

The Applied Unificationism (AU) Blog Is Transitioning to a Member-Led Organization

John Redmond
September 24, 2023



Dear Applied Unificationism Blog readers,
contributors and supporters,

As our Editorial Committee posted in its open letter, “[We Had a Great Run. And We Thank Our Readers](#),” Unification Theological Seminary has become the [HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership](#) and decided that the AU Blog it sponsored since 2013 no longer matches its new mission. Therefore, the Applied Unificationism Blog has a chance to evolve as well.

We have been having meetings among the Editorial Committee seeking to identify the next iteration of the Blog. HJI President Dr. Thomas Walsh said he is happy to support transitioning the AU Blog to a new home provided we find a responsible steward. While seeking sponsorship from church-affiliated organs is often the typical path, in this era it seems we should take more initiative. As the Elder Son Nation and in the Age of Ownership, it seems it is time to try to make it on our own.



John Redmond

I have volunteered to take on the editorial duties for the AU Blog for one year to see if we can transition the AU Blog to a member-led organization that can operate in a collegial fashion while keeping the intellectual, social and academic standards that have made the AU Blog a success for the past 10 years.

Dr. Mark P. Barry, who served as managing editor for the past then years, has agreed to assist with the transition; and I have requested the current Editorial Committee to stay in place, at least for the time being.

I have several offers of donors willing to cover the cost of hosting the site and we will maintain the current standard of publishing for the immediate future to ensure continuity and quality.

However, I would like to see the AU Blog carefully evolve. Here are some areas I think we could strengthen our appeal and effective outreach:

1. **Broaden our audience.** We need to attract younger contributors and readers. I think that there are many young people at work, especially in the social sciences, who can incorporate Unificationist values and models into their field. Education, social work, psychology, and health care seem like disciplines that are accessible to Unification thought.
2. **Create a membership structure that includes voting and fundraising.** I like the model of the intellectual societies of Europe during the Enlightenment. Regardless, it is in our collective interest to develop and model governance structures that are a place for mature Unificationists to thrive.
3. **Experiment with other formats.** Perhaps a short essay section, e.g., op-eds of 800 words, where single topics can be broached and developed.
4. **More dialogue.** Give and take creates new ideas, so a moderated forum is envisioned that allows vigorous debate without descending into the rancor and polarization that characterizes much current online discussion elsewhere.

If you would like to be part of this new effort or if you have questions, please email me at AUBlogEditor@gmail.com; if you have overall thoughts of encouragement or suggestions, please post them in a comment below. I will organize a Zoom call to launch this new effort in coming days.

Our [About page](#) has been updated, including revised Applied Unification Blog editorial guidelines.

I look forward to an interesting year and am excited to see what we can build together in that time.

Best Regards,

John Redmond

Executive Editor, *Applied Unificationism* Blog
Photo at top by Timothy Eberly (courtesy [Unsplash](#))

Applied Unificationism

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We Had a Great Run. And We Thank Our Readers



The Applied Unificationism Blog went live on May 1, 2013, sponsored by Unification Theological Seminary (UTS). Over more than ten years, the AU Blog has **explored** the application of Unificationism to the wider world.
















Since that time, the AU Blog has posted 400 articles and over 4,500 comments. We have received over 472,000 page views from 228,000 unique visitors in 215 countries and territories around the world. Since 2015, **80 of our articles** have been re-posted on a sister site, the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification international headquarters website in Korea, which has greatly increased our visibility.

We deeply appreciate our loyal readers, whether you followed Applied Unificationism since the beginning a decade ago or only discovered us this year.



Unification Theological Seminary has decided to conclude its sponsorship of the Applied Unificationism Blog at the end of its fiscal year on June 30. On July 1, UTS will adopt a **new institutional name**. In addition, UTS will be initiating some new projects that may include a new journal and a conference series.

The Applied Unificationism Blog will remain live as a site through the end of 2023 and at least into early 2024. Comments submitted to any article after June 30 may continue to be posted after moderation. However, the AU Blog will no longer be

RECENT COMMENTS

-  Jean-Jacques Bourget on **Patient Love Is More Important...**
-  Kent Trabling on **Patient Love Is More Important...**
-  David Burton on **Patient Love Is More Important...**
-  Johann Hinterleitner on **Patient Love Is More Important...**
-  Priscilla Joy Agari on **Patient Love Is More Important...**
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-  Glenn Strait on **Patient Love Is More Important...**
-  Mark P. Barry on **We Had a Great Run. And We Tha...**

TOP POSTS

-  » **The AU Blog Is Transitioning to a Member-Led Organization**
-  » **Music as Universal Language**
-  » **Patient Love Is More Important Than Doctrine**
-  » **How Do You Know What You Believe Is True? Theories of Truth**
-  » **God as Heavenly Parent in Rev. Moon's Early Teachings**
-  » **Theological Developments in the FFWPU since the Death of Rev. Moon**
-  » **King Sejong and Unificationism**
-  » **The Misinterpretation of Emperor Constantine's Vision and Its**

after moderation; however, the AU Blog will no longer be accepting new article submissions for publication after that date. This could change if a new sponsor is found.

We invite you to express your thoughts and reflections about the Applied Unificationism Blog in the comments section below.






In closing, we express our appreciation to UTS for its generous support of Applied Unificationism over the years.



Sincerely and with gratitude,

The editorial committee of Applied Unificationism:

Mark P. Barry, Managing Editor
Michael Mickler
Keisuke Noda
Andrew Wilson
Kathy Winings

Photo at top: *By Melissa Cassar (courtesy [Unsplash](#))*





One blogger likes this.

RELATED



Applied Unificationism's
Second "Blog-iversary"
May 1, 2015
In "Unificationism"



Applied Unificationism's
First "Blog-iversary"
May 1, 2014
In "Education"



Applied Unificationism
Celebrates Its 5th Blog-
iversary
May 1, 2018
In "Unificationism"

-  June 29, 2023
-  Education, Governance, Religion & Spirituality, Unificationism
-  What Can Be Done About Violence in Society?
-  Patient Love Is More Important Than Doctrine

14 thoughts on “We Had a Great Run. And We Thank Our Readers”

ADD YOURS



Stephen M. Henkin

June 15, 2023 at 2:56 am



Does the fact that the Barrytown Seminary property (UTS) is being sold later this year have anything to do with the Blog closing down? If so, why isn't it mentioned here?

★★★★☆ 3 Votes

Consequences

-  A Challenge for the Divine Principle in the Postmodern Era
-  An Encounter with the Holy Trinity: “The Shack”

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- » The Next Great Awakening Through the Convergence of Science and Religion June 5, 2023
- » After 70 Years, Peace Treaty Needed to End Korean War May 15, 2023
- » Enlarged Freedom for a Safer World: A Unificationist Approach toward Human Security May 1, 2023
- » From Korea with Love April 3, 2023
- » The Veneration of Mary and Its Implications for Women in the Church March 20, 2023
- » Russia, Crimea, Ukraine and Beyond February 27, 2023
- » Traditional Roman Catholicism vs. Franciscan Mysticism: A Case Study for Unificationists January 30, 2023
- » ‘Black Panther: Wakanda Forever’: More Than a Marvel Adventure Movie January 16, 2023
- » What Music Tells Me: Beauty, Truth and Goodness and Our Cultural Inheritance January 2, 2023
- » A Manifesto for an Integral Society December 12, 2022
- » The Need for a Unificationist Blessing, Marriage and Family Theology and Education Providence November 7, 2022
- » The Abundance Mentality, with Biblical References October 10, 2022
- » Giving an Adversary the Respect They May Not Deserve October 3, 2022
- » Unearthing My DNA: The Lost Sister September 26, 2022



The Editors

June 15, 2023 at 10:04 am



The Barrytown property sale has no bearing on the AU Blog's closing. The school intends to direct its resources toward publications in the field of peace studies.

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ 3 Votes



Migliore Gennaro

June 15, 2023 at 11:22 am



If today I'm a better Unificationist, if today my understanding of the value of our Founders has increased, it's because Applied Unificationism has existed.

To the editorial committee of Applied Unificationism: THANK YOU!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5 Votes



Eileen Williams

June 15, 2023 at 12:08 pm



Editors,

You were an intellectual beacon through dark providential storms, a ballast in the midst of church turmoil.

Now where do we turn for enlightenment and insightful, thoughtful interpretation? Facebook groups? The Divine Principle book has remained the same for 50 years. This makes me sad.

Thank you for hosting our articles and discussions throughout the years, at the risk of the feedback and scrutiny you certainly received.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 6 Votes



Laurent Ladouce

June 15, 2023 at 4:05 pm



I just read that the Applied Unificationism Blog will no longer post new articles after June 30 due to loss of sponsorship.

I really hope the AU Blog will find a way to continue in some form. It served a real need for many years. The Blog was triggering and stimulating research and a quest for deeper answers. It was forcing us to think outside of the box. It was conceived in order to attract those with creative ideas about the practical applications of our teachings.

Unfortunately, it was the only forum of such a quality for our movement worldwide. Some important leaders could grasp its importance, but maybe not enough. I feel deeply worried about the prospect of maintaining this kind of forum.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 5 Votes



David Eaton

June 17, 2023 at 6:29 am

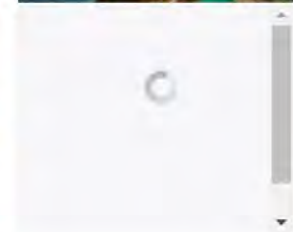
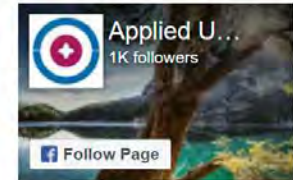


Sorry to hear this news. I would hope that there could be some way for the Blog to continue. It was very stimulating to read the essays and comments on such a broad array of topics.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2 Votes

» A Proposal to Allocate More Resources for Counseling
September 5, 2022

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- Mark P. Barry on We Had a Great Run. And We Tha...

COMMENTING

To post a comment on an article, at the bottom of a page, click inside the box under where it says "Please leave a comment or reply." Type your comment, full name, email, and website (if any). Then, click "Post Comment" or "Post a Reply."

Comments should not be article-length. If you want to post a longer comment, you are encouraged to submit an article to the AU Blog for consideration (see our guidelines [here](#)). We welcome a diversity of points-of-view.

No anonymous comments.



Johann Hinterleitner

June 17, 2023 at 11:24 am



First of all, thank you for hosting and providing this Blog over the years. Many contributions were insightful and helped me gain additional understanding.

Are the budgetary needs confidential, or would its disclosure perhaps stimulate sponsors so it could be kept alive?

Too many valuable initiatives in our (Western) movement have been scaled down or closed altogether in past decades. It makes me sad and sentimental to see another such initiative disappear.

★★★★★ 5 Votes



Mark P. Barry

June 18, 2023 at 12:00 pm



Special shout-out to our contributing writers over the past decade, many of whom are UTS alumni or current students. There would have been no Applied Unificationism Blog without their thoughtful articles.

★★★★★ 3 Votes



Brian Orr

June 21, 2023 at 1:10 pm



😞 This is sad that UTS has decided not to sponsor the AU Blog anymore. I would love if our church's international headquarters would pay for the probably small server costs for this website to continue to operate. This is a unique forum for discussing Unification Church theology that I think has almost no alternative/competitor, other than discussions on Facebook or other social media between individuals. The articles posted here have been very thought-provoking and I will sincerely miss this forum to share many types of ideas.

★★★★★ 4 Votes



David Stewart

June 26, 2023 at 12:19 pm



Thank you all so much for your efforts over the years of the AU Blog. Clearly an era has ended — the name of UTS, Barrytown, and our beloved Blog are no more. Sadly, the blinded Gloucester's lines as he wandered on the heath come to my mind: "As flies to wanton boys are we to th' gods, They kill us for their sport." (*King Lear*, Act 4, Scene 1)

★★★★★ 2 Votes



Mark P. Barry

July 1, 2023 at 10:43 am



I like the Shakespeare reference. Sadly, it's apt.

★★★★★ 3 Votes



Robert Sayre

June 30, 2023 at 6:56 am



What do you need to continue as a separate online blog from the Seminary?

★★★★★ 2 Votes

Please use your full, real name, not a handle or pseudonym.

Unlike on Facebook or an email list, all comments are moderated, and there is a delay in posting. Please write in a polite tone specifically regarding the article in question; self-promotional comments are discouraged. Commenting on this site is a privilege, not a right.

Applied Unificationism is a place where the future of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) may be thoughtfully discussed, but is not a site for criticism of its leadership.

The AU Blog posts a comment at its sole discretion, may edit for length, content and germaneness, or clarity, and reserves the right to limit the number of comments posted by an individual in a period of time. *Ad hominem* attacks on the persons or motivations of other writers, commenters, this Blog, or its sponsor are not acceptable.

This site will not tolerate the denigration, direct or indirect, of other faiths, races, minorities, and cultures. A bullying or disparaging tone in a comment directed toward AU Blog readers or authors posted on this site is not permitted.

You may contact an author directly by clicking his/her name in their byline.

Readers may rate comments using a five-star system.

RE-BLOGGING

A brief excerpt of AU Blog content may be quoted as long as a link is provided to the source page and authorship properly attributed. Please use Facebook's sharing feature rather than post articles in full on Facebook. Posting of a PDF of an AU Blog article on another site must also include full attribution, including the source as "Applied Unificationism" and the article's posting date.

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★★★★★ 2 votes



Mark P. Barry

June 30, 2023 at 7:52 am



Annual site hosting and domain registration costs of the AU Blog on WordPress.com are very nominal. The site would require a new sponsor capable of sustaining it long-term, and one or two part-time employees, depending on skills and how often new articles would be posted. It would need an editor and also perhaps someone with modest web technical skills.

Having UTS as the AU Blog's institutional sponsor, for what may be regarded as "in-reach" in contrast to "outreach," has been a major factor in attracting loyal readers since Day 1.

Perhaps the key to this site, however, is the top-notch editorial committee, of current and former UTS faculty, which makes recommendations on submissions. Over 20% of submissions have not been accepted for reasons of quality or germaneness over the years.

Overall annual costs, mostly of part-time salary or salaries, would be very, very modest.

In my view, you cannot put a price on the value of UTS institutional sponsorship and a top-flight editorial committee to review submissions.

★★★★★ 1 Vote



Mark P. Barry

June 30, 2023 at 8:39 am



Just posted, a FAQ on the name change from UTS to HJ International Graduate School, which takes effect July 1 — "[Building on our Past, Looking to the Future: From Unification Theological Seminary to HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership](#)." Also, a [letter](#) from its President on the name change.

★★★★☆ 1 Vote

Use the box below to submit a new comment (To reply, click "Reply" within a specific comment above)

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- After 70 Years, Peace Treaty Needed to End Korean War May 15, 2023

WRITE FOR THE AU BLOG

We welcome well-written, thoughtful op-eds and commentaries between 1,200 and 2,000 words that relate to Unificationism and its application.

For full guidelines on submissions, click [here](#). Opinions expressed on the AU Blog are solely those of the respective authors and not of UTS/HJI or *Applied Unificationism*.

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Enter your email address to follow the AU Blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Email Address

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- A Challenge for the Divine Principle in the Postmodern Era
- An Encounter with the Holy Trinity: "The Shack"

The **AU Blog Twitter (now known as "X")** account timeline has been removed due to a change in X's terms of service for websites. You can still view the timeline at this [link](#).

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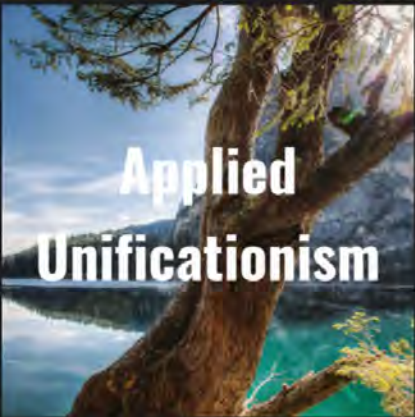
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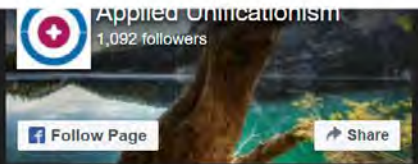


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Unification Theological Seminary is now HJ International [Learn More](#)

We appreciate your patience while this site is being revised



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HJI NEWS

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Research, Protection of Human Subjects & the Role played by an Institutional Review Board
August 10, 2023
Dr. Frederick Swarts, Dean of Bridgeport International Academy, and Adjunct Faculty in Research Methods at the University of Bridgeport

The Meaning and Significance of Human Security
August 15, 2023
Dr. Rima Salah, former Deputy Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), former member of United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's High Level Panel on Peace Operations

[HJI Faculty Participate in the Annual Faculty Development Seminars](#)

HJI Communications

HJI, in partnership with the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Affairs Committee, convened its annual Development Seminar for Full-Time and Part-Time faculty on August 10 and 15.

HJI Annual Retreat for Faculty and Staff
East Garden - Irvington, New York
August 3, 2023

[HJI Annual Retreat for Faculty and Staff 08.03.23](#)

HJI Communications

HJI faculty and staff participated in a one-day Annual Retreat convened at East Garden in Irvington NY.

Announcements

- ["Never Defeated": Father Moon in Danbury](#)
- [A Big Thank you to Robert Pumphrey and a Warm Welcome Ken Sohn!](#)
- [Dr. Drissa Kone Named Director of Doctor of Ministry Program](#)
- [Steven Boyd to become Director of Enrollment Management and Student Life](#)

Institutional Name Change

Letter from Dr. Walsh
WITH BACKGROUNDER AND FAQ

[Letter from the President: Institutional Name Change](#)



[Congratulations to the Class of 2023!](#)

UTS Communications

Other News

- [2023 Research Day: UTS Faculty and Students Recognized for Recent Scholarship in Religion, Science, Peace, and Diplomacy](#)
- [Dr. Perrottet Visits Albania and Kosovo](#)
- [Letter from the President: Annual Report and Fundraising](#)

UTS Communications

Following months of consultations with our Founder, the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, alumni and other stakeholders, UTS submitted, to the New York State Department of Education and the State University of New York Board...

On Saturday, May 27, 2023, Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) held its forty-seventh Commencement in New York City to celebrate the class of 2023.

Campaign

- [UTS Hosts the 19th Annual Interreligious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice](#)

Recent Videos



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New York, NY 10036
Phone: [\(212\) 563-6647](#)

Barrytown Campus:
30 Seminary Drive
Barrytown, NY 12507
Phone: [\(845\) 752-3000](#)

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About Applied Unificationism



Applied Unificationism (the AU Blog) explores the application of Unificationism to the wider world. Begun on May 1, 2013, it was sponsored by Unification Theological Seminary (now HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership) through June 30, 2023, and is now a member-sponsored organization.

Original written contributions are encouraged to be submitted by Unificationists, current and former UTS/HJI faculty, and interested others. Send written contributions to:

AUBlogEditor@gmail.com.

We look for quality commentary or op-ed pieces, written in a lively manner, on a wide range of subjects in which the writer exhibits a strong degree of familiarity with the subject matter. Broad topics include politics and economics, religion and spirituality, gender issues and the family, and culture and the arts.

A commentary should have a strong lead paragraph indicating what you will talk about and where you are headed in your conclusion. Journalistic ledes emphasize grabbing the attention of the reader; ledes in essays summarize the outline of the argument and conclusion that follows in the main body of the essay. A submission ideally should 1) contain a clear point of view; 2) provide a prescription for how a problem affecting society can be solved or improved; and, 3) explain how your recommendation is an application of Unificationism. Reading level should aim for the freshman college student

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Jean-Jacques Bourget on [Patient Love Is More Important...](#)



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» [The Misinterpretation of Emperor Constantine's Vision and Its](#)

the freshman college student.

Contributions to the AU Blog should be a *minimum* of 1,200 words and a maximum generally of about 2,000 words in English in a Microsoft Word document (please no footnotes, but embedded hyperlinks are encouraged). Submissions are subject to editing for accuracy, clarity and brevity, and our Editorial Committee may recommend changes in advance for your approval. Please submit a hi-res headshot photo of yourself as a .JPG or .PNG file to accompany your byline, as well as a very brief biography.

Prospective articles may also include recommended photos and graphics.

The AU Blog also accepts film, television and book reviews on subjects of relevance to Unificationism and its application. Unlike our commentary articles, these reviews can be shorter: 1,000 to 1,200 words. Films reviewed should be currently in theaters or recently released on streaming services and DVD/Blu-ray. Books reviewed, whether non-fiction or fiction, preferably should have been published in the last five years.

Reviews from second generation Unificationists are especially welcome. We are also happy to run excerpts or reviews of self-published books. We also post poetry (preferably a collection of three or more poems with accompanying textual introduction or background).

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The members of the AU Blog, as original thinkers, have aimed to maintain a site with some authority and wisdom where worthy ideas related to building the heavenly kingdom can be discussed among members and friends of the FFWPU and its sister organizations.

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
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Anne-Marie Mylar

April 3, 2017 at 8:14 am

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Andrea Mundula

April 8, 2017 at 11:37 pm

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No anonymous comments.



Mark P. Barry

August 26, 2018 at 4:19 pm



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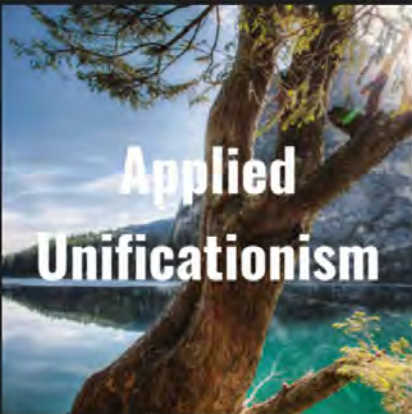
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