**COUNSELORS SYSTEM AT SRI SRI RADHA GOPINATH MANDIR, ISKCON, CHOWPATTY**

**INTRODUCTION**

The idea of a counselor system sprang-up from the basic 3 principles corroborated in the writings of Srila Prabhupada.

1. Reading Srila Prabhupada’s books and using the thoughts and realizations shared by Srila Prabhupada in his Bhaktivedanta purports and guiding principles to take care of devotees.

2. Having strong sadhana by attending the morning program, and hearing Srimad Bhagvatam in the association of devotees.

3. Trying to have a genuine concern for devotees.

In its formation the system has no mundane principle; it is based on three aspects - counselor is not a guru, rather he is friend, philosopher and guide, based upon the teaching of Srila Prabhupada.

The primary focus of the counselor system is ‘devotee care’. And when the devotee care is taken as the basis many noble projects of devotee welfare will unfurl successively. These projects should aim not to use devotees; rather the project should be used to increase care and concern for devotees. Taking into consideration the principle of being friend, philosopher and guide, three aspects of caring and counseling viz. grahasta counseling, brahmacari counseling and youth counseling has been installed in the first instances and this will give rise to various projects of devotee care in due course to help devotee navigate through the material ocean to reach their final destination of life.

**GRIHASTHA COUNSELLING**

In the varanashram system, the grahastha ashram is the backbone of all the other ashrams. Naturally, maximum devotees choose this ashram. It was observed, as everywhere else, that household life has many conflicts, confusions and misunderstandings. Without proper counseling and training, household life is very difficult to deal with and it causes lot of obstruction in practicing devotional service. One does need to be miserable to practice devotional service. With proper understanding and interdependence between the husband and wife, such householders can prove to be great examples to the society, which is ridden with conflicts especially with regard to family life.

By seeing experience of other grahastas and hearing their problems, the thought of introducing counseling system sprouted. In the beginning, sincere practitioners of devotional service who were trying to keep Krishna in the center were chosen as counselors. These counselor couples had a healthy relationship with each other and could help other younger grahastas follow in their footsteps.

This counseling system for a grahasta is based upon no mundane counseling, but upon the simple Krishna Conscious principle that was taught by Srila Prabhupada wherein the following five principles are essential in enhancing relationship:

1. Appreciate
2. Encourage
3. Respect
4. Forgive and
5. Tolerate

These principles are very much in our scriptures and are taught by senior counselors to their counselees. These principles are the very foundation of grahasta counselor system.

At Sri Sri Radha Gopinath Temple at Chowpatty, Mumbai, to began with 4 grahasta counselors and now we have 57 grahasta counselors. In the counseling system, the spouse naturally gives, if not more, an equal amount of contribution in enhancing the lives of practicing devotees.

A counselor is not an authority over people, he is not an autocrat, it is not in a position, but he is a friend, philosopher and a guide.

**Purpose**

* To educate and train devotees to live according to the Krishna conscious principles in the grahastha ashram.
* To provide systematic training to devotees in matters of philosophy, sadhana & Vaisnava behavior/etiquette/lifestyle/attitudes.
* To provide a formal framework within which personal care and attention can be extended to all devotees so as to make them feel loved, wanted & part of a wonderful spiritual family.
* To foster warm personal relationships and a spirit of love & trust amongst devotees based on Krishna Conscious principles.
* To serve as a forum through which allocation of services, organization of major events, communication of important decisions etc. can be facilitated.

**How does the system work?**

* Senior devotees are nominated to be counselors for other grahastha devotees
* Devotees from the congregation are assigned to particular counselors, usually on the basis of geographical proximity of their residences, personal preference, linguistic background etc.
* The counselors meet with their respective counselees once every fortnight at convenient time and location. Normally the meetings take place at the homes of devotees in the group on turn by turn basis.
* Besides the meetings, the counselors maintain personal touch with their counselees to ensure their all-round welfare.
* Before allotting any counselor, new incumbents are examined by a panel of senior devotees about their need and sincerity.
* The Board of Counselors meets once a month & discusses issues of importance. This is an important policy making body of the temple.
* From time to time, as per requirements, new counselors are appointed in accordance with the approved policy of the Temple.
* Several committees have been formed for various services & to cater to various needs of the congregation. These committees report to the Board of Counselors. The Board of Counselors in turn reports to the Temple authorities for any guidance and decision.
* The Temple Presidents also attend the monthly meetings of the counselors. The purpose is in two folds:
* It ensures that the decisions taken by the Temple are more participative in nature & that the views of the congregation are taken into account.
* It ensures a smooth working relationship between Temple brahmacharis and congregational grihasthas.
* Young, unmarried boys in the congregation (particularly students) who don’t show indications of desire to enter grihastha ashram are looked after by the respective brahmachari counselors who preach to them. When they express a desire to enter grihastha ashram, they accept suitable grihastha counselors.
* A counselor is allotted not more than 50 members as counselees, to ensure that he/she is able to give adequate personal attention to each counselee.
* The Board of Counselors also recommends names of devotees for 1st & 2nd initiation.

**Appointment of counselors**

The induction of new counselors is executed by the counselor board. These are the guidelines to appoint a counselor.

A counselor should be

* A devotee who has been in active Krishna Consciousness within ISKCON for a reasonable length of time
* Well-versed in the philosophy & practice of Krishna Consciousness
* Able to give balanced counselling based on Krishna Conscious principles according to time, place and circumstance
* Not prone to taking extreme and controversial positions on issues
* Willing to extend him-self/her-self to help others & should have a spirit of sacrifice
* Compassionate and have genuine concern for the welfare of devotees
* A good listener
* A mature, sober and stable individual
* Having good standard of sadhana, etiquette, behavior, service and commitment to the mission
* Properly situated in his/her own ashram

In addition to the above the following specific requirements are expected appointment of different functionaries.

**Counselor Etiquette**

1. No garlands/ Special seats/ Flashy clothes
2. Equality in birthday celebrations
3. No gifts in public. Small gifts only can be accepted-in private. No digital cameras, laptops etc.
4. No vyas puja books. Atmost birthday cards
5. No personal services to be taken
6. If it reduces Maharaj’s burden, brahmacaris can give names. Give 4-5 names and let the counselee choose.
7. Expressing that certain devotee gave a valuable gift
8. On exceptional cases, personal services may be considered
9. Only those gifts which can be shared, distributed, may be accepted
10. Accept gifts if you can reciprocate

**Infrastructure of the Counselor System**

Counselor system has a chairman who is selected by the board of counselors.

1. Chairman
2. Full time secretary
3. Four regional coordinators (monthly counselors meeting is divided into four groups based on zones. Each of the coordinators coordinate their respective areas)
4. Visiting CSV (Counsel for Spiritual Vision – these are senior brahmacari leaders) for the regional counselor meeting
5. Regional secretary for each region

The counselors conduct monthly meetings which are divided into four zones:

1. Central Mumbai
2. South Mumbai
3. North Mumbai
4. Extreme North and outskirts of Extreme North Mumbai

Every quarterly, all the counselors meet together for a full day session.

The nature of the counselors meeting

1. Kirtan
2. One spiritual topic on different subjects
3. Concerned agendas to be discussed

These meetings are basically enhance and upgrade the ability of the counselors in regards to dealing with their respective counselees.

In these counselors’ meetings, the counselors share their challenging situations they face during counseling to get an idea from other counselors, either one on one with other counselors or publically with all the counselors, depending on the privacy of the matter.

**The format of meetings of counselee meeting**

1. Vaisnava bhajans
2. A few pages of one of Srila Prabhupada’s books are discussed. One of the Counselees makes a presentation of the same & a discussion follows.
3. Sharing of realizations.
4. Discussion on service, sadhana & Vaisnava etiquette.
5. Devotees are asked if they want to discuss any problems which are not personal (personal problems are discussed in private with the Counselor).
6. EXAM (based on the pages of Srila Prabhupada’s books being discussed) and memorization of slokas.
7. Kirtan.
8. Prasadam

**Training of counselees**

Counselors take care to train the devotees in household life in the following areas:

1. How to be ideal grihasthas by keeping Krishna in the centre.
2. How to maintain proper devotional standards at home - kitchen, altar, behavior, sadhana etc.
3. How to be a proper wife/husband/parent/child/disciple etc. as per scriptures.
4. How to balance economic & social responsibilities with spiritual vows.
5. How women should deal with men, particularly brahmacharis and sannyasis.
6. How men should deal with women.
7. How to have proper attitude towards other ashrams.

The Counselors also resolve conflicts & disagreements within a family, between a devotee and his relatives or between 2 devotees and thus train them to deal with others in a Krishna Conscious way.

A manual of Vaisnava Etiquette & Lifestyle has been prepared for the guidance of devotees and portions of this manual are discussed in every meeting.

These kinds of counselor and counselee meetings are being conducted since the beginning of this system and the format has remained the same. In the course of such meetings from churning and discussion, many noble ideas sprung and were implemented in an organized manner. All these ideas served as a foundation in taking care of devotees in all fronts, spiritual, social, economical, emotional and intellectual needs. The coming chapters are all about the foundation of devotee care.

## For details of the counselor system, kindly refer to Annexure A

Based on the above tenets a similar system is installed to befriend, to help philosophically understand principles of Krsna Consciousness and to guide the youth and brahmacharis on their path back home back to Godhead.

**Annexure A**

**COUNSELOR SYSTEM DETAILS**

More than 90% of the congregation comprise of the devotees in the grihastha ashrama. It is therefore very essential to counsel and train devotees in the grihastha ashrama so that they can lead their life in accordance with the principal of the ashrama and perfect their life at the end. At Sri Sri Radha Gopinath Mandir there are about 57 grihastha counselors, each caring about 50 devotees, guiding and training them in the traits of devotional service. A brief description about the entire program of grihastha counseling is given as follows;

**Chairman**

1. The Temple Leadership, on formal approval by the Executive Committee, can appoint any candidate nominated by the Counselors Board as Chairman of the Counselor Board initially for \_\_\_\_\_\_ year term.
2. The term of appointment of the Chairman can be extended any number of times by the Temple Leadership on recommendation of the Counselors Board and formal approval of the Executive Committee

**Regional Coordinator/Director**

1. Chairman can appoint regional counselor as Regional Coordinator subject to recommendation of the Regional Counselor body and formal approval of the Executive Committee initially for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ year term.
2. The term of appointment of the Regional Coordinator can be extended any number of times by the Chairman, Board of Counselor/Executive Committee of the Temple on recommendation of the Regional Counselors Board that has been formally approved by the Executive Committee of the Temple.

**Visiting Supervisor**

1. The Temple Leadership on recommendation of the CSV and approval of the Executive Committee of the Temple can appoint any member of the Council of Spiritual Vision (CSV) of the Temple as Visiting Supervisor of a particular region, initially for \_\_\_\_\_\_ year term.
2. The term of appointment of the Visiting Supervisor can be extended any number of time by the Temple Leadership on recommendation of the CSV and approval of the Executive Committee

**Counselor**

1. The Temple Leadership on formal approval the Executive Committee of the Temple can appoint any candidate nominated by the Regional Counselor Board as Counselor initially for \_\_\_\_\_\_ year term.
2. The term of appointment of the Counselor can be extended any number of time by the Temple Leadership on recommendation of the Regional Counselors Board and formal approval of the Executive Committee

**Secretary, Counselor Board**

1. The Temple Leadership on formal approval of the Executive Committee can appoint any candidate nominated by the Chairman, Counselors Board initially for \_\_\_\_\_\_ year term.
2. The term of appointment of the Secretary, Counselor Board can be extended any number of time by the Temple Leadership on recommendation of the Chairman, Counselors Board and formal approval of the Executive Committee

**Secretary, Regional Counselor Board**

1. The Chairman, Counselor Board on formal approval the Executive Committee of the Temple can appoint any candidate nominated by the Regional Counselors Board initially for \_\_\_\_\_\_ year term.
2. The term of appointment of the Secretary, Regional Counselor Board can be extended any number of time by the Chairman, Counselor Board on recommendation of the Regional Counselors Board and formal approval of the Executive Committee

**Duties and Responsibility**

**Chairman**

1. Serve as the Chairman of the Board of Counselors/Executive Committee at Sri Sri Radha Gopinath Mandir of ISKCON, Girgaon, Chowpatty
2. Lead counselors board/executive committee to ensure that it assumes its responsibility of stewardship towards the development and sustenance of congregation of devotees and preaching Krishna Consciousness in the society
3. Convene/Coordinate counselors/executive committee meetings from time to time
4. Review and approve agenda/minutes of the meetings of the EC and CB as developed and processed by the Secretariat Office
5. Call, as per his discretion, any number of extra-ordinary meetings of the counselor body/executive committee for any purpose that he may deem fit in the overall welfare of the Temple/Counselor Body/congregation
6. Determine, as per his discretion, from time to time, how to configure the leadership of the Counselor Body in the way that best serves the Temple/Congregation/Counselors Body
7. Ensure fairness and accuracy in dealings and reporting of facts and findings
8. Create intervention efforts to catch crucial/important issues/agenda, as he may deem fit, and help members address them in a congenial environment
9. Appoint/dismiss the Regional Coordinators on recommendation of the Regional Counselor body and in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Temple
10. Act as liaison between the Temple Management/leadership, Counselors Board and the Congregation
11. Appoint/dismiss the Counselors on recommendation of the Regional Coordinator in consultation of the Executive Committee of the Temple
12. Present quarterly/six monthly report about the functioning and growth of the Counselors/congregation system to the Executive Committee/Temple leadership
13. Guide the Regional Coordinators on various issues related to the growth and proliferation of the counselors system from time to time
14. Develop/determine/modify/amend systems and programs from time to time to meet the organizational goals/objectives
15. Determine/modify general/specific policies/rules & regulation for the sustenance and proliferation of counselors/congregation system from time to time
16. Determine/modify the disciplinary policies for addressing/redressal of any disputes among the various components of the counselor/congregation system
17. Determine/streamline integrity, control and management information system
18. Visit and oversee Regional Counselors Meetings from time to time
19. Oversee/review/streamline/modify/navigate the functioning of the Counselor Board/Temple Management/Infrastructure/congregational Preaching
20. Appoint/dissolve any Committee/Sub-Committee for any purpose towards the wellbeing of the counselor/congregation system with/without consultation of the Executive Committee/Temple Leadership
21. Overall In-charge of the RGM Database Management System. Has full access to view/edit/modify any records in the Database maintained by the Temple regarding counselees/counselors etc. for all the regions.

**Regional Coordinator/Director**

1. Lead regional counselors board to ensure that it assumes its responsibility of stewardship towards the development and sustenance of congregation in the particular region and preaching Krishna conscious philosophy and doctrine
2. Convene/Coordinate regional counselors meeting at least once in a month
3. Review and approve agenda/minutes of the meeting of the regional counselors board that has been prepared and processed by the Regional Secretariat Office of the Regional Counselors Board
4. Call, as per his discretion, any number of extra-ordinary meetings of the regional counselor board for any purpose that he deem feet in the overall welfare of the Regional Counselor Board/Temple/Counselor Board/Regional Congregation
5. Determine, as per his discretion, from time to time, how to configure the leadership of the Regional Counselor Board in the way that best serves the Regional Counselor Board/Temple/Regional Congregation/Counselors Board
6. Ensure fairness and accuracy in dealings and reporting facts and findings
7. Create intervention efforts to catch crucial/important issues/agenda, as he may deem fit, and help members address them in a congenial environment
8. Recommend Appointment/dismissal of the counselors in the particular region subject to the approval of the Regional Counselor Board
9. Act as liaison between the Chairman/Counselor Board/Temple Management/ leadership and the Regional Congregation
10. Present quarterly/six monthly report about the functioning and growth of the Regional Counselor/Congregation System to the Chairman/Secretary of the Counselor Board/Temple Management/Leadership
11. Guide the Regional Counselors on various issues related to the growth and proliferation of the regional counselors system from time to time
12. Develop/determine/modify/amend systems and programs from time to time to meet the organizational goals/objectives in consultation with Chairman, Counselors Board/Temple Management/Leadership
13. Determine/modify general/specific policies/rules & regulation for the sustenance and proliferation of regional counselors/congregation system from time to time in consultation with the Chairman, Counselors Board/Temple Leadership/Management
14. Ensure implementation of the orders/policies as may be decided by the Temple Management/Leadership/Chairman, Counselors Board from time to time
15. Determine/streamline integrity, control and management information system
16. Preside over the Regional Counselors Meetings that may take place from time to time
17. Oversee/review/streamline/modify/navigate the functioning of the Regional Counselor Board/Congregational Preaching
18. Appoint/dissolve any Committee/Sub-Committee for any purpose towards the wellbeing of the regional counselor/congregation system with/without consultation of the Chairman, Counselors Board/Temple Leadership
19. Serve as the Regional In-charge of the RGM Database Management System: Has full access to view/edit/modify any records in the Database maintained by the Temple regarding counselees/counselors etc. in his region.

**Visiting Supervisor (CSV Member)**

1. Serve as the Visiting Supervisor of a particular regional congregation
2. To supervise the activities of preaching and proliferation of congregation in a particular region
3. To ensure that the discussion in the Regional Counselor Board are done in congenial environment and are participative in nature
4. To ensure smooth working relationship between the participating members
5. To guide and assist the Regional Coordinator in his activities
6. To hear and resolve regional congregational issues in consultation with the Chairman, Regional Counselor Board, Temple Leadership and Counselor Board
7. Liaison between Temple Leadership, Counselor Board, Chairman Counselor Board, CSV and Regional Counselor Board

**Counselor**

1. Serve as the Counselor for about 50 congregation members in a particular geographical area of Sri Sri Radha Gopinath Mandir of ISKCON, Girgaon, Chowpatty congregation.
2. Become a genuine friend, guide and philosopher to all his counselee members while representing his Spiritual Master, Srila Prabhupada and the disciplic line of Brahma Madhva Gaudiya Vaishnava Parampara
3. Conduct weekly/fortnightly counselee meetings to spiritually enlighten and counsel devotees/congregation members of his counselee group based on Gaudia Vaishnava principle and philosophy enumerated by Lord Sri Caitainya Mahaprabhu
4. Create and provide profuse opportunities to all his counselee members for Vaishnava sanga by organizing and conducting spiritual discourses, spiritual seminars/ workshops on various spiritual subject matters by inviting experts, sanayasis etc.
5. Help counselee members on their path of progress back to Godhead and give guidelines for creating balance in their material and spiritual life as per the Gaudiya Vaishnava Siddhantha
6. Lead his counselee members, by his own personal example, towards creating a spiritually vibrant home and society which can become a role model for the entire human society
7. Become a spiritual role model for all his counselee members by his own spiritual sadhana of chanting the prescribed number of rounds, reading and discussing scriptures, spiritual diet, following 4 regulative principles and regularity in visiting and attending Temple programs/activities
8. Inculcate service attitude in all his counselee members by his own personal example
9. Implement rules, regulations, policies and plans of the Temple within his counselee group from time to time as per the temple guidelines
10. Keep his counselee members update about temple activities and announcements from time to time
11. Maintain and update database of his counselee group as per the guidelines and policies of the Temple and provide statistical information as may be required from time to time
12. Liaison between the counselee members, Regional Counselor, Temple Authorities, Counselor Board, Chairman of Counselor Board, and CSV of the Temple
13. Verify and recommend eligibility and authenticity of his/her counselee member to participate in various events like Yatras, Vyas Pooja, Spiritual Initiation (Harinaam, Brahman etc.), Dramas, Membership and other benefits derived from various facilities provided by the Temple like Yamuna Kinara, Gopal’s Garden, Job opportunities in the Temple projects, issue of ID cards/certificates etc.
14. Impart spiritual solutions, as far as possible, to all kinds of material problems as per the Gaudiya Vaishnava siddhanta to all his counselee members in consultation with the Temple authorities as when required
15. Inspire all his counselee members to live like a big spiritual family as desired by Srila Prabhupada and Srila Gurudev
16. Help in fund raising with the help of his counselee members during Janmastami and other occasions as may be desired by the Temple from time to time
17. Help in the activities of Srila Prabhupada Book Distribution with all his counselee members for general welfare
18. Help creating awareness about the temple activities/projects within his counselee group and seek their participation, cooperation and association for the general welfare of the devotee community
19. Safeguard his counselee members from any deviance from the doctrine of Gaudiya Vaishnavism by creating awareness and information system from time to time as per the temple guidelines and in consultation with the Counselor Board
20. Introduce all his counselee members to as many counselors as possible, but at least three counselors compulsorily who can monitor progress of his counselee member
21. Device and/or implement progress monitoring system for all his counselee members and keep records of progress of each of his counselee members
22. Submit reports of the progress of all his counselee members to the Temple authority/Counselor Board on periodical basis in accordance with the temple guidelines from time to time
23. Regularly attend the meetings of the Regional Counselor Board/Counselor Board and amicably address issues of concern of his counselee group/regional counselor Board and exchange information of mutual benefit with other members
24. Enlighten and disseminate his expertise on any subject matter that may benefit the congregation of devotees all over ISKCON in general and Sri Sri Radha Gopinath Mandir members in particular.
25. Devise and train all his counselee members in such a way that they can become future leaders and take up independent responsibility of various projects of preaching encouraged by the temple from time to time

**Secretary, Counselor Board**

1. Serve as the Secretary of the Board of Counselors/Executive Committee at Sri Sri Radha Gopinath Mandir of ISKCON, Girgaon, Chowpatty
2. Assist the Chairman, Counselor Board/Executive Committee in executing his duties and responsibilities
3. Maintain office of the Counselor Board for various activities
4. In consultation with the Chairman, Counselor Board/Executive Committee, compile Agenda and take down and prepare Minutes of Counselor Board Meetings/Executive Meetings that may take place from time to time
5. Conduct Meetings of the Counselor Board/Executive Committee in consultation with the Chairman, Counselor Board/Executive Committee
6. Liaison with other members of Counselor Board/Executive Committee, Regional Counselor Board, Secretary and Chairman of the Regional Counselor Board, CSV members etc.
7. General correspondence and record keeping of the activities of the office of the Counselor Board and proceedings of various meetings
8. Record of implementation of the various decisions of the Counselor Board/ Executive Committee, Temple authorities
9. Keeping record of counselees and their progress with each and every counselors
10. Provide statistical information from time to time as may be desired by the Temple Authority/Counselor Board
11. Database Manager for the counselee database system – has full right to enter/edit/ modify/delete data related to any counselor/region
12. Any other activities that may be directed by the Chairman, Counselor Board/Temple Leadership/Authorities from time to time

**Secretary, Regional Counselor Board**

1. Serve as the Secretary of the Regional Counselor Board of Sri Sri Radha Gopinath Mandir of ISKCON, Girgaon, Chowpatty in a particular zone/region
2. Assist the Chairman, Regional Counselor Board in executing his duties and responsibilities
3. Maintain office of the Regional Counselor Board for various activities
4. In consultation with the Chairman, Regional Counselor Board, compile Agenda and take down and prepare Minutes of the meetings of the Regional Counselor Board that may take place from time to time
5. Conduct Meetings of the Regional Counselor Board in consultation with the Chairman, Regional Counselor Board
6. Liaison with other members of Regional Counselor Board Secretary/Chairman of the Counselor Board/Executive, Visiting Supervisor, CSV members etc.
7. General correspondence and record keeping of the activities of the office of the Regional Counselor Board and proceedings of various meetings
8. Record of implementation of the various decisions of the Regional Counselor Board, communication from the Chairman/Secretary, Board of Counselors and Temple authorities from time to time
9. Keeping record of counselees and their progress with each and every counselors
10. Providing statistical information as may be required from time to time
11. Working closely with the Secretary, Board of Counselors for dissemination and update of information as far counselor/counselee activities are concerned
12. In consultation with the Chairman, Regional Counselor Board provide periodical report of the progress of individual counselees with each counselors in the region, congregation development and any other related issues that may be desired by the Counselor Board/Temple authority from time to time
13. Database Manager for the counselee database system for the particular region – has right to enter/edit/modify any data for any counselor in consultation with the counselor in his region
14. Any other activities as may be directed by the Chairman, Regional Counselor Board/Temple Authorities from time to time

**Training of Counselees**

Counselors take care to train the devotees in household life in the following areas:

How to be ideal grihasthas by keeping Krishna in the centre?

How to maintain proper devotional standards at home - kitchen, altar, behavior, sadhana etc?

How to be a proper wife/husband/parent/child/disciple etc. as per scriptures?

How to balance economic & social responsibilities with spiritual vows?

How women should deal with men, particularly brahmacharis and sannyasis?

How men should deal with women?

How to have proper attitude towards other ashram

The Counselors also resolve conflicts & disagreements within a family, between a devotee and his relatives or between 2 devotees and thus train them to deal with others in a Krishna Conscious way.

A manual of Vaisnava Etiquette & Lifestyle has been prepared for the guidance of devotees and portions of this manual are discussed in every meeting.

**Format of meetings of Counselor with his Counselees**

Vaisnava bhajans

A few pages of one of Srila Prabhupada’s books are discussed. One of the Counselees makes a presentation of the same & a discussion follows.

Sharing of realizations.

Discussion on service, sadhana & Vaisnava etiquette.

Devotees are asked if they want to discuss any problems which are not personal (personal problems are discussed in private with the Counselor).

EXAM (based on the pages of Srila Prabhupada’s books being discussed) and memorization of slokas.

Kirtan.

Prasadam.

**Format of meetings of Board of Counselors**

1. Each meeting begins with 10 minutes of kirtan
2. Presentation of some predetermined spiritual topic/temple project
3. Discussion of agenda on management/policy matters etc

**Future Plan**

Realizing the future growth it is now planned to decentralize with a motive to divide and grow. It is planned to divide the entire congregation into different zones and install zonal committees to address zonal issues of preaching and growth. This aspect is very much under consideration of the authorities and may take effect when it becomes quite essential.