NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY of the Bahá'ís of the United States

February 3, 2020

To all Local Spiritual Assemblies

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The National Spiritual Assembly is pleased to announce that our community will participate once again in the Faith Communities Today (FACT) National Survey of Congregations, a comprehensive report on religious communities across the country. FACT is conducted and published by the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership, an interfaith project undertaken by a group of diverse religious leaders and researchers whose goal is to more accurately understand the role of faith communities throughout the United States. The study results in a portrait of congregations that reflects their spiritual and organizational vitality, their variety and style of worship, the level of participation of their members, and the breadth of their activities. Organized by the Hartford Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research, this endeavor has brought together more than 40 religious bodies representing 95 percent of all worshippers in this country; more information is available at <u>https://faithcommunitiestoday.org/</u>.

The American Bahá'í community has participated in this research project for the past twenty years, and the National Assembly hopes that all Local Spiritual Assemblies will contribute to the 2020 FACT survey as well. We encourage a member of every Local Assembly to complete the 20-minute survey, available online <u>here</u>, no later than **Sunday**, **March 1**, **2020**. Your responses will remain confidential. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of this questionnaire or have any questions, please contact Dr. Mike McMullen, a Bahá'í at the University of Houston – Clear Lake, via email (<u>mike.mcmullen1@gmail.com</u>) or by telephone (832.964.5253).

Our prayers and best wishes are with you always.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

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Kenneth E. Bowers Secretary