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MEMO: BFD 2011-05-26

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

From: National Blessed Family Department

Re: PARENTS' MATCHING CONVOCATION: June 3-5, 2011 in Hayward, California

Final Reminder & Guidelines for Participating Candidates 24 & Older

Date: May 26, 2011

PRE-REGISTER AND SAVE!

This is a final reminder for parents about the only Parents Matching Convocation (PMC) on the west coast this year. The program will be held June 3-5 at the La Quinta Inn & Suites- Oakland Airport in Hayward, CA, just 15 minutes from the Bay Area Family Church. Matching candidates who are 24 years or older are welcome to participate, to learn more about the process and how to prepare, and take a more active role in their own search for a partner. Important registration information and details for participating parents and candidates follow:

JUNE 3-5TH CONVOCATION INFORMATION:

Location- The convocation will be held at: La Quinta Inn & Suites Hayward Oakland Airport 20777 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, CA 94541 Telephone: (510) 732-6300; Fax: (510) 783-2265 http://www.lq.com/lq/

II. Schedule

Onsite registration will open at 4:00 PM Friday afternoon, June 3rd (pre-registering online will save you money and time at the conference registration). The program begins with Orientation at 7:30 that evening, and closes at 2:00 PM on Sunday, June 5th.

III. Registration- Save by registering online now!

Online registration for the PMC is \$100 per person, \$150 per couple, and \$50 for each additional family member, through Thursday, June 2nd. Beginning Friday, June 3rd, you can only register onsite at the PMC for \$125 per individual, \$200 per couple. BC candidates 24 years or older can register online for \$50, or onsite for \$80. These fees cover the conference program, all activities and materials, and the newly published edition of the Family Matching Handbook (1 per participant or family). There is a special room rate for PMC participants, and many affordable restaurants and stores within walking distance of the hotel.

To register, visit www.blessedfamilies.org and click on the pink PMC registration banner on the right side, above the Matchbook logo. Or visit the members' area at www.familyfed.org/members and click on the PMC banner near the top. Candidate profiles and photos can also be uploaded at the registration site and should be completed by **May 30**th. If you need assistance registering for the PMC or uploading profiles and photos, contact your district BFD or Email us at BFDadmin@unification.org. **NOTE:** There is a \$20 fee for photos/profiles uploaded after May 30th or brought directly to the PMC.

IV. Who Should Attend

Parents of matching candidates, matching candidates 24 years or older, and Blessed siblings of matching candidates are also welcome. Parents of younger BCs are encouraged to attend, to familiarize and educate themselves about the process and their role and begin developing a family plan for matching their children.

V. For BC Candidates 24 Years and Older

The program is <u>not</u> designed for candidates' social networking, but for education. All participants will join the main plenary sessions, and BCs will meet separately during breakout sessions. You will also have an opportunity to meet personally with a Matching Advisor. Of course you may also wish to meet other parents attending the PMC.

VI. Translation and Special Session for Japanese Participants

There will be Japanese translation available for presentations, and a special session for Japanese parents. Be sure to bring transistor radios.

VII. Accommodations and Transportation

There are large, comfortable rooms available at the three-star La Quinta Inn and Suites for \$59 per night, including a "Bright-side" breakfast with a variety of choices. To obtain this rate, call the La Quinta at (510) 732-6300 as soon as possible, and ask for the "Family Fed Block Reservation." The hotel is 20 minutes from the Oakland Airport and the hotel provides free shuttle service from the airport. For shuttle information, call the hotel or visit http://www.lq.com/lq/.

VIII. Preparing Candidate Profiles

Parents may attend the PMC without displaying a candidate. Candidates can be displayed at the PMC without their parents being present. But candidates can only be displayed with their permission and involvement. No parent should attempt to display their adult child as a candidate or pursue a match without the candidate's involvement.

To be available at the PMC, every candidate and family should complete the candidate profile and 9-question personality profile at the PMC registration site on Matchbook, and upload 2 personal and one family photo. If your candidate's profile has not been updated since June 2010, you must contact us at bfd@unification.org if they still wish to be displayed. We strongly recommend profiles be updated and improved, with your adult child's permission and participation. We will not display any old profiles unless we have heard from the candidate that they wish to be displayed.

For additional information or assistance visit the registration site or contact BFDadmin@unification.org. We look forward to seeing parents at the Hayward PMC and to supporting candidates in the process of matching and Blessing.

May God be with you and your family,

Sincerely,

Rev. Joshua Cotter Executive Vice President Unification Church - USA Rev. Phillip Schanker Director, Blessed Family Department Unification Church - USA