

Title of the Study: Measuring Success: How Are United States Bahá'í Local Spiritual Assemblies Advancing the Objectives of the Five Year Plan?

What the study is about: The purpose of the study is to explore characteristics that make a Bahá'í Local Spiritual Assembly an efficient and more productive organization.

What we will ask participants to do: Local Spiritual Assemblies (LSA) are composed of nine annually elected individuals, who in turn appoint officers. A 40 question electronic survey will be email to the secretary of each LSA in the United States soliciting Assembly activity, behavior and demographic data. Survey responses will be anonymous and reporting Assemblies will not be identified

Risks and benefits: The respondents' identities will not be sought and therefore kept confidential, and the questions are innocuous and related to the day to day operation of the organization being surveyed, therefore there is no emotional, psychological, or social risk to the respondents.

The wording of the survey questions might remind participants of steps that may make their organization more successful, and could be seen as a benefit. It is hoped the study overall will provide beneficial to Bahá'í Assemblies nationwide in identifying characteristics that will make them more efficient and productive.

Compensation: There is no compensation

Answers will be confidential. Since responses will be anonymous, confidentiality will be maintained.

Taking part is voluntary: Taking part in this study is completely voluntary.

Copy of the results: Assemblies will be emailed a copy of the results at the conclusion of the study.

Survey construction: The survey will have seven parts. The first part will collect data on the number of activities offered and the health of the Assembly (questions 1-8). The second part will ask questions related to the Assembly's demographic composition (questions 9-13). The third part will ask how well the Assembly communicates with other institutions (questions 14-16). The fourth part will ask how engaged the Assembly is with the community (questions 17-20). The fifth part will ask how well the Assembly manages knowledge (questions 21-23). The sixth part will ask about centralization vs decentralization of the Assembly (24-26). The seventh part will ask whether the Assembly is taking steps to be a learning organization (27-29).

Survey Questions:

1. LSA Region?

Region

2. How many trained resources (tutors, CC Teachers, Animators) live within the Assembly's city limits?
3. How many core activities (Devotionals, Children's Classes, JY empowerment programs, or institute courses) are ongoing within the Assembly's city limits?
4. How many monthly neighborhood firesides are offered within the Assembly's city limits?
5. How many teaching teams have been formed within the Assembly's city limits?
6. How many approx home visits take place per month within the Assembly's city limits?
7. How many new enrolments has your Assembly had since its formation in Ridvan?
8. What is the percentage community attendance at Feast and Holy Day celebrations?
9. How many Assembly members fall into each age range?
21-30 31-40 41-50 51+
Age
10. How many Assembly members fall into each tenure (or term of service) range?
1-3 years 4-6 years 7-10 years 11+ years
Tenure
11. How many Assembly members falls into each race category?
White Black Hispanic Asian Middle Eastern Other
Race
12. How many Assembly members fall into each religious background category?
Chrisitan Muslim Baha'i Other
Religious Background
13. How many Assembly members are female?
Females
14. How many times per month does the Assembly meet or consult (including electronic consultation)?
15. How many times this term has the Assembly met/consulted with a Counselor, Auxiliary Board member / Assistant, Regional Bahá'í Councilmember, or a National Spiritual Assembly member?
16. How many times this term has the Assembly met/consulted with the Area Teaching Committee (or ATC secretary), the Regional Training Institute, or the Cluster Institute Coordinator?
Met/consulted with the
ATC, RTI, or CIC
17. How many community members has the Assembly or one of its members on its behalf met personally with?
18. How many home visits has the Assembly or its members carried out since Ridvan?
19. How many Assembly members are involved in a core activity?
20. How many Assembly members have participated in collective teaching project?

21. What percentage of Assembly meetings include reading a passage from the Universal House of Justice or ITC related to the Five Year Plan?
22. What percentage of Feasts include reading a passage related to the Five Year Plan?
23. How many conferences /gatherings have been held / hosted since Ridvan by the Assembly to study elements of the Five Year Plan for either the community or the Assembly?
24. Is there a Bahá'í Centre within the Assembly's city limits?
25. How many 19-day Feasts are held within the Assembly's city limits?
26. Are core activities centralized or decentralized?
27. On average, how many Assembly members attend cluster reflection gatherings?
28. What percentage of Assembly meetings include consultation on core activity status related to goal achievement?
29. How many times have your Five Year Plan strategies changed to reflect new information?