

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

April 12, 2017

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís
of Upland, California

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

We are delighted to announce that this year's unit conventions will take place on the weekend of September 30 and October 1 and conform to new electoral unit boundaries. Delegates being elected will reflect an adjustment in the units they represent in light of new boundary configurations recently completed. The changes are the result of research and consultations conducted over several years on ways we might strengthen our implementation of the Bahá'í electoral process. For the first time, cluster configurations were taken into account, in the hope that conventions might be better able to draw on the positive energy generated by the community-building efforts taking place at the cluster level.

Your Assembly is requested to serve as host for the 2017 unit convention in your unit, as recommended by your Regional Bahá'í Council. As you know, when Assemblies throughout a unit share in the various administrative aspects of planning and coordination of the convention, and in advancing understanding of the nature of the electoral process among believers, capacity is built through loving collaboration.

As you begin this vital and sacred responsibility on our behalf, we are pleased to provide the 2017 Planning Guide with a suggested planning timeline, a map of the electoral unit highlighting cluster boundaries and population density, and contact information for all the Local Assemblies in your unit. We hope the map will assist you in identifying a suitable, centrally located venue for the convention. Unit Convention materials are available on the member services website, www.american.bahai.us/unit_convention/.

Following elections at Ridván, an announcement of the changes in unit boundaries will be circulated throughout the community. Contact lists for Assemblies, groups and individuals in your unit will be provided by email at that time, enabling you to inform believers of the date and venue for unit convention, as well as to encourage their participation. We invite you to contact our Office of Assembly Development (at oad@usbnc.org) with any questions or concerns about this invitation. If your Assembly is unable to serve in this capacity, please inform our office immediately, no later than April 24, 2017.

May your efforts assist in realizing the hope of the Universal House of Justice that as the work of the current Five Year Plan gathers momentum, "the believers everywhere will give greater attention to strengthening the process by which Assemblies, national and local, are elected."

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary

Attachments (3)

cc: Regional Bahá'í Council of California
All Spiritual Assemblies in EU 132