

Foundation Day Marriage Blessing in Clifton, NJ

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With the combined effort of the Clifton Family Church staff, the local Blessing & Family Ministry (BFM), and countless volunteers from the community, six beautiful couples, a mix of both first and second generation Unificationists from New Jersey and the surrounding area, were Blessed in holy matrimony during the Foundation Day Marriage Blessing at the Clifton Family Church.

The day started off with the Holy Wine Ceremony, officiated by Dr. and Mrs. Ang, an elder Blessed couple and members of the Clifton Family Church community. The couples gathered in the chapel to participate in the Holy Wine Ceremony. Following that, the couples had the opportunity to be led in a dance practice by accomplished ballroom dancer, Unificationist Mi Sook Mendonca. Mi Sook showed the couples some simple waltz steps so that they would be comfortable and ready for their first dance as Blessed couples later that evening.

The couples then joined their families and friends in the fellowship hall for a celebratory banquet. Members of the Clifton Family Church staff and community prepared a delicious meal for the couples, their families and friends. Unificationist Karen Nishinaga, accompanied by Masaaki Saito on guitar, sang two beautiful songs dedicated to the couples.

After the banquet, couples retreated to the parsonage to don their wedding attire in preparation for the Blessing Ceremony. The Foundation Day commemoration and Blessing Ceremony began with welcoming remarks by Victor Quesada, and an opening prayer by his wife, Andria Rogers, Director of the BFM for Clifton Family Church. Five attendant couples lined the aisle before the six bright and beautiful couples of the day processed into the chapel.

The whole congregation was led in two songs, Blessing of Glory and Song of the Banquet, by the Clifton Family Church choir. They then tuned in to the live stream from Korea where they were able to witness the commemorative events in honor of Foundation Day. They were also able to be led in the Cosmic Blessing Ceremony by True Mother via satellite. Their own representative officiators, Dr. and Mrs. Ang, guided the couples through the Marriage Blessing Ceremony. Mrs. Rany Jacob, wife of Pastor Manoj Jacob, personally congratulated the couples and thanked all the staff and volunteers who made the local event possible.

With the support of family, friends, and guests these six couples were happily and gratefully Blessed by our Heavenly Parent and True Parents. As the newly-Blessed couples recessed, the whole audience erupted into applause and cheers of joy and encouragement. After the ceremony, everyone was invited back into the fellowship hall to witness the couples share their first dance as husband and wife. A lovely toast, given by Unificationists Mr. and Mrs. Brunkhorst, congratulated the couples one final time before everyone enjoyed sparkling cider, cake, and dancing.