



The Unification Church
North American Headquarters

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Matched Couples Workshops

Joshua Cotter and Phillip Schanker

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MEMO: BFD 2011-08-19

To: District Directors, State & Church Leaders, Blessed Central Families

From: National Blessed Family Ministry

**Re: ENGAGED COUPLES WORKSHOPS: “START SMART!” Level 3 Blessing Workshop
September 16-18, 2011 at the Lovin’ Life Learning Center, 4 W. 43rd Street, New York, NY
September 30-October 2, 2011 at the Bay Area Family Church, San Leandro, CA**

Date: August 19, 2011

It is our great pleasure to announce two exciting and informative “**Start Smart**” workshops, for engaged couples, being held this coming month. These are “Level 3” Blessing workshops, designed to help couples prepare for the Blessing, and for Blessed Family Life. The east coast program will be held September 16-18, 2011 at the Lovin’ Life Learning Center, 4 W. 43rd Street, New York, NY. The west coast program will be held September 30-October 2, 2011 at the Bay Area Family Church, San Leandro, CA, near San Francisco. **This program will welcome newly engaged or recently Blessed Couples of the First or Second Generation.**

This workshop will 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 will include Unificationist counselor and marriage educator John Williams, National Blessed Family Ministry director of counseling Debby Gullery and Rev. Phillip Schanker, director of the National BFM.

Additional “Level I,” “Level II” and “Level III” (for engaged and newly Blessed couples) workshops will take place in various locations late this year or early next year. In addition, materials for the Level I program are being developed for small group study, online education, and local workshops around the country.

I. WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

The New York program will begin with registration at 5:00 PM on Friday afternoon, September 16th at the Lovin Life Learning Center at 4 W. 43rd Street in NYC. It will end at 4:00 PM on Sunday, September 18th, at the Manhattan Center, following Lovin’ Life service and afternoon activities. The west coast program will begin with registration at 5:00 PM on Friday, September 30th at the Bay Area Family Church at 2305 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA. It will finish at lunchtime on Sunday, October 2nd.

II. REGISTRATION AND DEADLINES

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

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=butvqyeab&oeidk=a07e4ml2i3te7b31a5d>

Participants can register online for the West Coast Workshop at:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=butvqyeab&oeidk=a07e4mf87fcf39c2ad4>

The workshop fee is \$120 per participant for those who register for the east coast workshop (Sept. 16-18) by September 9th, or for the west coast workshop (Sept. 30-Oct. 2) by September 16th. The fee is \$140 for those who register after the deadline, and \$150 for unregistered walk-ins at the workshop.

III. TRANSPORTATION

For those traveling to New York by air, bus transportation is available from Newark, La Guardia and JFK airports to within one block from 43rd street, for \$12-15 one-way, with some round-trip discounts. Airtrain service is also available to Manhattan from Newark and JFK. Amtrak trains service Manhattan, arriving near the New Yorker Hotel, one mile from the Learning Center at 43rd Street. If traveling by car, be aware that parking in Manhattan is limited and extremely expensive.

For those traveling to San Leandro by air, the Oakland International Airport is the best location, and is only 15 minutes from the church. We will provide transportation to and from Oakland Airport, and will be in contact with registrants to arrange this, but we cannot guarantee pick-up from any other airport.

For questions or registration assistance, contact BFDadmin@unification.org, or your district BFD.

May God bless you.

Sincerely,



Rev. Joshua Cotter
Executive Vice President
Unification Church – USA



Rev. Phillip Schanker
Director, Blessed Family Department
Unification Church - USA