

# Regional Bahá'í Council of the Atlantic States

Delaware · District of Columbia · Maryland · North Carolina · Virginia

March 31, 2017

To the Friends in the Atlantic States Region

## *Call-to-Action—an Urgent Need for Homefront Pioneers*

Dearly loved brothers and sisters,

“Praise be to God! The springtime of God is at hand.... The time has come when all mankind shall be united, when all races shall be loyal to one fatherland, all religions become one religion and racial and religious bias pass away.” With this glorious vision of our Beloved Master before our eyes, your Regional Council sends each and every one joyful Naw Ruz greetings!

Over the past month, we were all sent two profound and sobering messages for our study and contemplation during the blessed period of the Fast when our eyes turn inward to purify our souls so that we may more completely offer ourselves and our services to the Cause of the Blessed Beauty. The one dated March 1, 2017 from the Universal House of Justice is directed primarily to the individual believer calling each of us to focus “ever more concentrated attention” to a rectitude of conduct in our personal economic lives so that “a new model of community life, patterned on the teachings, is to emerge.” The other, from our National Spiritual Assembly, calls our attention to the spiritual destiny of the United States as well as to “the profound responsibility we all bear to present the unifying teachings of Bahá'u'lláh to our fellow-citizens.” The National Assembly brings our attention to “the critical nature of this moment and the necessity of **bold action** to address the historic opportunity it presents.”

Dear friends, the Regional Council joins its collective voice to those of our National Assembly and beloved House of Justice in a call-to-action on a scale unprecedented in the Atlantic Region to come together in a united, courageous and sustained effort to build vibrant communities that act as beacons of light and hope against the despair of a collapsing social order. We have the guidance, proven strategies, and framework needed to accomplish this task. What will now ensure complete victory is for each of us to investigate and arrange our personal circumstances to be able to arise unitedly as never before. As the House reminds us, “The urgency to act is impelled by the world’s desperate condition”.

There are numerous ways in which each of us can arise to support the work of the Five Year Plan. Each of us can “explore and develop the nature of a conversation with the wider society which...can assist fellow citizens to transcend the languages and practices in society that have resulted in an intractable divide (and) unite on the basis of commonly held ideals and principles” as the House of Justice challenges us. We can all contribute to

# Regional Bahá'í Council of the Atlantic States

Delaware · District of Columbia · Maryland · North Carolina · Virginia

page 2

the Funds of the Faith and especially consider deputizing those offering a period of intensive service. Some of us will arise and engage youth, from neighborhoods and other settings, in direct conversations about their role in building vibrant and unified communities and proceed to assist them to move through the sequence of courses while the rest of us wholeheartedly support this effort. Of course, there are many other avenues of service in support of the Plan.

The Council would like to bring your attention to a particularly urgent path of service in the Atlantic Region: homefront pioneering. The Universal House of Justice raised this call to the Bahá'ís of the world in two highly significant messages, both dated May 23, 2016, the Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab, writing: "A continuing flow of homefront pioneers will contribute significantly to this monumental goal" of advancing 5,000 clusters worldwide to the stage of an intensive program of growth. The Atlantic Region has pledged to advance 72 clusters to this milestone. Currently, 15 of these clusters are urgently in need of homefront pioneers to begin the process of community building that will grow to be a self-sustaining intensive program of growth before the end of the Plan. Though the goals are different, the scale of what we are endeavoring to accomplish hearkens to the Ten Year World Crusade when souls arose to open entire nations to the Message of Bahá'u'lláh. The same heroic effort is now required to more deeply penetrate the fabric of our society in some of the more rural areas of the region. We call the lovers of Bahá'u'lláh in the Atlantic Region to arise with boldness, courage and zeal to meet this great challenge.

The House of Justice suggests that "many of those who will arise to serve in the field of pioneering will come from the ranks of the youth"; though, of course, all are welcome at whatever stage of life. There are goals which require a commitment of 2 years or more while others can be "adopted" by youth offering their time during breaks from school or university. Individuals arising can be placed in teams and assisted financially if there is a need. All arising will be supported and accompanied along this very important path of service.

As you consider this call, please reach out to your Auxiliary Board Member or to members of the Council's Homefront Pioneer Resource Team; their contact information is below. You may also apply via this link: [Atlantic States Homefront Pioneer and Mobile Resource Pledge Form](#) or contact the Council Secretariat directly. We fully realize the magnitude of this commitment and expect that whatever way you make contact; it is to begin a personal conversation about engaging this path of service.

Our beloved Supreme Institution writes: "The friends who arise to foster, with tact, love, unity and fortitude, a pattern of community life in clusters across the globe will undoubtedly draw inspiration from the Master's heartfelt cry expressed in the Tablets of

# Regional Bahá'í Council of the Atlantic States

Delaware · District of Columbia · Maryland · North Carolina · Virginia

page 3

the Divine Plan: 'O that I could travel, even though on foot and in the utmost poverty, to these regions, and, raising the call of 'Yá Bahá'u'l-Abhá in cities, villages, mountains, deserts and oceans, promote the divine teachings! This, alas, I cannot do. How intensely I deplore it! Please God, ye may achieve it.'"

With love, hope and anticipation,

REGIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL of the ATLANTIC STATES



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Secretary

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**Link to apply:** <http://www.rbcatlantic.org/pledge-form/>