

Summer School Plenary Sessions December 2021

These eight plenary presentations are videos that will be available online from 26 December — and thereafter may be viewed at any time throughout the summer school period (and beyond).

These plenary sessions are for adults and youth. Materials and suggested activities for children and junior are being prepared. These are designed to be offered in person.

Please see also, the separate summer school schedule, offered as an optional model that local summer school gatherings can use as a guide if they wish.

Presentation title	Description
<i>These titles match the titles shown on the model schedule.</i>	<i>All plenary presentations will be under an hour in length, except for the first topic, “Reflections on the challenge of our time”. This lasts 1 hr 17 mins.</i>
Reflections on the challenge of our time	Current member of the Universal House of Justice Mr Paul Lample delivered this keynote lecture for the Association for Bahá’í Studies North America Conference 2021. His theme addresses a question often posed to the Bahá’í community by interested outsiders: “How does such a small band of so-called idealists expect to make their dream a reality.”
Commemorating 100 Years: Holy Land experiences of New Zealand representatives at the centenary commemorations	Vahid Qualls, Huti Watson, Disee Anorpong and Onna Tangifolau will impart some of the spiritual energies and inspiration they absorbed in the Holy Land. This pre-recorded presentation will convey their reflections, comments, anecdotes and inspiration that came from their participation, illustrated with photos and video clips.
The past 25 years and emerging endeavours	A presentation prepared by a group of friends at the request of the National Spiritual Assembly. Reflection on achievements of the last 25 years in Aotearoa in the light of the Ridván 2021 message. The session will explore how the Faith grows through the dialectic of crisis and victory, in the context of the onward march of the Cause. The story is about a community that becomes outward oriented, learning to work with intensity in neighbourhoods, focusing on the movement of youth, building the devotional character of the community, and strengthening its institutions.
Improving race relations	Sharing insights to support the Bahá’í community’s mission to create “flourishing environments [that] will embrace ever-widening circles of diverse peoples”. Presented by Jan Neilson.
‘Hohouterongo’ – Māori historical and modern perspectives on impacts of colonisation	A panel discussion with the Hetaraka family: Te Warihi, Janet and Justice, with the involvement of Huti Watson.
Informative presentation on the ISGP seminars for young adults	Presented by coordinators of the Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity (ISGP) The talk introduces the aims and nature of the two seminars offered by ISGP which are available to young adults in Aotearoa — the seminars for university students and the seminar for graduates and young professionals. One aspect

	touched on is participation in the discourses of society, especially in relation to the graduate seminar.
Focus on the mission before us	Led by Auxiliary Board member Jeffrey Sabour This session will support individuals and communities to carry forward their momentum in the final months of the One Year Plan and into the Nine Year Plan. The presentation will discuss “what ‘qualities of faith, perseverance and commitment’ combined with ‘readiness to learn’ have looked like in New Zealand.”
Providing for advances everywhere: a call to action	Presented by the Regional Bahá’í Councils Addressing the work of the moment and a call to action for initiatives leading up to Ridván 2022 and into the Nine Year Plan. Each region will give a presentation of about half an hour, to make up the hour-long session.