

## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN RESEARCHING AND WRITING HISTORY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

1. When was the Local Spiritual Assembly first formed, incorporated, and other important dates?
2. Names of original and early Assembly members
3. History of the individuals believers and groups that existed prior to the formation of the first Assembly
4. Contacts with ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Shoghi Effendi, the World Centre, the National Centre, regional teaching committees, etc. Early Pilgrimage stories.
5. Hands of the Cause, travel teachers, and other notable Bahá’ís who visited the community and how they affected its development
6. History of firesides, proclamation events, and teaching activities in the community
7. Social events (picnics, Holy Day celebrations, fund raisers, etc.) and traditions
8. Pioneers who went forth from the community, both homefront and international
9. Special ties with other communities and details of intercommunity activities
10. Participation of believers in regional, national, and international conferences
11. Growth and development of children and youth activities
12. Intangible aspects of the community’s history. For example, the special character of the community, including the history of the city of which it was a part, how the early believers’ understanding of their roles as Bahá’ís developed, how they perceived themselves in respect to the larger Bahá’í community, etc.
13. Contact and interview older believers in the community/area that may have valuable memories of the early years of the Faith. Discuss preservation of their personal papers.
14. Try to reconstruct birth, death, marriage, and enrollment registers for the early years.