

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



675 Red Mills Road Walkill NY 12589-3292 Phone: (845) 306-1100

August 16, 2016

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Re: Global Assistance Arrangement for the 2017 Service Year

Dear Brothers:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued financial generosity in support of the worldwide preaching work. Your regular and cheerful giving no doubt brings great joy to our God, Jehovah. (2 Cor. 9:7) Knowing of your desire to support the organization, we would like you to consider the Global Assistance Arrangement (GAA) that is sustained by your contributions.

The GAA is designed to prevent and pay for losses resulting from “unexpected events” that could affect the organization. (Eccl. 9:11) It cares for incidents at Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, and branch facilities or wherever there is damage that is the result of natural disaster, fire, moisture, or vandalism. The arrangement is based on the principle found at 2 Corinthians 8:14, where we find the apostle Paul’s encouragement that “an equalizing” take place with regard to financial support. Therefore, funds are annually set aside from contributions to the worldwide work to ensure that no loss to a congregation or any other theocratic entity would cause an undue burden on any of our brothers.

Another similar arrangement is the Circuit Overseer Assistance Arrangement (COAA) which helps care for some of the health-care and transportation expenses of the hard-working circuit overseers and their wives in the United States branch territory.

For the coming year, the anticipated costs of the GAA and COAA would be covered if each publisher were able to contribute approximately \$14.00. This does not mean that each publisher is expected to contribute this exact amount. Instead, each congregation may choose to pass a resolution to contribute to the worldwide work the amount suggested by the body of elders from the congregation’s funds. Publishers can then contribute to their local congregation in harmony with their resolution.

The funds would then be used to support theocratic activities, including the GAA. Since these contributions are not restricted to any one activity, some congregations may choose to donate a sum greater than the average amount. This would further support the worldwide work and assist other congregations that may not be able to contribute as much. This is in harmony with the Biblical pattern of giving. (Acts 11:29) Some congregations choose to spread out their donation over the year. Others choose to make one donation at the start of the service year. Either method is acceptable.

Your support of this arrangement is greatly appreciated. May Jehovah continue to bless your generous spirit.—Heb. 13:16.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

8/16/16-E Us

PS to bodies of elders:

This postscript should not be read to the congregation, and this letter should not be posted on the information board. However, a copy of this letter and postscript should be given to your accounts servant.

Please take the following steps:

- (1) The secretary should use the number of active publishers to calculate the suggested amount to be contributed by the congregation. (Number of active publishers multiplied by \$8.00 for the GAA, plus the number of active publishers multiplied by \$6.00 for the COAA.)
- (2) The coordinator of the body of elders should make arrangements to allow the body of elders to review and discuss the suggested amount. The elders may choose to raise or lower the amount based on the economic abilities of the congregation as a whole. Once an amount is agreed upon by the body, they would then determine if they would prefer to contribute this amount in one payment or to make contributions spread over the course of the year.
- (3) Based upon the body's decision, the coordinator of the body of elders should arrange for the next midweek meeting to include the reading of the letter and the congregation's consideration of the resolution. The resolution could simply state:

We the _____ Congregation resolve to donate an additional amount of _____ for the 2017 service year to the worldwide work. This amount will be donated (in one payment/spread over the course of the year).

- (4) After the resolution has been considered and approved by the congregation, it should be given to the accounts servant to add to the accounts records file along with this letter. This amount should be forwarded with your remittance to the branch office using the entries for "Global Assistance Arrangement (Resolution)" and "Circuit Overseer Assistance Arrangement (Resolution)" on the "Donations and Payments" section on jw.org.

The cars used by circuit overseers are directly owned by the branch office. When these cars are replaced, the funds from the sale are used for the worldwide work. Any who express interest in purchasing a used circuit overseer vehicle may contact the branch office by telephone at (718) 560-8412 or by using the website www.circuitvehicles.com.

Thank you for your diligence in caring for these necessary matters. If you have any questions on this arrangement, please feel free to contact the Branch Risk Management Desk in the Accounting Department.