



**The Unification Church**  
**North American Headquarters**

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**Blessing Workshops for Engaged Couples- February 24-26 in San Leandro, CA;  
March 2-4 in Barrytown, NY**

Joshua Cotter and Phillip Schanker  
January 26, 2012

MEMO: BFM 2012-01-26

**To: District Directors, State & Church Leaders, Blessed Central Families, Matched Couples**  
**From: National Blessed Family Ministry**  
**Re: ENGAGED COUPLES WORKSHOPS: “Start Smart!” Level 3 Blessing Workshop**  
**February 24-26, 2012 at the Bay Area Family Church, San Leandro, CA**

**March 2-4, 2012 at UTS Training Center, Barrytown, NY /Manhattan Center, NY, NY**  
**Date: January 26, 2012**

In preparation for the upcoming international Blessing on or around March 22nd, we are pleased to announce two exciting and informative “**Start Smart**” workshops for engaged couples and young Blessed couples, being held in the coming weeks. These are “Level 3” Blessing workshops, designed to help couples prepare for the Blessing, and for Blessed Family Life. The west coast program will be held February 24-26, 2012 at the Bay Area Family Church in San Leandro, CA, near San Francisco. The east coast program will be held March 2-4, 2012 at the UTS Training Center in Barrytown, NY, and the Manhattan Center, New York, NY.. **This program is designed for engaged and recently Blessed Couples of the First or Second Generation.** We recommend it for any couple that has not yet begun their conjugal or family life.

These workshops will fulfill the educational requirement for those planning to attend the upcoming Blessing. They 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 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 later this year. In addition, materials for Level I and II programs are being developed for small group study, online education, and local workshops around the country.

## **I. WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS**

The west coast program begins with registration at 5:00 PM on Friday, February 24th at the Bay Area Family Church at 2305 Washington Ave., San Leandro, CA. It will finish at 2:00 PM on Sunday, February 26th. The New York program begins with registration at 5:00 PM on Friday afternoon, March 2nd at the UTS Conference Center in Barrytown, NY. It will end at 4:00 PM on Sunday, March 4th, at the Manhattan Center, following Lovin’ Life service and afternoon activities.

## **II. REGISTRATION and Deadlines**

***Register Early and Save... Attend as a Couple & Save Even More!***

**West Coast Workshop-** Participants can register online for the West Coast Workshop at this link:  
<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=butvqyeab&oeidk=a07e5j210ae4a239197>

The workshop fee for the west coast is \$100 per participant or \$160 per couple for those who **register by February 17th**, \$120/person and \$200/couple for those who register after the deadline, and \$130/person or \$225/couple for unregistered walk-ins at the workshop.

**East Coast Workshop-** Participants can register online for the East Coast Workshop at this link:  
<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=butvqyeab&oeidk=a07e5j22ue795165090>

The workshop fee for the east coast, based upon higher costs for food and lodging, is \$120 per participant or \$210 per couple for those who **register by February 24th**, \$140/person and \$250/couple for those who register after the deadline, and \$150/person or \$275/couple for unregistered walk-ins at the workshop.

**III. TRANSPORTATION**

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 those traveling to UTS/Manhattan by air, bus transportation is available from Newark, La Guardia and JFK airports to within one block from the Lovin' Life Learning Center at 43rd street, for \$12-15 each way, with some round-trip discounts. We will provide transportation from 43rd Street to UTS on Friday afternoon, and back to Manhattan on Sunday morning. Airtrain service is also available to Manhattan from Newark and JFK. Amtrak trains service the Rhinecliff Station near UTS. The conference center can also be reached conveniently by car, where plenty of parking is available.

For more information, or if you will require transportation assistance as described above, be sure to contact us at [BFDadmin@unification.org](mailto:BFDadmin@unification.org).

May God bless you.

Sincerely,



Rev. Joshua Cotter  
Executive Vice President  
Unification Church – USA



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