

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH TERRITORY

Re: Local Design/Construction Department Broadcast Highlights

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Dear Brothers:

1. The Local Design/Construction Department broadcast on January 31, 2015, was indeed a special occasion that provided a better understanding of the changes being made to accelerate Kingdom Hall construction. We are pleased to provide this letter to outline highlights from that meeting for your future reference.

2. **Organizational Refinements:** A new world headquarters department, Worldwide Design/Construction (WDC), was formed to oversee the scheduling and expediting of worldwide construction and renovation projects. Regional Design/Construction Departments (RDCs) serve as an extension of the WDC in overseeing construction in countries in their region. A Local Design/Construction Department (LDC) serving at the branch office level is responsible for coordinating the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls in the local branch territory.

3. A branch-wide plan is used to prioritize the needs for Kingdom Halls. LDC field representatives gather information from bodies of elders, circuit overseers, and others about local needs and circumstances. Field representatives generally meet with the Congregation Service Committee. However, other elders may attend if a body of elders feels that would be beneficial. The most critical needs are filled first. As congregations patiently wait for their needs to be cared for, they show generosity toward those with more urgent needs.—Phil. 2:4.

4. Because of the size of the United States branch territory, it has been divided into eight zones. A Local Design/Construction Office (LDCO) established in each zone cares for the work of construction and maintenance in its zone and cares for those assigned to do the work. Specific details will be provided later regarding the LDCO to which your congregation is assigned.

5. **Kingdom Hall Construction and Renovations:** Decisions related to what goes into a Kingdom Hall, where a Kingdom Hall should be built, when it should be remodeled, and what congregations should attend the Kingdom Hall are now made by the branch office. Standardization will streamline the purchasing process and will lower costs. The new design incorporates commercial features that will be more durable and cost-effective. Principles of this design will also be used when possible on renovation projects.

6. **Construction Groups:** Under the guidance of the LDC, construction groups care for the construction and renovation of theocratic facilities. (These construction groups should not be confused with the construction groups being used to identify persons to fill the needs at the Warwick construction project.) Construction groups are composed of up to eight special full-time construction servants or full-time construction volunteers. Congregations are extended the privilege of offering as much support as their circumstances allow.

7. **Construction Volunteer:** An exemplary baptized brother or sister who is skilled with at least a few years of work experience and who is available *full-time* from one week to six months may serve as a construction volunteer. Applicants must be at least 19 years of age. Preference is given to elders, ministerial servants, and pioneers. Depending on circumstances and availability, a construction volunteer may receive an assignment anywhere within the branch territory or even in another country. A construction volunteer applies by completing the *Application for Construction Volunteer Program (A-27)*, which is available in the “Forms” section of [jw.org](http://jw.org).

8. **Construction Servant:** After serving as a construction volunteer for three months, a brother or sister may apply to serve as a construction servant. This assignment is generally for one year or until the completion of the project to which the servant is assigned. When invited, he or she applies by completing the *Application to Become a Construction Servant in the Worldwide Order of Special Full-Time Servants of Jehovah’s Witnesses (A-32)*. This application is only available from the branch office.

9. **Local Construction Servant:** After first serving as a construction volunteer for three months, a brother or sister may apply to serve as a local construction servant. He or she would be able to care for the assignment while living in his or her own home. The assignment is generally for one year or until the completion of the project to which the servant is assigned. Similar to a construction servant, he or she applies by completing an *Application to Become a Construction Servant in the Worldwide Order of Special Full-Time Servants of Jehovah’s Witnesses (A-32)*.

10. **LDC Volunteer:** An exemplary baptized brother or sister with needed skills or aptitude who is available periodically to support construction or maintenance projects within a reasonable travel distance may apply to be an LDC volunteer. An LDC volunteer must be an example worthy of imitation in such areas as meeting attendance, zeal in the ministry, and respect and support of the body of elders. An LDC volunteer applies by completing the *Local Design/Construction Volunteer Application (DC-50)*, which is available in the “Forms” section of [jw.org](http://jw.org). This application replaces the *Regional Building Committee Volunteer Application (S-82)*.

11. **Congregation Volunteer:** A local publisher who is at least 17 years of age and who is not under judicial restrictions may be used as a congregation volunteer. He or she is invited to

work on his or her own Kingdom Hall. There is no application. Congregation volunteers receive approval through the Congregation Service Committee of the body of elders.

12. **Kingdom Hall Maintenance:** There is a connection between our zeal for worship and our zeal for caring for our places of worship. To assist in this work, a new Kingdom Hall maintenance program is gradually being introduced throughout the United States branch territory under the direction of the LDC. The goals of this program are to extend the life of our Kingdom Halls and to conserve dedicated funds. Under this arrangement, Kingdom Hall maintenance processes will be unified worldwide. LDC field trainers, brothers and sisters serving as full-time construction servants, will arrange to meet with bodies of elders and to provide maintenance training to local brothers and sisters. Until this arrangement is made available in your area, continue to support the maintenance needs for your Kingdom Hall as directed by your Regional Building Committee.

13. How can everyone have a share in these adjustments? We can give financial contributions to build Kingdom Halls. (2 Cor. 8:13-15) We can continue to support the greatest preaching campaign in history. (Matt. 28:19, 20) And we can keep theocratic construction projects in our daily prayers, asking Jehovah to bless these efforts.

14. Thank you in advance for your support of these arrangements and for your encouraging others to “offer themselves willingly.”—Ps. 110:3.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers  
Regional Building Committees