

Bahá'í Administration

The Rulers

Elected Institutions

Bahá'í Administration 7

Elected Institutions

The rulers – elected institutions of nine members

Legislative, executive and judicial functions

- Universal House of Justice
- National Spiritual Assemblies (Secondary Houses of Justice)
- Local Spiritual Assemblies (Local Houses of Justice)

initiate, direct and coordinate the affairs of the Cause of God

- nine members
- elected on the First Day of Ridvan (21 April)

Universal House of Justice →

National Spiritual Assemblies →

Local Spiritual Assemblies →



Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh

The Bahá'í Commonwealth of the future, of which this vast Administrative Order is the sole framework, is, both in theory and in practice, not only unique in the entire history of political institutions, but can find no parallel in the annals of any of the world's recognized religious systems.

Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh

Whereas this Administrative Order cannot be said to have been modelled after any of these recognized systems of government, it nevertheless embodies, reconciles and assimilates within its framework such wholesome elements as are to be found in each one of them.

Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh

The admitted evils inherent in each of these systems being rigidly and permanently excluded, this unique Order, however long it may endure and however extensive its ramifications, cannot ever degenerate into any form of despotism, of oligarchy, or of demagoguery which must sooner or later corrupt the machinery of all man-made and essentially defective political institutions.

(Shoghi Effendi (1934), *The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh*, in *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 154)

Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh

The Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh is in the process of growth and unfoldment. In its structure and functioning there are aspects which, the Guardian explained, should be uniform throughout the world. There are also secondary aspects which can be varied from country to country as decided by the responsible National Spiritual Assembly in accordance with the needs and conditions in the area under its jurisdiction.

(From a letter dated 16 February 1996 written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice to an individual believer)

Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh

As the Bahá'í communities grow, the Universal House of Justice will ensure that this divinely-founded system will unfold in accordance with the unerring guidance of which it is the recipient.

(From a letter dated 16 February 1996 written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice to an individual believer)

National Spiritual Assembly

It shall endeavour to stimulate, unify and coordinate the manifold activities of the Local Spiritual Assemblies and of individual Bahá'ís in its area and by all possible means assist them to promote the oneness of mankind.

(By-laws of the Universal House of Justice)

National
Spiritual
Assembly
of the
Bahá'ís
of the
United
States

1944



National Spiritual Assembly

Baha'is elect delegates to their National Convention

these delegates elect nine members of the National Spiritual Assembly for one year

Officers: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

National
Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís
of the
United States

1961



Local Spiritual Assemblies

The Lord hath ordained that in every city a House of Justice be established wherein shall gather counsellors to the number of Bahá (9)... It behooveth them to be the trusted ones of the Merciful among men and to regard themselves as the guardians appointed of God for all that dwell on earth.

(Bahá'u'lláh, Kitáb-i-Aqdas)

Local Spiritual Assembly



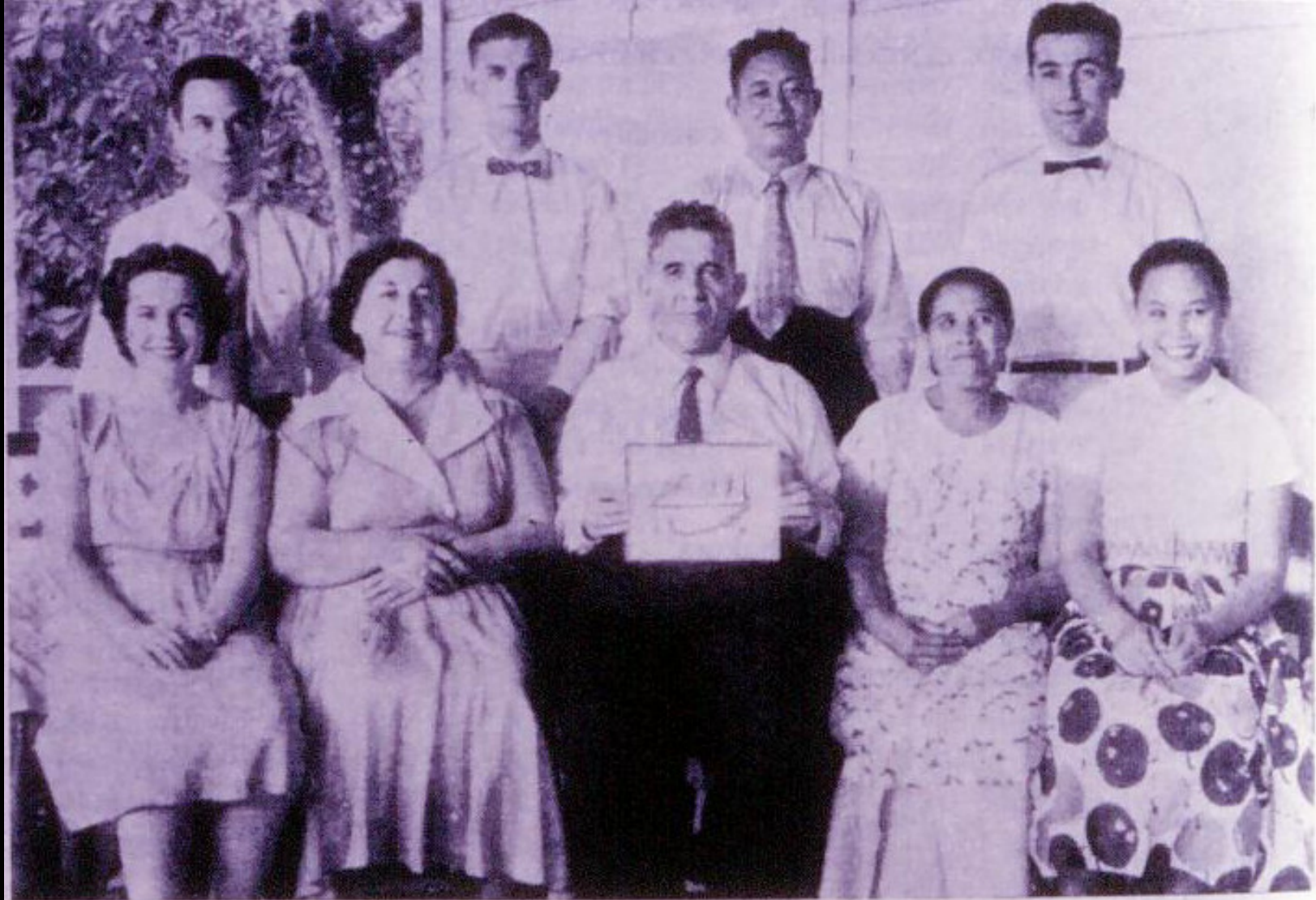
Local Spiritual Assemblies

It is incumbent upon them to take counsel together and to have regard for the interests of the servants of God, for His sake, even as they regard their own interests, and to choose that which is meet and seemly.

(Bahá'u'lláh, Kitáb-i-Aqdas)

First Local
Spiritual
Assembly

Apia, Samoa
1957



First Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Apia, Western Samoa, April 1957.