

## Invitation to 12th Annual Forum of UTS Alumni in the UK Saturday 4th July 2015 - Plurality and Dissent in Unificationism

Christopher Le Bas  
April 24, 2015



As a graduate of the Unification Theological Seminary or valued friend of the UTS alumni association, you are warmly invited to participate in the next annual forum of UTS graduates to be held on Saturday 4th July 2015 in the Village Hall of Bonsall, near Matlock Bath, in the Derbyshire Peak District. The theme of this year's meeting is "Plurality and Dissent in Unificationism"

Within this broad theme we have identified a number of possible topics:

- Perspectives on historical schisms in religions
- Disunity or apparent disunity within the founder's family
- Free will, spirituality, conscience and social freedom
- Facing up to plurality and dissent in Unificationism
- Freedom under religious law in Cheon Il Guk

You are invited to make a presentation related to the overall theme, which may follow one of the suggested topics above, though the actual content is left up to you, according to your own area of interest. Ideally, if you intend to present something, a summary should be forwarded to the organising committee for distribution through email or publication on the UTS Alumni website, to give participants a chance to read it in advance, and this applies even if you are not able to attend but would like to contribute to the discussion. A projector and laptop will be available on the day so that presentations on USB memory sticks in PowerPoint or other standard formats can be displayed.

Following on from last year's successful Unification Symposium in Chislehurst, we have decided to consolidate that experience by returning to the smaller and more intimate venue in Bonsall, but on a broader basis. Therefore, we have decided to continue the practice, initiated at the symposium, of inviting members of the broader Unification community, as both participants and potential presenters. This year the meeting has been pushed back by about a month. This decision is less to do with the weather, as we have generally been very lucky in that respect, but to give more opportunity to attend for those travelling from Scotland, as well as student participants.

In the tradition of past meetings, we look forward to a lively, thorough and honest discussion, within a fellowship of people sharing similar goals, ideals and values. As in previous years, you are welcome to bring members of your family, as there are leisure facilities available close to the venue. Weather and time permitting there will be a walk in the locality between lunch and afternoon tea. Cost per participant is £15, which includes a buffet lunch. We look forward to seeing you on July 4th.

Please respond to Chris Le Bas or Matthew Huish by June 17th, letting us know if you are able to attend and whether you intend to present a paper (and a summary or rough idea of the key ideas). If you have any questions, please contact any of us on the planning committee. We will send out the detailed programme closer to the time.