

FFWPU USA: Sale of Barrytown - Committed to manage our finances and assets

Demian Dunkley
June 16, 2023



Dear Family Members,

I remember it like it was yesterday. I sat under one of the old oak trees behind the Barrytown building, and received a life-changing call from my wife. Her soft voice uttered a few simple words that exploded in my heart like a volcano of joy and pride: I was going to become a dad.

I believe the Barrytown property is the home of countless memories we carry across the years. We had incredible direct experiences with Heavenly Parent and True Parents, and we formed deep bonds of love between our brothers and sisters there. It will always be a part of our history, both personally and as a faith community.

Some of you may have seen the [letter](#) from Dr. Thomas Walsh, President of UTS, this week regarding the sale of the Barrytown Property. Although this may come as a surprise to some, the decision to let go of the property had been made over 5 years ago, as explained by the then president Dr. Hugh Spurgin, in his [letter](#) in 2018. This year, the efforts were successful and an offer has been accepted by the UTS board.

For those of you who may wonder about my personal feelings about this, it turns out that this was the very first issue to hit my desk on day one of my return to America. I immediately received many letters of appeal, and I witnessed how several members had volunteered huge amounts of time and resources to research viable proposals to keep the property. I also made sure all information was being offered up clearly. After all this, I asked the UTS board to allow me one week to pray in the Cheon Shim Won in Las Vegas before casting my vote.

After the third day of prayer, I myself had a very strong feeling (contrary to my personal ideas) that it was indeed better to sell the Barrytown property. Perhaps, in some sense, it felt like this could be a condition of moving on from certain things in the past. But as I let go, I felt a bright and hopeful spirit of what lays ahead. I experienced Heavenly Parent telling me that we don't need to worry. True Mother is also very clear, and has comforted us by saying that as we grow our church and improve our financial situation, we will be able to invest in new properties that support our activities.

Before the final vote, I invited the UTS board to Las Vegas to pray at the Cheon Shim Won. They did so with great sincerity and their prayers confirmed their previous assessment and decision.

We are deeply grateful to all of you who stepped forward to help. Unfortunately, given the current financial situation of HSA, we are not in a position to invest in the purchase and proper restoration of this property. I understand the heartache this decision will cause to many of us, so I encourage everyone to connect to Heavenly Parent and True Parents in prayer.

In the meantime we are negotiating for use of the Barrytown property for this year's BSCF, and we are committed to investing in property that can serve as a home for our Heavenly Parent's community activities for GPA, youth camps, etc. in the future. There are already some discussions to consider what might be possible in some of our existing properties, to make sure there is no gap in GPA's programs and other youth initiatives.

Let me also assure you, that we are committed to doing the very best to properly manage our finances and public assets, and we are confident that we will not only weather this storm, but come out the other side even stronger. Even more so, we are committed to creating a culture of heart as guided by True Mother so many times. True Mother is asking us to lead with spirit and truth, and grow the church such that we can lay the foundation for national restoration in substance.

Thank you all for your love and for your commitment to Heavenly Parent and True Parents' providence, and for your support of True Mother. I am confident that despite the sacrifices that we need to make at this time, we will be able to not only regain what we give up now, but truly build a substantial Cheon Il Guk, where we, our families, and our communities will be with Heavenly Parent dwelling in our midst.

Sincerely,

Rev. Demian Dunkley
Regional Chair and President



June 13, 2023

Dear UTS Alumni and Friends,

Thank you for your steadfast encouragement and support for the mission of UTS.

I write at this time to announce that the Barrytown property is now under contract with a buyer.

As some of you may know, the UTS Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Founder, the Board of Directors of FFWPU USA, and other stakeholders of UTS resolved to place the property on the market for sale on February 3, 2018. See the following [letter from then President Spurgin](#), dated May 15, 2018, and an [article from the Daily Freeman](#), dated December 9, 2018. It was also in May of 2019 that the main campus of UTS moved from Barrytown to 43rd Street in New York City.

At that time, there were a few offers to purchase the property, but none were considered acceptable, and the property was taken off the market. During the covid period, beginning in 2020, some alternative uses of the property were discussed. As the covid crisis continued, however, neither the sale nor the re-purposing of the property gained traction.

In the summer of 2022, as the epidemic was fading, a discussion about the property's future was re-opened. In November of 2022, a real estate broker agreement was signed, and the property was placed on the market once again. In early 2023 we received several offers to purchase the property.

After serious vetting of the various offers and proposals, the UTS Board of Trustees resolved to accept what is believed to be the best option for UTS. Following the decision of the Board, a confidential contract for purchase and sale was signed. It is anticipated that a closing on the sale of the property will take place in late August.

The decision to sell the property was made with deep respect and love for the life and legacy of our Founders, and for all those who have been part of the truly remarkable history of the property. Several discussions with our Founder, as well as with the FFWPU USA leadership, both the previous and current administration, took place prayerfully and openly. Before making their decision to approve the current purchase agreement, the UTS Board of Trustees gathered at the *Cheon Shim Won* in Las Vegas for prayer and deliberation.

Our determination going forward is to build on the victorious and providential foundation that has been secured at Barrytown, carrying it forward to ever greater achievements, while also revering and honoring the legacy and history of all that has been accomplished at Barrytown.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas G. Walsh, Ph.D.
President
Unification Theological Seminary



About UTS

History

Profile of
UTS

Board of
Trustees

President's
Message

Mission &
Accreditation

Facilities
and
Resources

Staff/Faculty
Directory

Support
the
Seminary

Latest News

UTS to sell Barrytown

UTS Communications

15 May 2018

After considerable prayer, thought, discussion and due diligence, the UTS [Board of Trustees](#) has directed the UTS administration to sell the [Unification Theological Seminary](#) (UTS) property in Barrytown, NY. The trustees, who have fiduciary responsibility for the institution, came to this difficult decision with a heavy heart. UTS is no longer able to pay what it costs to maintain the property, while simultaneously fulfilling its [educational mission](#) in a changing world. In reviewing the financial situation, the trustees determined that it is best to invest the Seminary's limited resources to develop stronger academic programs. Proceeds from its sale will be used solely to benefit the Seminary.



UTS is repositioning itself as an entrepreneurial, urban seminary with courses offered online and in [New York City](#). As the [Founder predicted](#), e-learning is the wave of the future, providing access to courses to a global audience. Technology has opened doors for new ways to learn. It is essential that UTS move forward and utilize interactive, online platforms. We live in an age when the Internet opens the doors of education far beyond the limitations of a brick-and-mortar building, which is expensive to maintain.

Many of us have a sentimental yearning for the love, happiness and friendship that we experienced at Barrytown, having spent quality time there with our Founders and peers. Yet rather than dwell on the past, our Board has decided that our Seminary should move forward toward what God has in store for future generations of students. Without the financial burden of Barrytown, UTS can fulfill its mission of educating future generations of students; with it, that will not be possible.

We are tremendously encouraged by the worldwide response of students to [UTS Online](#). We are inspired that our distance learning courses have resulted in breakthroughs for students in Africa, Europe and Asia. The partnership with [Family Federation](#) (FFWPU) our sponsoring church, remains solid, and we are working closely with the church leaders to provide theological education for a new wave of young leaders worldwide.

UTS is planning to reinstitute a scholarship program to support doctoral studies for a few young scholars who want to become UTS professors. We are also excited to strengthen community relations and to expand our academic programs, by developing ecumenical partnerships and collaborations, launching a Ministry Institute, establishing an Islamic track in our Master's degree program, and seeking to offer joint degree programs with peer institutions. The sale of the Barrytown property will provide the funds that will drive that next phase of our development as a leading graduate school in Unification studies.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact either Dr. Hugh Spurgin, UTS President at h.spurgin@uts.edu or Robin Graham, the Director of Advancement and Enrollment Management, at r.graham@uts.edu



New York City Main Campus:

4 West 43rd Street

New York, NY 10036

Phone: (212) 563-6647

Barrytown Campus:

30 Seminary Drive

Barrytown, NY 12507

Phone: (845) 752-3000

June 16, 2023

Dear Family Members,

I remember it like it was yesterday. I sat under one of the old oak trees behind the Barrytown building, and received a life-changing call from my wife. Her soft voice uttered a few simple words that exploded in my heart like a volcano of joy and pride: I was going to become a dad.

I believe the Barrytown property is the home of countless memories we carry across the years. We had incredible direct experiences with Heavenly Parent and True Parents, and we formed deep bonds of love between our brothers and sisters there. It will always be a part of our history, both personally and as a faith community.

Some of you may have seen the [letter](#) from Dr. Thomas Walsh, President of UTS, this week regarding the sale of the Barrytown Property. Although this may come as a surprise to some, the decision to let go of the property had been made over 5 years ago, as explained by the then president Dr. Hugh Spurgin, in his [letter](#) in 2018. This year, the efforts were successful and an offer has been accepted by the UTS board.

For those of you who may wonder about my personal feelings about this, it turns out that this was the very first issue to hit my desk on day one of my return to America. I immediately received many letters of appeal, and I witnessed how several members had volunteered huge amounts of time and resources to research viable proposals to keep the property. I also made sure all information was being offered up clearly. After all this, I asked the UTS board to allow me one week to pray in the Cheon Shim Won in Las Vegas before casting my vote.

After the third day of prayer, I myself had a very strong feeling (contrary to my personal ideas) that it was indeed better to sell the Barrytown property. Perhaps, in some sense, it felt like this could be a condition of moving on from certain things in the past. But as I let go, I felt a bright and hopeful spirit of what lays ahead. I experienced Heavenly Parent telling me that we don't need to worry. True Mother is also very clear, and has comforted us by saying that as we grow our church and improve our financial situation, we will be able to invest in new properties that support our activities.

Before the final vote, I invited the UTS board to Las Vegas to pray at the Cheon Shim Won. They did so with great sincerity and their prayers confirmed their previous assessment and decision.

We are deeply grateful to all of you who stepped forward to help. Unfortunately, given the current financial situation of HSA, we are not in a position to invest in the purchase and proper

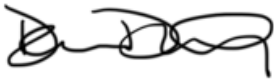
restoration of this property. I understand the heartache this decision will cause to many of us, so I encourage everyone to connect to Heavenly Parent and True Parents in prayer.

In the meantime we are negotiating for use of the Barrytown property for this year's BSCF, and we are committed to investing in property that can serve as a home for our Heavenly Parent's community activities for GPA, youth camps, etc. in the future. There are already some discussions to consider what might be possible in some of our existing properties, to make sure there is no gap in GPA's programs and other youth initiatives.

Let me also assure you, that we are committed to doing the very best to properly manage our finances and public assets, and we are confident that we will not only weather this storm, but come out the other side even stronger. Even more so, we are committed to creating a culture of heart as guided by True Mother so many times. True Mother is asking us to lead with spirit and truth, and grow the church such that we can lay the foundation for national restoration in substance.

Thank you all for your love and for your commitment to Heavenly Parent and True Parents' providence, and for your support of True Mother. I am confident that despite the sacrifices that we need to make at this time, we will be able to not only regain what we give up now, but truly build a substantial Cheon Il Guk, where we, our families, and our communities will be with Heavenly Parent dwelling in our midst.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Demian Dunkley', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rev. Demian Dunkley
Regional Chair and President