ISKCON GOVERNING BODY COMMISSION SOCIETY

Registration Number S/74662 under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961
P.O. Shree Mayapur Dham, Dist. Nadia, West Bengal 741313

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SRI MAYAPUR DHAM, FEBRUARY 3 - 17, 2018

Go to 2018 Zonal Assignments

Section 100: APPOINTMENTS

101. GBC Officers and Members

1. HG Madhu Sevita Das is elected GBC Chairman.

2. HH Bhaktivaibhava Swami is elected First Vice-Chairman.

3. HH Ramai Swami is elected Second Vice-Chairman.

4. HH Gopal Krsna Goswami is elected GBC Secretary.

5. HG Radha Krsna Das is elected as a full GBC member.

6. HG Harivilas Das is awarded the title of GBC Emeritus.

7. HH Bhakti-Vijnana Goswami is awarded the title of GBC Emeritus.

102. Sannyasa Waiting List

The following are the candidates for sannyasa along with their respective waiting periods:

Adi Purusa Das (Bhubaneswar, India)	This year
Ananda Vardhan Das (Baltics/Finland/Europe)	This year
Gaura Chandra Das (Mayapur)	This year
Madhu Sevita Das (Italy)	This year
Mahaprabhu Das (Hungary/Romania)	This year
Bhaktipada Das (Hungary)	One year
Deva Deva Das (South America)	One year
Ekalavya Das (India, Middle East, North America)	One year
Navadwip Dwija Gauranga Das (Bangladesh)	One year
Priti Vardhana Das (Mayapur)	One year
Pushpashila Shyam Das (Bangladesh)	One year
Raghava Pandit Das (Delhi/India)	One year
Santa Nrsimha Das (Mumbai)	One year
Vrindavan Chandra Das (Vrindavan)	One year

Asim Krishna Das (India)	Two years
Premadata Das (Italy/India)	Two years
Sundarlal Das (Mauritius)	Two years
Venudhari Das (Mayapur)	Two years
Kamalalochan Das (Mumbai)	Three years
Radha Shyamsundar Das (Vrindavan)	Three years
Vanamali Das (Mumbai)	Three years
Vishvavasu Das (Germany/Baltics/Russia)	Three years
Adhoksaja Das (Russia)	Four years
Gopendra Das (Vrindavan)	Four years
Sankarshan Nitai Das (Mayapur)	Four years
Sutapa Das (UK)	Four years
Govindananda Das (West Bengal)	Five years

103. Reaffirmation of Ministries and Standing Committees

The following are the Ministry and Standing Committees and their membership assignments for 2018-19:

Congregational Development Ministry	Co-Ministers – Jayapataka Swami, Kaunteya Das
ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry	Minister – Nrsimha Kavaca Das
ISKCON Youth Ministry	Minister – Manorama Das
Ministry of Book Distribution	Minister – Vijaya Das
Ministry of Communications	Minister – Anuttama Das
Ministry of Cow Protection and Agriculture	Minister – Kalakantha Das
Ministry of Education	Minister – Sesa Das
Ministry of Fund Development	Minister – Devakinandan Das
Ministry of Health and Welfare	Minister – Prahladananda Swami Other member – Bir Krishna Das Goswami
Ministry of Justice	Minister – Sesa Das
Ministry of Justice: ISKCON Dispute Resolution Committee (IDRC)	Minister of Justice, a representative of ISKCON Resolve, the second Vice-Chairman of the GBC, and the Director of the ISKCON Dispute Resolution Office

Ministry of Justice: ISKCON Dispute Resolution Office	Director – GBC EC, pending nomination
Ministry of Padayatra	Minister – Lokanath Swami
Ministry of Sannyasa Services	Minister – Prahladananda Swami Other members: Bhakti Gauravani Goswami, Bhaktivaibhava Swami, Bhakti Caitanya Swami, Hrdaya Caitanya Das
Vaishnavi Ministry	Co-Ministers – Malati Dasi and Radha Dasi (California)
BBT Construction Grant Allocation Committee (BBTCG)	Members – Bhanu Swami, Current GBC Chairman, Hrdaya Caitanya Das (Convener)
GBC Nominations Committee	Members – Bhakti Caitanya Swami (Chairman), Prahladananda Swami, Praghosa Das, Gopal Bhatta Das (Convenor), Tamohara Das, Anuttama Das, Revati Raman Das, Radha Krsna Das, Gauranga Das, Aniruddha Das, Devakinandan Das (MVG), Laxmimoni Dasi, Manohara Das, Kaunteya Das, Tapana Misra Das (Non-voting Executive Member)
GBC Organizational Development Committee	Gopal Bhatta Das & Kaunteya Das (co-chairs) – Anuttama Das, Bhakti Caitanya Swami, Hrdaya Caitanya Das, Jayapataka Swami, Madhu Sevita Das, Praghosa Das, Revati Raman Das, Romapada Swami (leave of absence), Sivarama Swami, Aniruddha Das, Caitanya Avatari Das, Devakinandan Das (Juhu), Devakinandan Das (MVG), Gaura Krishna Das, Gauranga Das, Laxmimoni Dasi, Praharana Dasi, Rasa Krida Parayana Das, Rupanuga Das, Subhananda Dasa, Tapana Misra Das, Tirtharaja Das, Vraja Vihari Das
GBC-BBT Team	Members – Badrinarayan Swami (Coordinator), Gopal Krishna Goswami, Sivarama Swami, Madhu Sevita Das, Hrdaya Caitanya Das, Praghosa Das
GBC Vaisnava Calendar Committee	Members – Bhanu Swami, Gopalapriya Das, Sadasivananda Das, Bhaktarupa Das (Convener)
Guru Services Committee	Members – Anuttama Das, Prahladananda Swami (Chairman), Virabahu Das, Bhakti Caitanya Swami, Bhaktimarga Swami, Ramai Swami, Atul Krishna Das (Mayapur)
ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection	Director – Kamlesh Krishna Das
ISKCON Property Office	Members – Current GBC Executive Committee, Kuladri Das (Convener-Secretary), Bhaktarupa Das

Sastric Advisory Council	Members: Urmila Dasi (Chairman), Drutakarma Das, Gauranga Das, Hari Parsad Das, Narayani Dasi, Adi-purusa Das, Caitanya-caran Das, Sarvajna Das, Brijabasi Das, Krishna Abhishek Das Associate Members: Giriraja Swami, Krishna Kshetra Swami, Radhika Raman Das, Gopinatha-acarya Das, Harideva Das
World Holy Name Festival Committee	Global Coordination Team – Lokanath Swami, Jananda Goswami, Eklavya Das

104: Appointing Zonal Supervisors

The following graduates from the GBC College are hereby appointed as Zonal Supervisors:

Devakinandan Das:	Singapore
Prithvi-pati Das:	Hungary

Pending their graduation from the GBC College, the following devotees are also appointed as Zonal Supervisors:

Bhakti Bhagavatamrita Kesava Swami:	Russia, South Region
Bhakti Ananta Krsna Goswami:	Russia, Golden Ring Region
Krsna Smaranam Das:	Russia, Eastern Siberia Region
Dayavan Das:	Russia, Volga Region
Adiras Das:	Russia, South Region

105: Appointing Global Duty Officers

Vaisesika Das is hereby appointed as a Global Duty Officer for Book Distribution.
Additionally, he is appointed as Special Duty Officer with zonal responsibility for New York (except Freeport)

106: GBC Deputies' Membership

Whereas the current term of the GBC Deputies expires with the conclusion of the 2018 AGM;

And whereas the GBC Body is satisfied with the work of the Deputies and desires that their term be renewed for an additional three years,

Resolved:

That the following devotees are appointed as GBC Deputies to serve through the AGM of 2021:

1. Acintya Rupa Dasi
2. Acyuta Priya Das
3. Akrura Das
4. Aniruddha Das
5. Arvindaksha Govinda Das
6. Bhaktarupa Das

7. Devakinandan Das (Botswana)
8. Eklavya Das
9. Hanuman Das
10. Hari Das
11. Kalasamvara Das
12. Krsnadasa Kaviraja Das
13. Madana-mohana Das
14. Mathuresh Das
15. Prasanta Dasi
16. Rasaraja Das
17. Srivas Das
18. Srivasa Pandit Das
19. Vedavyasapriya Swami

107: Romapada Swami on Leave of Absence

RESOLVED:

The GBC Body grants Romapada Swami a Leave of Absence based on his below letter:

> *I am requesting permission from the GBC Body to take a leave of absence from my GBC duties and ISKCON management responsibilities until the Freeport Temple litigation is finally resolved. I will, however, continue as before with the performance of my duties as the GBC for the Freeport Temple.*
>
> *My reasons are:*
>
> *1. To dedicate myself to the Freeport Temple litigation, which I have been handling on behalf of the GBC Body for many years and which I intend to continue handling until that litigation is finally resolved;*
>
> *2. To take care of my personal health and well-being which have been impacted by the demands of zonal management over many years;*
>
> *3. To provide me with more time to focus on deepening Vaisnava relationships, which constitute the very foundation of our Krishna consciousness;*
>
> *4. To provide me with greater opportunity to concentrate on studying, teaching, and preaching the philosophy of Krsna consciousness.*
>
> *--Romapada Swami*

108: Brooklyn Temple Sale Committee

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting, the GBC discussed the work of the GBC Brooklyn Temple Sale Committee ("BTSC") consisting of Sesa Das (chairman), Bhakti Charu Swami and Praghosa Das in the matter of the pending sale of Bharati Center Inc. ("Brooklyn temple").

In light of the complex issues (legal, technical, financial, etc.) arising from the pending sale, the imperative of timely decision-making and the excellent results obtained so far by the BTSC, the GBC hereby renews the authorization of the BTSC to take all necessary and appropriate measures on behalf of ISKCON and the GBC with regard to the pending sale, including, but not limited to, the attempt of the former Bharati Center Board to disaffiliate from ISKCON.

This authorization is effective as of the date of adjournment of the 2018 GBC Annual General Meeting until the date of convening of the 2019 GBC Annual General Meeting.

Section 200: FINANCES

201: Budget

The GBC Budget for 2018-19 is (in INR):

Annual General Meetings	552,500
Cow Protection & Agriculture	325,000
Child Protection Office	650,000
Dandavats	396,500
Deputies –Travel for Assistant	65,000
Deity Worship Ministry	910,000
Emergency Fund	260,000
Legal & related expenses	650,000
Executive Committee Travel	195,000
Finance & Bank Charges	32,500
GBC Strategic Planning Team	715,000
GBC Corresponding Secretary	429,000
GBC EC Secretary	429,000
ISKCON Congregational Development Ministry	162,500
ISKCON Temple Database	110,500
ISKCON Ethics and Code Department	162,500
ISKCON News	273,000
ISKCON Resolve	520,000
ISKCON Sannyasa Ministry	65,000
ISKCON Connection	292,500
Prevention of Leader Misconduct Office	130,000
Mayapur GBC Office	403,000
Ministry of Education	409,500
SABHA (Spiritual Advisors Bhagavata Assembly)	780,000
Swami Productions (Bhaktimarga Swami)	130,000
Vaisnava Calendar Website	32,500

Vaishnavi Ministry	65,000
Youth Ministry	65,500
TOTAL	**9,210,500**

202. Appointment of Auditor

Sri Ritesh Shah & Associates, Chartered Accountants, of P-27, Princep Street, Kolkata 700072, is appointed as statutory auditor for the year 2017-18.

Section 300: INTERNAL ISKCON

301. Midterm General Meeting 2018

The Midterm General Meeting of the ISKCON GBC Society shall take place from October 15-21, 2018, at ISKCON Kanpur, India.

302. Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the ISKCON GBC Society shall take place from March 3-11, 2019, at ISKCON Mayapur, WB, India.

303: Creation of the ISKCON Initiated Devotees Global Database

Whereas there is a need for a global repository of information on ISKCON initiated devotees for purposes of communication, care, legacy concerns, and unity of Srila Prabhupada's family;

Whereas there are precedents in which the GBC called for such a repository to be created; for example, in the following GBC resolutions: *"That all devotees currently having databases of disciples (for reunions, disciples records, etc.) should provide a copy for the Database Manager." (1994) "That all initiating spiritual masters of ISKCON shall provide biographical information on all their disciples to the Global Database manager . . . a report on new disciples will be provided to the Global Database at least once a year at the time of the Mayapur festival." (1996);*

Resolved:

The ISKCON Initiated Devotees Global Database is hereby established; all ISKCON initiating spiritual masters (and others who might be managing databases of departed *diksa-gurus*) shall share their disciple database with this repository upon request and on a regular basis.

The ISKCON Initiated Devotees Global Database will provide a secure platform for storage, collation, information processing and management reporting, and should regularly update the database for meaningful data analysis and data mining.

The database shall be owned by the Governing Body Commission and shall not be used for any other purpose without the written authorization of the Governing Body Commission.

The ISKCON Initiated Devotees Global Database shall provide all initiating spiritual masters the technical platform and relevant training for effectively maintaining and operating their individual disciples' database (within the Initiated Devotees Global Database).

The Manager of the ISKCON Initiated Devotees Global Database shall develop systems for handling information requests.

Caitanya Avatari Das is appointed as the Manager of the ISKCON Initiated Devotees Global Database.

304: GDO Director

Whereas the first seventeen Global Duty Officers (GDOs) have been serving since October 2016 and this period offered precious opportunities to observe the workings of the system and to identify possible improvements;

Whereas it is necessary to formalize and clarify the functions of GDO coordination, supervision and reporting;

Resolved:

The position of GDO Director is hereby established.

The Director shall receive and maintain the GDOs' quarterly reports and yearly plans, facilitating and supporting their service, and ensuring timely reporting and accountability.

The Director reports to and shall serve as ex-officio member of the GBC Nominations Committee.

Tapana Misra Das is hereby appointed as the GDO Director for a renewable three-year tenure.

305: GDO Presence at GBC Meetings

Whereas the Global Duty Officers (GDOs) directly serve the GBC in various international projects and Initiatives;

Whereas some of the GDOs may become GBC members in the future (and can therefore benefit from some familiarization with GBC workings);

Resolved:

GDOs shall be allowed and encouraged to attend, as non-voting guests—in consideration of their specific talents and services, as well as the appropriateness of the various topics and agenda planned by the GBC—at least a few days of the GBC Meetings (Annual and Midterm), to interact and become familiar with different dimensions of GBC service, such as the work of the Deputies, the GBC Organizational Development Committee, the global Ministries and the Governing Body Commission itself.

Such attendance shall be coordinated by the GDO Director, in consultation with the GBC Executive Committee and with the Chairs/Ministers/Directors/etc. of specific Committees/Ministries/Offices/etc.

306: The SABHA (*Spiritual Advisors Bhagavata Assembly*)

Whereas the Sanga of GBCs, Gurus & Sannyasis (SGGS), in February 2017, expressed the desire to strengthen unity among ISKCON's global spiritual leaders by establishing a system that facilitates cooperation, communication, some form of checks & balances and course-correction;

Whereas the GBC had preliminarily approved the SABHA proposal in October 2017, after which the rest of the SGGS also received and supported it;

Resolved:

The SABHA (*Spiritual Advisors Bhagavata Assembly*), is hereby established and the attached SABHA Document is accepted as ISKCON Law.

The co-chairs of the GBC Organizational Development Committee (Org Dev) shall support and supervise, with the help of Org Dev, the first election of SABHA members (by the SGGS and the other electing entities) and help with the SABHA implementation till the selection of its Chair by the SABHA.

The present estimate is that election shall take place approximately three months after the 2018 AGM.

307: Official Srila Prabhupada Disciple Database

Whereas the Srila Prabhupada Disciple Database was started in 1995 as part of the Srila Prabhupada Centennial Project under the petal of Uniting Srila Prabhupada's Family and is based on the "Initiation Name Book" which was compiled by Srila Prabhupada's secretaries;

Whereas Mahamaya-devi dasi (ACBSP) has expanded the approximate 3,900 names from the last version of the initiation name book that she typed in 1977 by compiling through research of Srila Prabhupada's letters and initiation tapes as well as face-to-face meetings with devotees at festivals and at temples to the current number of approximately 4750 names;

Whereas the process of adding names involves thoroughly verifying that the devotee was indeed initiated by Srila Prabhupada (or his authorized representative) while he was personally present (ie. before November 14, 1977);

Whereas the process of verification involves consulting with the devotees who got initiated at the same fire sacrifice or who witnessed the ceremony; or using photos that show conclusively when and where the initiation was held;

Whereas there are devotees who have taken the online posting of the Srila Prabhupada Disciple Database currently hosted on Krishna.com and used that as a basis of their own online projects, pretending to be authorized or to be the official database, but who accept anyone who claims to be initiated by Srila Prabhupada without using a process of verification and who are thus causing confusion and discrediting the validity of the Srila Prabhupada Disciple Database;

Resolved:

That the Srila Prabhupada Disciple Database is an authorized GBC project with Mahamaya-devi dasi as the compiler. Access shall be shared with the GBC Secretariat.

308: Dedication of Time to Guru-Related Research

Whereas GBC Resolution 310 of 2015 states:

Guru Related Research
[Statement]

Based on the sacred siddhanta of guru-tattva, and with a positive and enthusiastic spirit, the GBC undertakes the responsibility to provide for present and future generations of devotees, a comprehensive and inclusive understanding that delineates how diksa- and siksa-gurus unitedly work within the framework of ISKCON.

In the meantime the existing resolutions and proposals concerning (a) Vaisnavi diksa-gurus and (b) disciples initiating in the physical presence of their initiating guru, are held in abeyance until these roles are defined within the above-mentioned comprehensive research. The progress of that effort as regards these resolutions will be reviewed annually until its conclusion, to which the GBC is steadfastly dedicated to accomplish.

Whereas the issues of implementation of Vaishnavi *dikṣa-gurus* and disciples initiating in the presence of their initiating guru in ISKCON remain unresolved;

Whereas there is a critical need for many more devotees to serve as *diksa-guru* in ISKCON;

Whereas there are at least 9 million congregational members in ISKCON;

Whereas ISKCON has less than 80 devotees available to give *diksa* to potentially 9 million people;

Whereas if every congregational member sought initiation each ISKCON guru would have to accept approximately 112,500 disciples;

Whereas the moratorium on both Vaishnavi and second-generation devotees serving as *diksa-guru* remains until the GBC concludes its research on *guru-tattva* in ISKCON;

Whereas the GBC Body previously committed to that research and to annually review, until its conclusion, a comprehensive and inclusive understanding that delineates how *diksa-* and *siksa-gurus* unitedly work within the framework of ISKCON;

Whereas the GBC stated it “is steadfastly dedicated” to accomplish the above;

Resolved:

The GBC recommits to its statement of 310/2015, and begins by dedicating at least two days at either every Annual General Meeting or Midterm General Meeting to this subject until the relevant aspects of this topic are resolved satisfactorily.

309: Radha Krsna Deity Worship Standards
[ISKCON Law]

Resolution A:

Whereas Srila Prabhupada has stated that the worship of Radha-Krsna is the “ultimate pinnacle” of worship and “must be done with the utmost caution and attention”;

Whereas there are Radha-Krsna Deities being worshipped with less than five *aratis* per day;

Whereas there are Radha-Krsna Deities being worshipped by, or cooked for by non-brahmanas;

Whereas improper worship of Radha-Krsna is having long-term detrimental effects on individual devotees, local communities, and the whole of ISKCON;

Whereas Deity worship must be done according to the rules of the Pancaratra and the instructions of Srila Prabhupada to be effective;

Whereas when Deity worship is done properly following the rules of worship and maintaining strict cleanliness and punctuality, the worship is enlivening to devotees;

Whereas the maintenance of public Deity worship in an ISKCON center is the responsibility of the management of that center, under the supervision of that center's zonal authorities, but ultimately it is the responsibility of the GBC Zonal Secretary and the GBC Body;

Whereas in centers where the worship is below the required minimum standard, it is often a result of zonal leadership, local temple management, and/or the head pujari not knowing the proper standards of worship;

Whereas if proper worship standards are not being maintained, appropriate steps must be taken to rectify the situation;

Whereas since the decision to move an established Deity from a center is a serious consequence of ongoing neglect in worship which may adversely impact devotees and communities, there must be clear procedures, including objective assessment in place to ensure that such decisions are taken with the utmost caution and consideration of all parties;

Whereas if all other avenues for correction have been exhausted, Srila Prabhupada did sanction the moving of Deities (eg. Edinburgh);

Whereas Srila Prabhupada was clearly not in favor of closing a center once Deities had been established (eg. Edinburgh);

Whereas every year there are more and more Radha-Krsna Deities being installed in ISKCON;

Whereas at present the only procedures mentioned in ISKCON Law regarding moving of Deities are when the property on which the Deity resides is proposed to be sold. There are no procedures on deciding when to move a Deity due to insufficient standards of worship. The GBC Body wants to establish clear procedures now so that as far as possible future disputes and disruptions can be avoided;

Resolved:

Radha-Krsna Deities at ISKCON centers must be worshiped at least to minimum standards as given by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and as documented by ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry (IDWM).

IDWM is responsible to assess worship standards of ISKCON centers worshiping Radha-Krsna to ensure that at least minimum standards are being maintained.

Any concerns that minimum required worship standards are not being maintained must be addressed directly to IDWM.

IDWM will investigate and respond to all reports of substandard worship of Radha-Krsna in ISKCON centers to establish their legitimacy.

Any substantiated concerns of substandard worship requiring significant or immediate corrective action will be reported to the local management, local GBC(s) and the GBC Body. This assessment and report will include a detailed outline of the current standard of worship, highlighting strengths and challenges, and identifying corrective action required.

Such cases would include, but not be limited to:

- First-initiated or non-initiated devotees cooking for, or directly serving the Deities on the altar
- Deities being mistreated
- Lack of protection for the Deities (i.e. gates and/or security guards)
- Inconsistent or irregular worship, including offerings and *aratis*

Any centers assessed as not currently worshiping Radha-Krsna to at least minimum required standards will be put on notice by IDWM. IDWM will then communicate with the center management as well as the GBC Zonal Secretary and Regional Governing Bodies to develop a corrective action plan to improve the worship within a specified timeframe.

Temporarily reduced standards of worship
In cases where it is determined a center will be able to return to a full worship standard in a given timeframe, yet currently lacks the capacity to offer full worship to the Lord, IDWM in conjunction with GBC EC may allow the center to offer a reduced standard of worship.

Before adopting such a reduced standard, a clear and detailed corrective action plan to achieve at least minimum worship standards must be developed. This plan must identify all necessary steps to return to at least minimum worship standards. This temporary reduced standard of worship may not be reduced further.

If it becomes necessary to reduce the standard further, then the next measure to be considered would be to move the Deities to a center that has the capacity to care for the Deities.

Moving Deities
If it is determined by consultation with the local management, GBC Zonal Secretary, Regional Body, and the IDWM, that no solution can be found within a reasonable time period (2 years maximum), the IDWM will then propose to the GBC Body at a General Meeting that the Deities be relocated to a center that has the desire and capacity to care for the Deities.

The following elements and considerations must be included in any proposal for moving Deities:

- Whether or not the move will improve the situation for both centers.
- The property where Deities are being moved to must be owned by ISKCON.
- Detailed assessment of the current standard of worship, highlighting strengths and challenges.
- Detailed assessment of the target center's ability to care for the Deities, highlighting strengths and challenges.
- Detailed assessment of the managerial environment of both the existing host center and the target center.
- Detailed financial assessment of both the existing host center and the target center.
- Detailed assessment of the preaching prospects for both the existing host center and the target center.
- Detailed assessment of both the existing host center and the target center's capacity to maintain existing brahmanas, and develop and train new brahmanas.
- Letters from management of both the existing host center and the target center expressing their approval of the proposed relocation.

- Letters from GBC(s) of both the existing host center and the target center expressing their approval of the proposed relocation.
- Letters from other significant stakeholders expressing their approval of the proposed relocation.

Processing a proposal to move Deities by correspondence vote will only be allowed if it was previously discussed and resolved in a duly convened meeting that the matter could be finalized by a correspondence vote.

If it is decided that the best plan is for Deities to be moved to another ISKCON center, then the center to which the Deities are proposed to be moved should be able to provide the requisite standard of Deity worship, and this should be independently verified by the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry and the GBC Executive Committee. If the Deities are moved, They should be moved at a scheduled time with all appropriate public ceremonies.

Emergencies
In cases of extreme emergency, including but not limited to natural disasters, civil unrest, etc., where the immediate safety of the Deities is in question, a decision to move the Deities to a safe location may be made, without the full analysis detailed above, by the local GBC representative, Temple President or their authorized representative.

The local GBC, GBC EC, and ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry must be informed once the Deities have been moved to a safe location.

Resolution B
Whereas the GBC has enacted the following Law governing the commencement of worship of Deities in ISKCON centers:

> *Amendment of ISKCON Law **12.1.6: "Regulation of Deity Installations in ISKCON**"*
> *{ISKCON Law]*
>
> *Any ISKCON center wishing to install any Deities for public temple worship or commence the worship of any Deity in an ISKCON center must first receive a "Certificate of Readiness for Worship" for the said Deities.*
>
> *Centers may procure Deities and begin promoting planned temple openings or additions to existing worship once they have successfully completed the first stage of the approval process. Centers shall not commit to and/or publicly advertise final dates for commencement of worship until they receive a "Certificate of Readiness for Worship."*
>
> *This "Certificate of Readiness for Worship" applies only to the Deities for which it is granted and is not a generic permanent approval.*
>
> *The initial contact: The center wishing to commence the worship of Deities makes an application via the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry's website, Deityworship.com. After receiving this application, the IDWM contacts the local GBC and regional authorities to assess the viability of the application. If this consultation shows the center has made a proper analysis of the requirements to worship Deities and are moving in the right direction regarding allocation resources, etc. to the worship of the Deities then the first stage approval is granted. This then enables the temple to make arrangements to acquire Deities and commence fund-raising, etc.*
>
> *The second and final stage will be assessed based on the findings of a site visit by a IDWM*

representative, or comprehensive consultation with concerned devotees.

The readiness for worship will be assessed by a local representative (from the temple concerned); the local GBC, regional leadership (which may include a representative from the National Council or RGB, etc.); and an ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry representative. The GBC Executive Committee will be informed of the assessment outcome.

For any applications for Deities apart from those given by Srila Prabhupada, i.e. Radha-Krsna; Jagannatha, Baladeva, Subhadra; and Gaura-Nitai (or Panca-tattva) and salagram silas; the IDWM requires executive input.

Therefore, for any application that includes Krsna-Balarama or Sita Rama Lakshman Hanuman, the IDWM will consult with the GBC Executive Committee for approval.

Any Deities apart from the aforementioned must be approved by the GBC Body before the IDWM can issue a Certificate of Readiness for installing Deities.

This Certificate of Readiness is valid for up to 180 days beyond the initial scheduled installation date. If the 180 day period has elapsed without the installation being completed, the temple will be reassessed by the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry for a new Certificate of Readiness to be issued.

Whereas it is necessary to address discrepancies in Radha-Krsna worship in ISKCON temples;

Whereas it is necessary to ensure that new worship is established and maintained according to standards given by Srila Prabhupada and taught by the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry;

Resolved:

That the ISKCON Law governing the commencement of worship of Deities in ISKCON centers shall be amended to include the following:

ISKCON centers proposing to commence worship of Radha-Krishna Deities must ensure that their proposed head pujari is well-versed and sufficiently trained in required minimum standards of worship for Radha-Krishna in ISKCON.

In order to achieve this, the candidate for head pujari must be a graduate of the Mayapur Academy.

310: ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry Standing Annual Presentation to GBC Body

Whereas when Deity worship is done properly following the rules of worship and maintaining strict cleanliness and punctuality, the worship is enlivening to devotees;

Whereas, it has been seen that in temples where the worship is below the required minimum standard, it is often a result of zonal leadership, temple management, and/or the head pujari not knowing the proper standards of worship;

Whereas GBC members and other leaders of ISKCON may not have the time to learn appropriate standards for ISKCON centers;

Whereas, the maintenance of public Deity worship in an ISKCON center is the responsibility of the management of that center, under the supervision of that center's zonal authorities, but ultimately it is the responsibility of the GBC Zonal Secretary and the GBC Body;

Whereas Deity worship is one of the five primary *angas* of bhakti and therefore of primary importance in a *sadhaka's* progress in spiritual life;

Whereas other primary activities of ISKCON, such as book distribution, have standing annual presentation time to the GBC and discussion on ISKCON Deity worship at our centers is similarly worthy of the GBC Body's attention and awareness;

Resolved:

Each year at the AGM in Mayapur, the ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry will be allocated a minimum of 1 hour, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, to present a report of Deity worship in ISKCON, particularly with a focus on Radha-Krsna worship.

311: Establishing The ISKCON International Office for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct (PLM Office) as a permanent ISKCON managerial entity

Whereas ISKCON does not have established formal Policies and Procedures to maintain ecclesiastical leadership standards within our Society regarding Sexual Misconduct of Leaders nor does ISKCON have methodologies to respond appropriately when a leader demonstrates Sexual Misconduct;

Whereas many large and global religious organizations have deemed it proper to establish such systems;

Whereas having such Policies and Procedures in place has many specific advantages including:

- Leaders are trained and aware that Sexual Misconduct will not be tolerated or ignored.
- An injured party will have access to an official process to report Sexual Misconduct and will have confidence that there will be an impartial and non-judgmental response to their complaint.
- If an accused leader is found to be blameless there will be opportunity to re-establish the leader in good grace rather than continue to be subject to rumors. There will be an official procedure to protect the reputation of leaders falsely accused of Misconduct.
- Local GBC and Zonal Supervisors will not shoulder the burden of dealing with these difficult issues on their own and will have the weight of Policy and Procedure and the support of the ISKCON International Office for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct to assist them.
- ISKCON Leadership is held to a high standard of ecclesiastical, ethical and moral level of behavior which is organizationally supported by Policy.
- Having Policies and Procedures in place creates a safer environment for everyone.
- Lawsuits and other actions against ISKCON leaders and temples may be deferred or prevented if ISKCON responds in a responsible and appropriate manner to complaints.
- Pastoral sexual misconduct is now a criminal offense in many countries and this trend is growing. Religious organizations are responding with Policies and procedures to prevent and manage such cases. ISKCON needs to be proactive.

Whereas ISKCON North America developed Policies and Procedures several years ago including a process for investigating complaints, assisting those who have been injured, protecting the reputation of leaders falsely accused of Misconduct and restricting the services of those who have offended;

Whereas the above-mentioned system has been successful in increasing awareness, in raising the standards of leadership conduct and in establishing a process where reports of Misconduct are investigated by devotees with professional training (social workers, lawyers, psychologists, teachers) outside of the affected community with objectivity, equality, compassion and professionalism;

Whereas GBC and other leaders from zones outside of North America have been requesting assistance to deal with reports or to establish Policies and Procedures in their zones;

Whereas Leader Sexual Misconduct has become recognized as a seriously damaging phenomena in religious and other organizations;

Resolved:

1. The ISKCON International Office for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct (PLM Office) be established as a permanent ISKCON organizational entity subject to review by the GBC Body (as with other Offices and Ministries). The PLM Office Director will be responsible to the GBC EC through the ISKCON Executive Secretariat.
2. The immediate goals of The PLM Office will be to draft a document of ISKCON International Policies and Procedures for a) preventing Leader Sexual Misconduct b) responding to complaints and c) conducting investigations.
3. The PLM Office will collect and provide educational resources, assist Zones in establishing investigative teams to respond to and manage complaints, and research successful programs for education, support and recovery.
4. The Policies and Procedures document shall be developed for review by the GBC at the 2018 Midterm General Meeting. The Deputies will be requested to review this document before it is submitted. At the 2019 Annual General Meeting, a final version of the Policies and Procedures document will be submitted for approval by the full GBC Body.

312: Appointment of Director for Prevention of Leader Misconduct Office

Whereas someone skilled and experienced is required to establish and develop the new ISKCON International Office for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct (PLM Office);

Whereas Champakalata dd has volunteered to take up this service;

Resolved:

That Champakalata Devi Dasi is appointed as the Director of the ISKCON International Office for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct (PLM Office) for a period of two years from March 2018 to February 2020.

It is further resolved that the mandate and performance of the PLM Office will be subject to review by the GBC Body (as with other Offices and Ministries). The PLM Office Director will report to the GBC EC through the ISKCON Executive Secretariat.

313: Jayapataka Swami Sisya Samuha Project

The GBC directs the Mayapur Executive Board (MEB) to approve the request from the Jayapataka Swami Sisya Samuha to build a structure designated for the purposes of a Guest House, Devotee Care Facility, Offices, Archives and Museum on the five acre plot of land as proposed to the GBC on February 16, 2018.

The MEB should ensure the project goes through the standard review procedures with special attention to guarantee proper green space and height limitations. Also, there should be restrictions put in place regarding external signage to ensure any signs are tastefully done.

In addition, the GBC directs the MEB to place reasonable limits on the amount of floor space to be used for Museum purposes, for example no more than 10-20% of the total available floor space.

314: CPO Manual Revision

The revised ISKCON Child Protection Policy and Operational Guidelines as proposed to the Governing Body Commission by the Central Office of Child Protection during the GBC Annual General Meeting 2018 are hereby approved by the GBC.

315: Update on Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School, Vrindavan

Whereas there has been improvement in the Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School, Vrindavan, in regards to positive communications and cooperation with the Child Protection Team;

Whereas this is aiding to establish clear policies and systems to safeguard children;

Whereas the GBC recognizes and appreciates this progress, but wishes to see additional improvements in these areas;

Resolved: That the Bhaktivedanta Gurukula and International School will remain on probation until the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

316: Sannyasi Standards and Discipline

Whereas the GBC law passed as resolution 104 of 1999 “COMPLAINTS ABOUT SANNYASIS” states as follows in its entirety:

> *THAT the GBC Sannyasa Sub-committee shall deal with any complaints against sannyasis. An investigation will be initiated if a majority of the members judges a complaint to merit investigation. Decisions will be made by a majority vote. The GBC Executive Committee shall present the decision to the GBC Body either by correspondence or at the next annual general meeting. A decision of the Sannyasa Sub-committee will be overturned by a majority vote of the GBC Body; otherwise the sub-committee’s decision remains in effect. A sannyasi who does not abide by the decision shall be subjected to penalties according to ISKCON Law. If there are complaints against sannyasis who are also GBC members or gurus, the GBC Executive Committee may decide to deal with them itself; however, in that case the Sannyasa Minister should also participate in the decision-making process.*

Whereas this existing procedure has worked well in some instances. However, it should also be considered that sannyasis often function within the ISKCON structure in much the same way that others do, and thus should be subject to the same service rules as other devotees. Complaints about sannyasis may thus be relevant for both local authorities as well as ISKCON in general and there may be confusion as to whether a particular locally relevant disciplinary matter should be dealt with by local authorities or at the international level by the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services. This confusion has caused the above ISKCON law to be neglected in some cases and there is a need to rationalize the situation.

Resolved:

That the above quoted Law 1999-104 is hereby amended to state as follows:

> ISKCON sannyasis shall be subject to the same basic disciplinary rules as other ISKCON members regarding the conduct of their services within ISKCON. A sannyasi's behavior that is subject to disciplinary action is specified in the approved ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services' Policy Manual. However, if any complaint concerning a sannyasi is received by any ISKCON authority then the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services shall be promptly informed of the complaint as well as of any and all subsequent actions taken either by the ISKCON authority receiving the complaint or any other ISKCON authority that becomes involved in the matter.
>
> Upon being informed in this regard, the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services shall consider whether the matter is in any way relevant to its mandate to uphold the prestige of the sannyasa asrama. If so, then it may choose to advise the ISKCON authority(ies) that are dealing with the matter locally and/or undertake its own proceedings.
>
> However, if a complaint is received directly by the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services and it contains primarily general concerns about the behavior and activities of a particular sannyasi then it can be dealt with directly by the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services according to the following procedures:
>
> An investigation will be initiated if a majority of the Sannyasa Standing Committee members determines a complaint to merit investigation. Disciplinary decisions will also be made by a majority vote. The GBC Executive Committee shall present the decision to the GBC Body either by correspondence or at the next Annual General Meeting. A decision of the Sannyasa Standing Committee may be overturned by a majority vote of the GBC Body; otherwise the Standing Committee's decision remains in effect. A sannyasi who does not abide by the decision shall be subjected to penalties according to ISKCON Law. The appeals process is explained in the Policy Manual.
>
> Changes to the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services' Policy Manual must be approved by the GBC.

317: Regarding Bhakti Visrambha Madhava Swami

Whereas the GBC Executive Committee suspended Bhakti Visrambha Madhava Swami as an initiating guru effective May 8, 2017 due to his inappropriate and erratic behavior;

Whereas after meeting with Maharaja on February 8 2018, the GBC Body has decided that existing restrictions on him should be continued;

Whereas the GBC is the well-wisher of Maharaja and recognizes that he is not well and needs our support as well as appropriate boundaries;

Resolved:

The existing restrictions that Bhakti Visrambha Madhava Swami shall not initiate or receive any public worship will continue indefinitely or until further review by the GBC.

In addition, Maharaja is not allowed to give any kind of formal class or speak as a representative of ISKCON at any ISKCON Temple or ISKCON related program.

We further advise and direct Maharaja to reside at the ISKCON Vrindavan Community, where he has ashram facilities, or at the ISKCON Juhu Temple, where the leaders are happy to accommodate Maharaja's stay.

A letter explaining the GBC's concerns and recommendations about Maharaja's health and status, as well as the well-being of his disciples, will also be distributed.

318: Letter to Disciples of Bhakti Visrambha Madhava Swami

Dear Disciples and Well-Wishers of His Holiness Bhakti Visrambha Madhava Swami and other ISKCON Members,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

We write to you with saddened hearts.

As you well know, HH Bhakti Visrambha Madhava Maharaja has been faithfully and steadily serving his spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada, and the global ISKCON society for more than four decades. From his years of preaching and serving in temples in the United States and India, up to his taking sannyasa so that he could even more fully dedicate his life to Srila Prabhupada's mission, Maharaja has been an example of loyal and humble service to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

But now, by the influence of time, Maharaja's physical and psychological health have become compromised.

We, the entire Governing Body Commission, offer heartfelt prayers to the Lord for Maharaja's improved health. The material world is a difficult place, and we know that even very sincere Vaisnavas sometime suffer setbacks, unexpected diseases, and other challenges in their services.

In Maharaja's case, the GBC Body has discussed his current health issues among ourselves and with Maharaja. We also took guidance from health care professionals in assessing what is best for Maharaja and his continued service in the ISKCON society.

In a spirit of service to Maharaja, as well as his disciples, we have decided that at this point in his life Maharaja needs to restrict his travel. We have formally advised and directed him to spend his time between two places, Vrindavan and the Juhu Temple, and not to travel elsewhere, except to Delhi for medical reasons. In Vrindavan, Maharaja has an apartment asrama where he can reside peacefully. At Juhu, the leaders have pledged to care for Maharaja whenever he comes there, up to six months or more each year.

In addition, Maharaja will, for the foreseeable future, not be allowed to give classes at ISKCON temples. The restriction placed upon Maharaja in May 2017 to not accept disciples also remains in place indefinitely. We use the word indefinitely to make it clear that it could be a long time before Maharaja recovers.

Because of his inability to care for new disciples, and because Maharaja was instructed to not initiate past that date, any initiations after May 2017 are invalid and not spiritually binding. We strongly recommend anyone who may have taken initiation from Maharaja after May 2017 to seek spiritual care from the many sources of shelter within the ISKCON community.

Those devotees, as well as all of Maharaja's disciples, are encouraged to continue to serve and take shelter of our Founder-Acharya, Srila Prabhupada, and his ISKCON society. They are advised to take *siksa,* guidance, encouragement and the association of advanced devotees, gurus and friends within ISKCON, as they may need. And, of course, we know that Lord Krishna is always giving His support, help and protection to all of us from within our hearts as *caitya-guru.*

In closing, we request that all ISKCON devotees pray to Lord Krishna to give His continued loving shelter to Bhakti Visrambha Madhava Maharaja. We thank the leaders of ISKCON Vrindavan and ISKCON Juhu for helping to care for Maharaja. We ask all ISKCON devotees to give their care, love and assistance to the disciples and followers of Maharaja, so that they can continue without obstruction in their devotional service knowing that they have the love and full support of the entire ISKCON Vaishnava community.

Hare Krsna,

Your servants on behalf of the GBC,

Madhu Sevita Das
Bhaktivaibhava Swami
Ramai Swami
(GBC Executive Committee)

319: Letter of Appreciation for Harivilas Das

For nearly five decades, His Grace Harivilas Prabhu has been exemplary in his service to Srila Prabhupada. From the beginning of his life in Krsna consciousness, Harvilas Prabhu earnestly took on the responsibility of Srila Prabhupada's mission in many capacities and many places, beginning with the development of the French yatra.

Along with much service responsibility, Harivilas Prabhu has been an ideal grhastha, caring for his family and giving generously towards the printing of Srila Prabhupada's books from the profits of his successful business.

As Harivilas Prabhu continues to expand his services for ISKCON, we thank him for his thirty years of commitment to the GBC Body. In recognition of his uncompromising dedication to Srila Prabhupada's GBC, we are honored to present him with the title of GBC Emeritus.

320: Letter of Appreciation for Bhakti Vijnana Goswami

Dear Bhakti Vijnana Goswami,

Please accept our humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Although this letter is delayed by the unforeseen change of agenda at the Midterm General Meetings in Ujjain, please accept our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the decades of service you have rendered on behalf of Srila Prabhupada's GBC Body.

For twenty years, you have shouldered the responsibility for the Russian *yatra,* which is not only one of our largest *yatras,* but also one of the most successful under your capable leadership. Over and over again, the future of Krsna consciousness in Russia was put into jeopardy, but you heroically led the devotees in defeating all those that opposed Srila Prabhupada's mission.

While capably managing so many challenging situations, you simultaneously maintained focus on strengthening the spiritual standards of the devotees, providing them guidance, inspiration, and practical opportunities to deepen their bhakti.

As a very hands-on GBC, you have not only participated in the Russian National Council meetings on a management level, but also used it as an opportunity for the leaders to hear and chant together.

You created the same good fortune for the Russian *brahmacaris* by striving to strengthen the *brahmacari* asrama in Moscow, thereby strengthening the *brahmacari asrama* throughout the country.

This emphasis on education and training has been a wonderful gift for the Russian *yatra* because you not only encourage the devotees to develop quality in their spiritual lives, but create and support programs that will practically assist them to this end.

For so many years, you have sacrificed everything--your time, your energy, even your health--to serve Srila Prabhupada's mission, all the while caring for so many other senior leaders in a very personal way.

We pray that you will find the care required to rejuvenate your health so that you can continue to use your extraordinary abilities and wisdom to preserve Srila Prabhupada's teachings through education and training.

And whenever you find it possible, we would be grateful to have your participation in discussions aimed at improving the functions of the GBC Body so that we can all benefit from the years of insight and wisdom you have gained through your service.

As an expression of our deep appreciation and gratitude, we humbly offer you the title of GBC Emeritus. Please accept this honor as a valuable member of the GBC Body and Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON.

There is no doubt that His Divine Grace is showering his loving mercy upon you, but nevertheless, we pray to Srila Prabhupada that he may always engage you in serving his glorious mission. And we pray that we may always have the opportunity to serve alongside you.

Thank you very much.

Your servants on behalf of the GBC Body,

Bhakti Charu Swami
Madhu Sevita Das
Bhaktivaibhava Swami
(2017 GBC Executive Committee)