

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

May 2019

*Coordinator of the body of elders:* The announcements and reminders **for the congregation** should be read at the next midweek meeting and thereafter posted on the information board for one month.

### FOR THE ELDERS ONLY

1. **Annual Items:** Each congregation should enter its own request for annual items for 2020 no later than **August 1, 2019**. The quantity requested from the branch office should reflect the actual quantity requested by publishers.

2. **Bethel Service:** When a baptized Christian who is 19 years of age or older informs you of his desire to pursue Bethel service or assist with theocratic construction projects on a part-time or full-time basis, you should adhere closely to the following instructions:

- In addition to providing the prospective applicant the *Application for Volunteer Program* (A-19) and its cover letter (A-20) or the *Application to Become a Member of the Worldwide Order of Special Full-Time Servants of Jehovah's Witnesses* (A-8) and its cover letter (A-9), please be sure to provide him with the A-63 letter regarding pornography.
- Remind the prospective applicant of his responsibility to view the videos *Making Yourself Available for Bethel Service* and *Be Honest in All Things (Bethel/Construction Application)* before prayerfully completing the application. Explain to him that viewing the two videos is a requirement for all who submit the applications.

The aforementioned instructions do not apply to exemplary publishers who complete the *Local Design/Construction Volunteer Application* (DC-50) in order to make themselves available periodically to support construction and maintenance projects for limited periods of time within a reasonable travel distance from their home.

3. **Baptism Questions:** The two baptism questions that are reviewed with candidates at the time of their concluding discussion with the elders and that are included at the end of each baptism talk outline have been changed as follows: (1) "Have you repented of your sins, dedicated yourself to Jehovah, and accepted his way of salvation through Jesus Christ?" (2) "Do you understand that your baptism identifies you as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in association with Jehovah's organization?" The new questions will be used starting with the baptism talks at assemblies and conventions beginning the week of May 13, 2019. Elders should update the two questions on page 209 in their copies of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will*.

4. **Disaster Preparedness:** Each year, you should use a local needs part to review with the congregation pertinent points from the *Shepherd* book, chapter 26, paragraph 6.

5. **JW Event App:** This new app is being used along with the [jw2019.org](http://jw2019.org) website for organizing confirmed delegates and approved volunteers in connection with the 2019 international conventions. It is available for download in the Apple App and Google Play stores. We wish to make this known to you in the event some publishers wonder if this is an official application supported by the organization.

6. **JW Stream:** Currently, all elders and ministerial servants have access to JW Stream using their [jw.org](http://jw.org) user name. However, beginning Wednesday, June 5, 2019, it will be necessary for users to enter their [jwpub](mailto:username@jwpub.org) user name (username@jwpub.org) when logging in to JW Stream. Please inform ministerial servants of this adjustment. The form *Access to Programs on JW Stream by Elders and Ministerial Servants* (S-142) will be revised in due course.

7. **Kingdom Hall and Assembly Hall Construction Worldwide:** During the month of May, please arrange to review how your congregation has done in fulfilling its resolved donation to support Kingdom Hall and Assembly Hall construction worldwide to determine whether or not there is a need to adjust it for the coming year. The desire of the congregation to support the arrangement and the congregation's financial circumstances should be considered carefully. If necessary, a confidential survey of all publishers may be taken, inquiring of the amount each family is able to contribute monthly toward all local congregation expenses. If the body of elders decides that a reasonable adjustment should be made to the monthly donation, a new resolution should be presented to the congregation. If no adjustment is recommended, the current resolution may remain in effect.

8. **Kingdom Ministry School for the 2020 Service Year:** Arrangements are being made for classes of the Kingdom Ministry School to be held during the 2020 service year. The course will be approximately eight hours in length and will be for elders only. Your circuit overseer will soon inform you of the specific dates and location of the class that you will be assigned to attend.

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### FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. **Annual Items:** Annual items for 2020 will be made available for download beginning in October of this year. Publishers who require hard copy editions may now request the following items: 2019 *Watchtower* and *Awake!* bound volume, *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2020*, and the *Watch Tower Publications Index 2019*. Additionally, requests may be submitted for braille editions of *Examining the Scriptures Daily*.

2. **Bethel Service Video:** We are pleased to announce that the May 2019 JW Broadcasting program features a new video encouraging Bethel service. The video is entitled *Making Yourself Available for Bethel Service*. Beginning May 20, 2019, the video will be available for review by all who are interested in applying to serve at Bethel or to assist with theocratic construction projects. To access the video on JW Broadcasting, look under VIDEO ON DEMAND > OUR ORGANIZATION > BETHEL. To access the video on *JW Library*, go to MEDIA > VIDEO > OUR ORGANIZATION > BETHEL. Baptized Christians 19 years of age or older who desire to pursue Bethel service or assist with theocratic construction projects on a part-time or full-time basis should view this video as well as the video entitled *Be Honest in All Things (Bethel/Construction Application)* before requesting an application from the elders.