFM for further information, materials and support. For those couples planning to attend the February 17<sup>th</sup> Blessing who are unable to participate in one of these national or local Level 3 programs, please complete all other Blessing requirements and submit a letter with your application that you will participate within 8 months of the Blessing date.

**I. WEST COAST WORKSHOP SCHEDULE, LOCATION AND DETAILS *Register Early and Save***

The program begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, January 19, 2013 at the **Bay Area Family Church (BAFC) at 2305 Washington Ave, San Leandro, CA.** It will finish at 1:00 pm on Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**REGISTRATION AND DEADLINES: *Register Early and Save***

Participants can register online for the West Coast Workshop at the following link:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=butvqyeab&oeidk=a07e6qo8wuf20bf3b78>

The workshop fee for the west coast is \$80 per participant for those who **register by January 11th**, \$90 for those who register after the deadline, and \$100/person for unregistered walk-ins at the workshop.

**Please note that the fee does not include lodging.** If you have friends or relatives in the area, it is preferable if you can stay with them. If not, the BAFC has made arrangements for lodging at the Marina Inn in San Leandro, located near the church. The cost is \$30/per person/per night, which will sleep 4 persons in one room, and includes breakfast. To reserve, please contact Siew Lian LeRoy at

[bafcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bafcoffice@gmail.com), telephone 510-499-2621. You will be able to pay this extra amount at the time of registration.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

For those traveling by air, the Oakland International Airport is the best location and is only 15 minutes from the church. Transportation will be provided to and from the Oakland Airport, but cannot be provided from any other airport. For those traveling to the San Francisco International Airport, one can take the BART transit system directly from the airport to the **San Leandro BART stop**. Transportation will be available from there. Please note at registration if you need pick-up from one of these locations and arrangements will be made.

## **II. EAST COAST WORKSHOP SCHEDULE, LOCATION AND DETAILS**

The New York program begins with registration at 5:00 PM on Friday afternoon, December 28<sup>th</sup> at the UTS Conference Center in Barrytown, NY. It will end at 4:00 PM on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at UTS.

### **REGISTRATION AND DEADLINES:      *Register Early and Save***

Participants can register online for the East Coast Workshop at this link:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=butvqyeab&oeidk=a07e6pvpfwn32b36cea>

The workshop fee for the east coast, based upon costs for food and lodging, is \$120 per participant for those who **register by December 21<sup>st</sup>**, \$130/person for those who register after the deadline, and \$140/person for unregistered walk-ins at the workshop.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

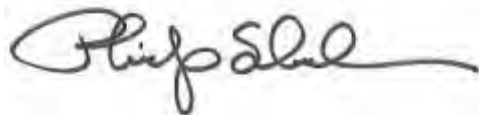
For those traveling to UTS by air, bus transportation is available from Newark, La Guardia and JFK airports to Manhattan, near Penn Station. Airtrain service is also available to Penn Station from Newark and JFK. Amtrak trains depart from Penn Station to the Rhinecliff-Kingston Station near UTS. We will provide transportation from the Rhinecliff Station to the UTS Conference center. The conference center can also be reached conveniently by car, where plenty of parking is available.

For more information, please contact us at [BFDadmin@unification.org](mailto:BFDadmin@unification.org).

May God be with you and your family.



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Executive Vice President



Rev. Phillip Schanker  
Blessed Family Ministry  
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