



An Open Letter to UTS Alumni and Friends

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The future of Barrytown depends on the alumni and people who love *it*. The UTS Board of Trustees has asked me to serve as the interim president of Unification Theological Seminary/Barrytown College. I hope to serve UTS and its alumni sincerely with a deep commitment to God and True Parents. This letter to the alumni is the first in a series of reports on the challenges that our *alma mater* faces. Periodically I will update you on what is happening, and very soon I will send you a detailed report on an immediate problem.

I come to this role with an open mind. I have no set agenda or predetermined idea of what to do, although I have an understanding what needs to be done for our institutions to prosper. My goal is to ensure that our schools succeed and to help students to obtain a good education. My intention is to report honestly on the situation. What I have found so far is surprising. Some have asserted that UTS has no shortcomings or deficiencies. However, that is often based on incomplete information. Many have been led to believe that there are no serious problems. But that is not the case. Every organization faces challenges. I don't tell you this to embarrass anyone, but you have the right to know, as alumni, of problems that have not been reported in their entirety to either to the UTS Board of Trustees or to you. Fortunately, we now have your attention as to the seriousness of the situation that Barrytown faces.

Since 1996, UTS has been accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). Previously, our seminary was not in danger of losing its accreditation. However, on June 26, 2014, UTS was placed on probation by MSCHE for having failed four major educational standards: (1) mission and goals; (2) institutional resources, including financial viability; (3) student admissions and retention; and (4) assessment of student learning. The MSCHE decision on the accreditation of UTS and a public disclosure statement can be found at www.msche.org/institutions_directory.asp UTS remains accredited, while of probation. However, in April MSCHE is sending a team of educators to visit UTS to determine what progress has been made in realizing those four educational standards.

For nearly three years, the U.S. Department of Education has been investigating UTS for administrative deficiencies and non-compliance with federal financial aid laws. Unfortunately, UTS failed to make the corrections that the government required. In order to afford college, most students need to receive Title IV financial aid through such programs as Pell grants, work study funding, direct loans, and Stafford loans. Regrettably, Barrytown College students are not able to receive federal financial aid, because of mistakes made by UTS administrators and financial aid staff. On December 26, 2013, U.S. Department of Education sent a letter to the UTS president that stated that the UTS request for federal financial aid for

students in the undergraduate program was denied. Subsequently, I will send to you a copy of that letter and also a preliminary report on the history of the mistakes in record keeping that were made by the UTS financial aid office and uncovered by the US Department of Education in its investigations.

UTS is faced with a financial crisis. Endowments have been spent, and property has been sold. A college or seminary that does not have an endowment must rely on student financial aid to pay the tuition and fees. It is not possible for a small college to survive without government aid to students. I do not want to be the bearer of bad news, but our *alma mater* is in trouble and needs help. As interim president, I will do what I can to rectify the situation, but it will not be easy. In order to save our beloved Barrytown, we need support from our alumni and stakeholders. Our church has given many millions of dollars to UTS and will continue to provide funding until June 30, 2015. But HSA-UWC also is faced with financial challenges. I do not know what our American church will be able to donate next year, because it no longer receives large donations from abroad. For UTS to survive this crisis, our alumni and friends must contribute time and money – and must care.

I have discovered examples of poor financial management and of administrative deficiencies that I am attempting to straighten out. As I dig into the details of the situation, I will report honestly what I find. I am still trying to discover what went wrong, but that is not my foremost worry at the moment. Most importantly, we need to determine our options, in order to save our beloved institution. For all of us, Barrytown is a special place where fond memories reside. Many regard it as our spiritual home -- the place where we were nurtured and educated. Barrytown is where our True Parents gave their "blood, sweat, and tears" for the salvation of the world. However, now the Barrytown property itself is in disrepair and needs to be saved for posterity.

Let us resolve to create a culture at Barrytown that is committed to serving and educating people worldwide in the teachings of our True Parents. Our American church needs to engage the world more vigorously than ever, and in the realm of education UTS can lead that effort. UTS can spearhead an educational, even a spiritual, revolution that focuses on serving and educating people everywhere around the world. *The graduation ceremony will be held in Barrytown in the chapel on Saturday, May 23, 2015. For several days after graduation, we are considering inviting alumni and friends to celebrate **the 40th anniversary** of the founding of UTS by our True Parents in 1975.*

There is hope for UTS, if our alumni respond to this crisis and unite in support of the first institution of higher education founded by our True Parents. Let's keep the faith, knowing that God is alive and that our True Parents have been following a providential plan. Together let us shore up the Barrytown ship of state. Some of you may have ideas on how to increase revenue and reduce expenses. I am interested in your thoughts and proposals. We can make a difference, so let us work together to save our *alma mater*. We welcome your ideas, plans, investment in time, donations, and most importantly prayers. May God continue to bless you and your families – and may God bless America and Barrytown.

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