**Conversations about Race, History, and the Bahá’í Faith in South Carolina**

The Bahá’í Faith has deep roots in South Carolina and other Deep South states—from the first mention of the Báb in a Columbia newspaper at the end of the Civil War and Louis Gregory’s first teaching trip to Charleston in 1910, through the “Carolinian Pentecost” of the 1970s and fresh approaches to growth in the early 21st century.

How have the fortunes of the South Carolina Bahá’í community, the most significant response to the Faith so far by people of African descent in North America, mirrored those of the U.S. Bahá’í movement? How have the Bahá’ís’ efforts related to the more familiar stories of the civil rights movement? What lessons might the South Carolina experience hold today, as Bahá’ís seek to refine and expand their work of reaching across barriers of race and class at a moment of such peril for the country?

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