

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

June 4, 2018

To the American Bahá'í community
for the Feast of Núr

Dearly loved Friends,

Barely three weeks had passed since an especially wondrous Bahá'í International Convention in Haifa was concluded, when, over the long weekend of May 24–27, more than 160 delegates and some 200 guests came together in Wilmette for the 110th Bahá'í National Convention. Assembled within the sacred precincts of the Mother Temple of the West—a spot blessed by the footsteps of 'Abdu'l-Baha and embodying His highest aspirations for our community—the delegates fulfilled their twofold duties to elect the National Spiritual Assembly for the coming year and to consult on the progress of our beloved Faith across the continental United States.

The Master's famed exclamation, "*O Bahá'u'lláh, what hast Thou done!*", was heard repeatedly from the lips of those present, as together they studied the recent Ridván message from the Universal House of Justice, viewed *A Widening Embrace*—a film produced for the International Convention, and shared their experiences advancing the aims of the Plan in their home clusters. Addressing a special message from the Convention to the Supreme Body, the delegates observed that "the vision of growth, refined through learning in action, is inspiring unwavering confidence and commitment to discharge our profound responsibilities."

The proceedings also included an honest and meaningful consultation on the issue of racial prejudice. About this, the delegates noted:

The consultation did not ignore the harsh realities that exist in our country, yet it appealed to the nobler aspirations of our community. The delegates bore witness to the power of the community building process to lift the yoke of oppression from those who suffer the indignities inflicted upon them by racial injustice. With the boldness called for by our National Spiritual Assembly in their letter of February 25, 2017, we are committed to refine through action, our efforts to address racial prejudice within the broad framework of the Plan, avoiding a dichotomous approach. To this end, we are committed to a two-fold mission: to develop within our own community a pattern of life that increasingly reflects the spirit of the Bahá'í teachings, and to engage with others in a deliberate and collaborative effort to eradicate the ills afflicting our nation.

Closely related to this theme was an extensive discussion of the National Assembly's historic call for hundreds of homefront pioneers to settle in villages and neighborhoods throughout the country to befriend and invite to join in our community-building work various receptive populations—especially American Indians, African Americans, and the diverse immigrant groups who have in recent years arrived on our shores. The delegates rightly understood this call to be one of the greatest possible expressions of our belief in the fundamental oneness of humanity.

While it would be impossible to do justice to the substance and spirit of the gathering within the span of a brief letter, suffice it to say that it was surely among the most unified and important Conventions in memory. We hope you will make an effort to hear the reports of your respective delegates, so that you, too, may feel the same sense of wonder and gratitude to the Blessed Beauty for what He has achieved through His humble servants, and be inspired with the same high confidence in what we can together accomplish in His blessed Name in the years ahead.

Be assured of our prayers, our profound love, and our deepest gratitude.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth E. Bowers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary