

# Regional Bahá'í Council of the Northeastern States

*Connecticut • Maine • Massachusetts • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New York*

*Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • Vermont*

September 23, 2020

To the believers in the Northeast region

Dear Friends,

Why is the Regional Bahá'í Council asking all Bahá'ís in the Northeast to be engaged in the current Devotional Gathering Campaign whose goal is to establish 999 additional devotionals by the Day of the Covenant? There are many good reasons that you might contemplate. For example, the Writings of our Faith inform us that devotional gatherings awaken spiritual susceptibilities in the participants, increase unity in families, friends, and communities, and generate a spirit of communal worship. Additionally, for the followers of Bahá'u'lláh, lovers of the principle of the oneness of humanity, devotional gatherings are one of the ways that the friends can assist in efforts to eliminate racism in our country.

Surely, we all know that spiritual transformation is needed to change hearts so that people accept all human beings as members of one family. That transformation occurs largely at the grassroots level as members of wider communities begin to cultivate love and turn it into action. That is the purpose of our core activities, and devotional gatherings are one of those core activities in which Bahá'ís and their friends everywhere are engaged. Thus, devotional gatherings are rightly viewed by their effect on our worldwide community building process, as explained by the Universal House of Justice in a message dated August 6, 2018:

“In such intimate settings, people of diverse racial backgrounds encounter the Word of God, and in their efforts to translate the Teachings into practical action, are able to generate bonds of love, affection, and unity, and to learn what it means to establish a true interracial fellowship that is powerful enough to overcome the forces of racism that afflict them and their society.”

With a desire in your heart to contribute in a meaningful way to building racial unity, can you host or co-host a devotional gathering in your community? With a need to start on a smaller scale, can you begin having a devotional in your home with its residents or with even just one friend? With an eye toward more simplicity, can you and a friend have a devotional via telephone? All are valid. All can be spiritually potent. All can be transformative.

Please make sure, also, that your devotional gatherings have been reported. If you do not know how to do that, contact the Secretary of the Regional Bahá'í Council at [secretary@rbcne.usbnc.org](mailto:secretary@rbcne.usbnc.org) for assistance.

With loving regards and gratitude for your consideration of this request,

Regional Bahá'í Council of the Northeastern States

Marie McNair, Secretary

Cc Counselor Farah Guchani-Rosenberg

Auxiliary Board members

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