

Personal Matching Plan Worksheet for Adult Unificationists

This form will help you develop your plan and approach to your matching process and the search for your lifetime partner. You can either fill it out with your main Matching Advisor (MA) initially, or you may wish to fill it out first yourself, perhaps with the support of your pastor or spiritual mentor, and then flesh it out with your MA to create a unified plan. MAs can also go over it separately first, to clarify their approach and perspectives on their candidate's matching plan. Not all parts of the worksheet apply to the MA but by doing this new ideas and approaches can develop through listening to each other.

An effective planning process depends upon honest and open communication between the candidate, the MA, and any other mentor or advocate supporting this matching plan.

1. Who will be a part of your matching team? What role will they each play? When and how will they be involved? (Below is a list of possible team members you may want to consider. Each person you choose to help in your process should be personally invited to help and given the parameters of their responsibility)
 - Candidate:
 - Family member(s):
 - Mentor:
 - Support committee:
 - Matching Advisor(s):
 - Advocates:
 - BFD Representative:
 - Local pastors:
 - District Pastor and/or their interview representative:

2. What process will you use to initiate matching discussions with another candidate's Matching Advisor or International BFD Representative?

3. Before you begin looking for the "right person," it is important to consider your own life goals, core values and the type of marriage you envision. We encourage each candidate to reflect upon and answer the following 6 questions to the best of your ability. Discuss these with your spiritual mentors and any members of your support team who can help you look at these more deeply.
 - A. What kind of life are you planning for? Do you plan to remain a private person? Will you be active in your church or community? Are you passionate about particular hobbies or leisure activities? What will be your work-life balance? Do you plan to travel and be mobile in the coming years? How might your school or career plans affect your marriage and family plans? How soon would you anticipate settling down & having children? How important is having children to you? Just 1 or 2 kids, or will having and raising a family be your focus?

- B. What kind of marriage relationship fits into the life you anticipated above? Is it private? Public? Spiritually-based? Religious? Strongly Unificationist? Two professionals? Two career-focused people or one home & family-focused? Of course these may be flexible based upon the person you meet and commit to, but consider what your preferences might be.
- C. What qualities are most important in the person who will help you create the relationship you described above? Is he/she religious- more, less or the same as you? A strong Unificationist, or simply someone who shares your basic values? Is he/she outgoing, verbal and expressive? Is he/she a quiet, supportive type of person? Is he/she strong, disciplined and accomplished? Is he/she career-oriented or more relationship/family-centered? What kind of family does he/she come from? What 3 character traits do you believe would inspire you the most in a spouse?
- D. Who are you? What are the most important core values by which you will live your life? What character strengths do you bring to a relationship? What areas of yourself do you think need improvement that may need your partner's understanding and support. What is important for your partner to understand about you?
- E. Do you have any dealbreakers or absolute requirements? Consider what past relationship experience you are comfortable with in a partner, and any preferences concerning language, location, race, nationality, faith, physical appearance, or any challenges or complications you are comfortable with and open to in a partner.
- F. If you had a previous matching effort, marriage or Blessing experience, what lessons did you learn that can help you adjust and approach things more effectively this time?

4. Are there important questions that you need or want to know about any potential match from the very beginning? (You can compile a list with the support of your MA and team. Refer to Appendix 3 in the Unificationist Matching Handbook for ideas.)

5. How will we find potential candidates?

- Suggestions from the candidate
- Suggestions from the MA
- Online Matching System
- Matching Advisor Networking Meetings (Virtual or In-person)
- Suggestions from family and friends
- Suggestions from other Matching Advisors, advocates, pastors or others
- Blessing workshops, DP workshops, LLM, Galas, Service Projects, other church activities

6. When there is a suggested candidate, what do we do?

- Who does a suggestion go to first?
- How do we investigate or screen a suggested candidate?
 - Matching Advisor and/or advocates will check using their resources
 - Check with the other candidate's Matching Advisor, local church leaders and advocates
 - Consult your matching plan and list of important questions and deal breakers
- What do you want your MA or other team members **NOT** to do?

7. When and how does the candidate become involved?

- We suggest that the candidate's input be encouraged throughout the process by presenting questions, examples of situations, and even potential candidates (anonymously) to clarify goals, priorities and preferences. If specific candidates are introduced at this early stage, be sure to present only the internal profile information, and not the photos, identity or specifics.
- We suggest timing be carefully considered, and that the process not be rushed. Waiting a little longer for the right time and clear understanding is always better.
 - Does the candidate want to wait until the MA can fully recommend another candidate, and the suggestion has been approved by the USA Matching Committee, before becoming directly involved in communication with the other candidate? (This is the recommended approach.)
 - Does the candidate want to be consulted after initial screening, before extended talks between the MAs and approval by the Match Committee? (This consultation should be anonymous: the profile information should not include the names or pictures of the candidates)

- Does the candidate want to look at a number of profiles and put them in order of preference? (These profiles should not include the names or pictures of the candidates)
- Does the candidate have someone in mind they want to suggest? Does the candidate want a more active role?

Or is there some other agreed upon plan?

8. When does a suggested candidate become a recommendation? When and how do the two candidates begin communicating with each other?
 - Both need to be qualified candidates before communication begins. (They have completed the application process and completed their interviews.) They may already know each other or have worked with each other as brother and sister before they are introduced as a possible match.
 - MAs offer the matching suggestion to the USA Matching Committee for approval. The approval process takes about a week, or a bit longer if the committee has questions for clarification.
 - When approved, the candidates are introduced (often by photo via their MA). They each have up to 3 weeks to decide whether to enter the matching process together or not.
 - If they both agree they enter a 25-week communication phase to learn about each other and begin to build a friendship. If they both agree by the end of the 25 weeks, they can then prepare their matching ceremony.
9. **Meeting in person:** It is good to have a general idea of how early in your communication process you want to meet in person. We recommend that the first meeting be carefully structured, so it will not be overwhelming. Even long distance first visits should not be too long. We suggest that the MAs be involved in planning this meeting.
10. **Communication and reporting:** It is important that the candidate and MA continue to communicate throughout the process. Many choose to report weekly or monthly. Choose the reporting method that works for you.

The candidates' MAs will need to agree on how to handle any differences in their process and plans. This will promote clear communication and avoid misunderstandings.

If the matching process between two candidates ends, the reasons should be clear so that both candidates can have closure and move on. MAs need to facilitate this process and at the right time make a new matching plan with their candidate.

NOTES/COMMENTS: