

NINE YEAR PLAN Journal









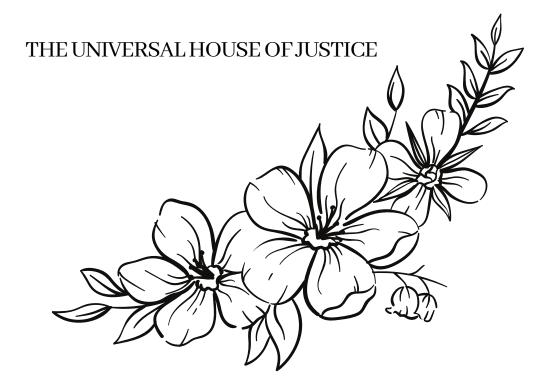












COMMUNITY BUILDING AROUND THE CYCLE

Either individually or with your nucleus

EXPANSION PHASE ~3 weeks

A period of greater intensity with the intention of finding receptive souls.

For example: reaching out to friends and neighbors, having elevated conversations, and exploring spaces to meet new people.

CONSOLIDATION PHASE ~2 months

A period of building deeper connections with friends of the Faith through meaningful conversations, core activities, home visits, and fire sides (while continuing to be open to finding new receptive souls).

REFLECTION AND
PLANNING PHASE
-3 weeks

A period of studying guidance, reflecting on cycle's activity, reading our current reality, and planning for the next cycle.

Cycle:

Cluster Reflection Gathering Date:

Expansion Phase:

Consolidation Phase:

Planning Phase:

Cycle:

Cluster Reflection Gathering Date:

Expansion Phase:

Consolidation Phase:

Planning Phase:

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Cluster Reflection Gathering Date:

Expansion Phase:

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Cluster Reflection Gathering Date:

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Consolidation Phase:



PLANNING PAGES

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Now it is bound for a new horizon. The confirmations of the Almighty are the gusts that fill its sails and propel it towards its destination. And the Covenant is its lodestar, keeping the sacred vessel set on its sure and certain course. May the hosts of heaven send blessings upon all who sail within.

REFLECTION PAGES

Example of items for reflection: what approaches worked, what did not? What are the next steps for each of these friends in the next cycle? What did we learn this cycle? In what areas do we need to strengthen our capacities?
During this period, the Bahá'í world will be focused on a single aim: the release of the society-building power of the Faith in evergreater measures

PLANNING PAGES

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66 In practice, this means the mobilization of a sizeable number of Bahá'ís who are creatively and intelligently applying the Plan's framework for action to the reality of their own circumstances wherever in the cluster they live. It entails families and individual believers working together and making a conscious decision to see themselves as belonging to an expanding nucleus.

PLANNING PAGES

Make a plan for the next 3 months for how you will carry out systemic home visits/conversations to help your friends build a vision for community building. This could include having elevated conversations, sharing the themes from Book 1 and 2*, sharing a prayer, and teaching the Faith.

NAME OF FRIEND TO VISIT/CONVERSE WITH	DATE OF VISIT	TOPIC OF VISIT

*Possible themes from Book 1 and 2: humanity's need for an Educator, God can only be known through His Manifestations, the oneness of religion, science and religion, the oneness of humanity, justice, the gap between rich and poor, the elimination of prejudice, equality of men and women, universal education, peace, the eternal Covenant, the life of Baha'u'llah, the station of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, building and maintaining a unified community, youth serving the community, the significance of prayer, the life of the soul, the development of spiritual qualities.

REFLECTION PAGES

Example of items for reflection: what approaches worked, what did not? What are the next steps for each of these friends in the next cycle? What did we learn this cycle? In what areas do we need to strengthen our capacities?



A clear sign that the society-building power of the Cause is being released in a cluster is that efforts are being made by a growing band of its inhabitants, inspired by the teachings of the Faith, to help improve the spiritual character and social conditions of the wider community to which they belong. The contribution made by Bahá'ís is distinguished by its focus on building capacity for service; it is an approach founded on faith in the ability of a population to become the protagonists of their own development.

The enkindled souls being raised up through the processes of the Plan are seeking to gain an ever more profound understanding of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings—"the sovereign remedy for every disease"—and to apply them to the needs of their society. They are committed to the prosperity of all, recognizing that the welfare of individuals rests in the welfare of society at large. They are loyal citizens who eschew partisanship and the contest for worldly power. Instead, they are focused on transcending differences, harmonizing perspectives, and promoting the use of consultation for making decisions. They emphasize qualities and attitudes—such as trustworthiness, cooperation, and forbearance—that are building blocks of a stable social order. They champion rationality and science as essential for human progress. They advocate tolerance and understanding, and with the inherent oneness of humanity uppermost in their minds, they view everyone as a potential partner to collaborate with, and they strive to foster fellow feeling even among groups who may traditionally have been hostile to one another. They are conscious of how the forces of materialism are at work around them, and their eyes are wide open to the many injustices that persist in the world, yet they are equally clear sighted about the creative power of unity and humanity's capacity for altruism. They see the power that true religion possesses to transform hearts and overcome distrust, and so, with confidence in what the future holds, they labour to cultivate the conditions in which progress can occur. They share their beliefs liberally with others, remaining respectful of the freedom of conscience of every soul, and they never impose their own standards on anyone.

And while they would not pretend to have discovered all the answers, they are clear about what they have learned and what they still need to learn. Their efforts advance to the alternating rhythm of action and reflection; setbacks leave them unfazed. In places where growing numbers are helping to build communities of this character, the power of the Cause to transform people's social existence, as well as their inner lives, is becoming increasingly visible. Earnest pursuit of the Plan's central aim will, we are sure, cause many, many such communities to emerge.

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