

# Announcements and Reminders

October 2020

## FOR ELDERS

1. **Revised *Shepherd Book*:** We are pleased to inform you that a revised version of the *Shepherd* book will soon be posted on [jw.org](http://jw.org). Please be aware that revisions to the text in the JW PUB and EPUB versions of the book may affect the location of highlights, notes, and bookmarks made by the user in the previous version. Elders who have a printed copy of the April 2020 version of the book should not request another printed copy at this time. Listed below is an overview of the significant textual changes. Elders in congregations hosting pre-groups and groups should review chapter 24 in its entirety. The chapter was revised in line with the announcement for elders in the June 2020 *Announcements and Reminders* (S-147).

### Chapter 9

- Pars. 6-7: Updated direction regarding the transfer of regular pioneers and use of the congregation person record.

### Chapter 11

- Par. 8: Clarified to indicate that the elders should contact the Hospital Liaison Committee in behalf of publishers who request help in situations involving (or *potentially involving*) the blood issue.

### Chapter 12

- Par. 39.2: Added bowing before shrines or idols to the list of activities that could constitute interfaith.

### Chapter 14

- Pars. 26-27: Clarified that if an individual who has been accused of child sexual abuse moves away to live at a second residence on a regular basis, two elders from the congregation that the individual has moved from and two elders from the congregation that the individual has moved to should immediately call the Legal Department.

### Chapter 19

- Par. 1: Inserted direction on contacting the Service Department when a person who had certain privileges of service at the time of his disfellowshipping or disassociation requests reinstatement.
- Par. 14: Clarified that when a disfellowshipped or disassociated individual who has moved is approved for reinstatement, it is the original committee that notifies the Service Department of the reinstatement.

### Chapter 20

- Par. 24: Clarified that congregations may make use of broadcasting systems to benefit interested persons who are unable to attend local congregation meetings in person. Inserted direction that the elders may use their good judgment in determining whether to permit a disfellowshipped or disassociated person to connect to the meetings.
- Pars. 26-27: Clarified that congregations may provide interested persons with access to recordings of meetings, assemblies, and conventions on JW Stream. Inserted direction that the elders may use their good judgment in determining whether to provide a disfellowshipped or disassociated person with access to such recordings.

## Chapter 21

- Par. 9: Inserted updated direction regarding caring for expenses related to Kingdom Hall maintenance and repair. For example, clarified that neither congregations nor Kingdom Hall Operating Committees should save funds in excess of their target balance for Kingdom Hall repairs.
- Pars. 22-24: Inserted updated direction regarding caring for expenses related to renovations, upgrades, new installations, and new construction. For example, clarified that neither congregations nor Kingdom Hall Operating Committees should save funds in excess of their target balance for such activities unless directed to do so by the branch office.
- Par. 25: Adjusted to indicate that the Local Design/Construction Department will arrange for an inspection and evaluation of each Kingdom Hall every two *or three* years.

## Chapter 24

- Par. 2: Inserted new paragraph on caring for the spiritual needs of interested persons and publishers who are dependent on a language that no one in the congregation speaks.
- Pars. 3-5: Inserted updated direction on the requirements and procedure for recommending the formation of pregroups and groups.
- Par. 9: Inserted updated direction on the purpose of test meetings held by pregroups.
- Par. 12: Adjusted direction to indicate that in the exceptional circumstance that the meeting of a group must be held at a time other than during the host congregation's meeting, publishers may decide whether they will also attend that meeting with the host congregation.
- Par. 16: Clarified direction on recording the attendance at the meetings of a group.

## Chapter 27

- Par. 7: Inserted new paragraph on unilateral breaking of engagements to marry.

## Chapter 28

- Par. 21: Clarified direction on a publisher imprisoned for maintaining his Christian integrity being appointed to serve as an auxiliary pioneer, a regular pioneer, a ministerial servant, or an elder.

**2. Confidential Records:** During the time that Kingdom Halls are not in use, please take steps to ensure that confidential records are kept secure. If the Kingdom Hall is vulnerable to theft or vandalism, it may be wise to secure the confidential files in the home of an elder. —*sfl* chap. 22 par. 10.

**3. Telephone Service for Kingdom Halls:** A new Kingdom Hall Voice over Internet Protocol (KHVoIP) telephone service arrangement is now available through the branch office for Kingdom Halls in the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. Where possible, this service is intended to replace the existing telephone service being used. This can result in significant savings to local congregations. In most cases, the Kingdom Hall Operating Committee or maintenance coordinator can take the lead when transitioning to this new arrangement. For more information, please review the documents that are posted on [jw.org](http://jw.org) under Forms > Kingdom Hall > Kingdom Hall VoIP Telephone Setup.

## **FOR COORDINATORS OF THE BODIES OF ELDERS**

1. **Midweek Meeting Part on Neutrality:** If your congregation will be attending a circuit assembly the week of October 26, 2020, please ensure that the announcement for congregations is adjusted to indicate that the part will be presented the week of October 19, 2020.

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## FOR CONGREGATIONS

1. **Midweek Meeting Part on Neutrality:** The week of October 26, 2020, a 15-minute part entitled “Why Is Neutrality So Important?” will be presented in place of the 5-minute local needs part. We encourage all to make special effort to be in attendance.