

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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December 9, 2014

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Assisting Full-Time Servants

Dear Brothers:

Like first-century evangelizers, zealous full-time servants are a rich source of encouragement to the congregations, working hard to accomplish the all-important preaching of the good news of God's Kingdom during this time of the end. (Matt. 24:14) We trust that with your good encouragement, more and more will take up the full-time ministry.—Deut. 3:28.

Looking back on her pioneering, one faithful regular pioneer wrote the following about the elders in her congregation: “Our elders visited the pioneers every couple of months. They asked about our health and secular work and checked to see if we had any concerns. They really meant it. They visited our apartment so that they could see whether we needed assistance.” (September 15, 2014 *Watchtower*, page 30, paragraph 10) Dear fellow elders, please, how are you keeping the full-time servants in your congregation in mind? Like the exemplary elders cited, it is our sincere prayer that Jehovah will continue supplying you with his spirit as you lovingly shepherd and assist our dear full-time servants to thrive and grow spiritually.—1 Thess. 1:2, 3.

We send you our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: All circuit overseers

PS to the Congregation Service Committee: Please, upon receipt of this letter, arrange for the body of elders to read it together as soon as possible. Accompanying this letter is an outline for the December 2014 through January 2015 meeting with regular pioneers, special pioneers and field missionaries. The outline, *Elders Meet with Regular Pioneers, Special Pioneers and Field Missionaries* (S-211), can be found under the “Documents” tab in the “Forms” section of jw.org.

Please arrange for two qualified elders to conduct this meeting. The elders should *prepare well* so that the meeting will be of good encouragement to the pioneers. Other elders are encouraged to attend. If pioneers inquire about the arrangement for an *annual letter* to all regular pioneers, they may be informed that it has been *discontinued*.

Additionally, kindly note these few reminders and clarifications in the letter to bodies of elders dated August 25, 2014. We trust these reminders and clarifications will prove helpful as you provide encouragement for many to get right into the full-time ministry and appoint them as regular pioneers:

1. Once the congregation service committee decides on a pioneer applicant, the entire body of elders should be updated on how matters were handled. This should be done before even making entries on jw.org for the appointment to be registered by the branch office. (Letter, August 25, 2014, paragraph 4)
2. Please the expressions “*Inform the branch office*” and the “*branch office will be informed,*” appearing in the letter to the congregations dated August 24, 2014, implies the need to make entries on jw.org. By this means we get informed. Please, it is not necessary to make telephone calls or send emails to the branch, notifying us of your decision to appoint a regular pioneer unless the applicant has marked “yes” to the question, “Have you ever engaged in sexual child molestation?” (Letter, August 25, 2014, paragraph 3, last bullet point.)
3. Proper marriage registration is a Scriptural requirement for regular or auxiliary pioneering.—Rom. 13:1, 2; Heb. 13:4; *Our Kingdom Ministry*, Ghana Edition, April 2006, page 3.
4. An applicant must be literate, able to read at least the primary language of the local congregation he associates with. “One, who cannot read . . . cannot share in the privilege of auxiliary or regular pioneering.” (Letter to bodies of elders, April 5, 2009, paragraph 1; be p. 21 par. 3)
5. If an applicant was judicially reprovved previously, a minimum of one year should pass, counting from the date of the judicial reproof, with no restrictions outstanding, before he could be considered for regular or auxiliary pioneering. On the other hand, if an applicant was previously disfellowshipped, he can be considered for regular or auxiliary pioneering, only after a minimum of one year has passed, counting from the date of reinstatement, with no post-reinstatement restrictions outstanding.
6. A publisher from another country may qualify for appointment if legal residency is obtained or genuine steps have been taken to procure such. A valid visitor's visa may be accepted as documentation. However, a visitor's visa *does not* permit the holder to engage in profit-making ventures whilst residing in the country.—1 Tim. 3:7, 10. Letter to bodies of elders, September 1, 2013.
7. Please, carefully review applicants pursuing higher education. A pioneer should be a good example in sharing in all spiritual activities of the congregation which holds his publisher records. If the applicant lives in a campus or hostel accommodation, please be very careful. Review with the applicant the principles in the *Watchtower* of February 15, 2010, pages 22 and 23 and the letter to bodies of elders dated August 15, 2009.
8. Always remember to make announcements of pioneer deletions as directed in the letter to bodies of elders dated August 25, 2014, paragraph 6, 7.

Please, when in need of assistance in using jw.org with this new arrangement, direct your inquiry to the Computer Help Desk at the branch office. However, if you need assistance with policy matters or have questions about a specific pioneer, then direct your inquiry to the Pioneer Desk.