

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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October 4, 2015

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: New Provisions Announced at Annual Meeting

Dear Brothers:

At the annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania held on October 3, 2015, several new provisions were announced.

**Teach Us Book:** The first provision is a new 224-page publication entitled *What Can the Bible Teach Us?* It is based on the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* The *Teach Us* book does not replace the *Bible Teach* book. Rather, it will be useful when studying with individuals who need to have the truth presented in a simpler manner. Besides having simplified text, the *Teach Us* book has the following additional features:

- At the end of every chapter is a two-page summary rather than a review box. These summaries can also be used to conduct Bible studies.
- At the end of the book, endnotes are provided rather than an appendix. The endnotes correlate closely with the glossary of the revised *New World Translation*. The endnotes clarify some expressions that we as Jehovah's Witnesses use in our everyday conversation but that may not be familiar to the public.
- Some of the text and illustrations used in the *Bible Teach* book have been adjusted.

The *Teach Us* book will no doubt be a useful tool that can be used to help people gain a basic understanding of Bible truth, similar to the way the *Bible Teach* book is used. The *Teach Us* book is the same size as the *Bible Teach* book and is similar in appearance but has a slightly altered cover design to differentiate the two publications. Printed copies of the *Teach Us* book in more than 200 languages will be made available to congregations as the books become available. Electronic copies are now available in selected languages on [jw.org](http://jw.org) and in the *JW Library* app. Sign-language editions will be made available for download and on physical discs. Web-only audio recordings will also be made available for download in due course. Please note that in due course the *Teach Us* book will be available for download in electronic Braille format. Requests may now be submitted for copies in embossed Braille format.

**Revised Organized Book:** We are also pleased to inform you that a revised edition of the book *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will* has been produced. Electronic copies are now available in selected languages on [jw.org](http://jw.org) and in the *JW Library* app. Before you can access the book in *JW Library*, you must first download the latest version of the application. The following disclaimer will appear on the screen: "This book is an internal publication, provided solely for use by congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses, and is not intended for public distribution." Because of the cost involved in producing printed publications, it is preferred that wherever possible, publishers make full use of electronic copies rather than requesting printed copies. However, a printed copy of the *Organized* book will be requested for any publisher who desires to receive one. The group overseers will begin to check with each publisher after the meeting to determine if printed copies are desired. Please note that the revised *Organized* book is also available for download in electronic Braille format and for request in embossed Braille format.

***New World Translation (study edition)***: For the next announcement, please watch the following video. [Show 5:30 minute video.]

Electronic copies of the study edition of the book of Matthew are now available in English on [jw.org](http://jw.org). In the future, they will be available in the *JW Library* app.

**Public edition of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!***: Beginning in January 2016, the magazines for the public will be published bimonthly, that is, every two months. We will offer one magazine to the public each month, alternating between *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* During January, we will offer *The Watchtower*. During February, we will feature subjects in *Awake!*, and so on. This arrangement will allow us to focus on the appealing information in each magazine for the entire month. In addition, an issue date will no longer be printed on the cover. Instead, the magazines will be identified by a number followed by the year. Why is this helpful? We often would like to offer older magazines because the message is just what the householder needs. However, the date on the cover may give the impression that the information is out-of-date. That will no longer be an obstacle. We are confident that you will offer the life-giving information in the magazines with renewed enthusiasm.

**Our Christian Life and Ministry Meeting**: Beginning the week of January 4, 2016, congregations will have a new midweek meeting called Our Christian Life and Ministry. This one meeting will replace the three separate meetings currently being held, namely, the Congregation Bible Study, the Theocratic Ministry School, and the Service Meeting.

In connection with this change, *Our Kingdom Ministry* is being replaced by a new four-color, eight-page monthly publication entitled *Our Christian Life and Ministry—Meeting Workbook* (*mwb*). This publication is intended for Jehovah's Witnesses and for those who regularly attend our meetings. It outlines the weekly meeting schedule and features artwork designed to make your personal reading of the Bible more meaningful. It is a workbook that prompts you to make personal notes. No doubt you will enjoy reviewing the January 2016 issue of the *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook* when you download an electronic copy from [jw.org](http://jw.org) or the *JW Library* app or receive a printed copy through the congregation. Since the workbook will not include a section for announcements, congregations will be informed of monthly literature offers by means of letters from the branch office.

Each Life and Ministry Meeting will begin with an opening song and prayer followed by comments from the Life and Ministry Meeting chairman. His opening comments of no more than three minutes will generate anticipation for the program to follow. Thereafter, the chairman will introduce the first section of the meeting, called Treasures From God's Word. The first part in this section will be a ten-minute talk based on the weekly Bible reading and artwork from the workbook. When the scheduled weekly Bible reading begins a new Bible book, a brief video introducing the book will be shown at the start of this part. The second part in this section, entitled Digging for Spiritual Gems, will be an eight-minute question-and-answer consideration based on the weekly Bible reading. Questions for consideration during this part are found in the workbook, and the audience will answer these based on their research. The Treasures From God's Word section will conclude with a brother reading an assigned portion of the weekly Bible reading.

The next section of the Life and Ministry Meeting is entitled Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry and is 15 minutes in length. Three student presentations assigned to brothers or sisters will help us develop our ability to teach on an initial call, on a return visit, and on a Bible study. During the first week of every month, in place of the three student presentations, videos of model presenta-

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tions will be shown and discussed to help us prepare for the ministry that month. The printed edition of the workbook is designed so that you may write your own presentation on the front page. We encourage each of you to take full advantage of the Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry section of the meeting. Doing so will help you to become a more effective preacher and teacher of the good news.—2 Cor. 3:5; 2 Tim. 4:5.

The final section of the Life and Ministry Meeting is entitled Living as Christians. This section begins with a song. The next 15 minutes of this section will consist of one or two parts designed to help us apply God's Word. Then there will be a 30-minute Congregation Bible Study. Thereafter, up to three minutes may be used by the chairman to review the meeting and preview material to be considered the following week. Any necessary announcements may also be made at this point. Expressions of praise to Jehovah in song and prayer will conclude the meeting.

The entire meeting will be 1 hour and 45 minutes in length. A video has been prepared to help you to become familiar with the format of the Life and Ministry Meeting. It is now available on JW Broadcasting in English. Please watch it if you are able to do so. This video will help you to become familiar with the format of the Life and Ministry Meeting. Also, please be alert to provide assistance to any publishers who may need help to download our videos and electronic copies of our publications.

We are confident that you will be eager to prepare for and participate in this new meeting. It is our prayer that the variety of teaching methods used will enable all to benefit from the ongoing education that comes from our Grand Instructor, Jehovah. (Isa. 30:20) We send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,  
*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers  
Convention Committees

PS to bodies of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the conclusion of the next *Watchtower* Study or during the next Service Meeting, whichever comes first. If the circuit overseer is visiting your congregation, he will read this letter at the conclusion of the next congregation meeting. The video that explains the study edition of the *New World Translation* has been posted in the “Event Media” section of [jw.org](http://jw.org) and should be shown to the congregation during the reading of the letter as noted above. Although the video is currently available in English only, it should be played in non-English congregations if some publishers would benefit from it. Thereafter, the letter should be posted on the information board. This postscript should neither be read to the congregation nor be posted on the information board.

If the letter is received in time for it to be read at the *Watchtower* Study, the study may be abbreviated so that the meeting ends on time, although each paragraph should be read and the review questions should be asked. If the letter is read during the Service Meeting, one of the scheduled parts may be eliminated or all of the scheduled parts may be abbreviated.

At circuit assemblies and conventions, the letter will be read by the last speaker on the program at the conclusion of his talk. The video that explains the study edition of the *New World Translation* should also be played if possible. Otherwise, the video should be played at the next congregation meeting.

The language coordinator should use item number 5340 when requesting the *Teach Us* book.

As noted previously, each group overseer should ask each publisher in his group whether the publisher desires a printed copy of the revised *Organized* book. While the group overseer should not discourage anyone from requesting a printed copy, he can mention that electronic copies are already or soon will be available for download. Each group overseer should begin conducting the survey immediately after the Service Meeting and should submit the total number of printed copies requested by his group to the coordinator of the body of elders **within one week**. The coordinator of the body of elders should ensure that the total number of printed copies specifically requested by publishers, along with a small number of printed copies for the elders to have on hand to present to new unbaptized publishers, are requested via [jw.org](http://jw.org) by **October 19, 2015**. Each congregation should submit its own request for this special-request item using item number 5332. Any pending requests for the 2005 edition of the *Organized* book have been canceled. Any copies that the congregation has on hand should be discarded when the revised version becomes available in the language of the congregation.

All standing requests for *Our Kingdom Ministry* will be filled with the *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook*. Please verify the congregation’s standing requests by using the link in the “Request Periodicals” section under the “Congregation” tab.

The body of elders should soon meet to determine who will serve as the Life and Ministry Meeting overseer and which elders are qualified to serve as Life and Ministry Meeting chairmen.—See *Instructions for Our Christian Life and Ministry Meeting* (S-38).

The electronic version of the *Our Christian Life and Ministry Meeting Assignment* (S-89) form with editable fields will be posted on [jw.org](http://jw.org) in due course. Congregations desiring printed copies of the form may request them at this time in the usual manner. If the revised version of the

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form does not arrive in time, the *Theocratic Ministry School Assignment* form may continue to be used in the meantime.

The local needs part for **the week of December 28, 2015**, should be used to play a video (to be provided in due course) that will review features of the Life and Ministry Meeting. Congregations that were planning to show the “*Became So Beloved*” video the week of December 28 may show it the week of November 30 instead.—See letter dated July 24, 2015, to all bodies of elders.

After reading paragraph 9 of this letter, regarding the *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook*, sign-language congregations (and congregations hosting sign-language groups) should state the following: “This publication will be produced for the sign-language field in two parts, designed to be used together. One part is a video that contains a signed translation of the paragraph content. This video will be available in some sign languages on DVD (*dvmwb*). The other part is a four-color, eight-page workbook in printed format with minimal text (*mwbsl*).” Each month, sign-language congregations will be provided with one printed workbook per publisher. Congregations should adjust the request as it becomes clearer how many publishers prefer to use the version available on [jw.org](http://jw.org).