

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

March 15, 2023

To the American Bahá'í community

Dearest Bahá'í Friends,

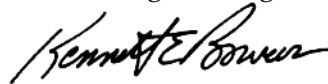
With spring approaching, we delight to see leaves emerging, winter chill receding, and flowers budding. There are few better times to appreciate the abundance with which our planet has been blessed; nevertheless, even in appreciation of this bounty, we cannot forget that our global environment is in a state of upheaval. According to a recent report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2022 alone saw 18 separate climate and weather disasters, leading to costs and damages of \$165 billion, which made 2022 the third most costly year with the third highest number of extreme climate events on record. It is no surprise that the disintegrative forces of consumerism and materialism are wreaking havoc on our cherished natural environment.

As we labor in our society to nurture the opposite forces of integration—forces that find expression in all aspects of life, from local community-building activities to contributions to national discourse—we remember that we are laboring within a framework for moral action. In the years to come, a key part of learning about the release in ever-greater measures of the society-building power of the Faith will be learning how to apply this moral framework to the multitude of activities which our community undertakes, as well as to the vast number of spaces in which members of our community are active. As we begin to more deeply address issues that are key to societal transformation—issues such as racial unity, economic justice, equality, and environmental sustainability—we will need to understand what values such as sacrifice, selflessness, moderation, and integrity mean for each of these issues and how we can embody them as members of an ever-advancing civilization.

While this is, indeed, a lofty task, there are practical ways of taking positive action. Over the coming weeks and months, there are multiple opportunities to participate in activities that promote environmental sustainability. The [Wilmette Institute course on Climate Change](#) will launch on April 12. [Earth Day](#) is April 22, and [Faith Climate Action Week](#), with the theme of “Living the Golden Rule,” will take place from April 14–23. The latter includes events state-by-state in which individuals can participate, as well as resources that can be used locally. For faith communities wishing to deepen their climate and environmental knowledge, the interfaith initiative [Blessed Tomorrow](#) also offers an abundance of resources, including practical suggestions regarding engagement in discourse with people of faith about climate change. We encourage you to consider taking part in some of these opportunities.

As you make daily efforts to contribute to the betterment of the world, be assured that our prayers surround you at all times.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary