

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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

February 21, 2017

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH TERRITORY

Re: 2017 United States Bethel Visitors Information

Dear Brothers:

We are writing in regard to tours at Bethel in the United States, including the new world headquarters located in Warwick, New York. We look forward to welcoming those who are able to tour the facilities. We are pleased to provide the information below that will be helpful as you prepare for your visit.

Do I need a confirmed reservation to take a tour at Bethel? Yes. To prevent overcrowding and ensure that all receive the full benefit from their tour, *it is important that all visitors touring Patterson, Wallkill, and Warwick make a tour reservation in advance of their visit, regardless of the size of the group.* The most up-to-date tour information and tour reservation page can be found on jw.org under ABOUT US > OFFICES & TOURS > United States.

If I do not have a reservation, can I still take a tour? We want you to enjoy your tours at Bethel as they have been prepared to benefit you spiritually. In view of the design of the museum tour at Warwick, only a limited number will be able to tour each day. If you do not have a reservation, it may not be possible to accommodate you. While we may be able to allow small groups to tour Patterson and Wallkill without a reservation, it will not be possible to accommodate unreserved tour groups at Warwick. Following these guidelines will help us to prepare for your visit and ensure that all things “take place decently and by arrangement.” —1 Cor. 14:40.

What time should I arrive for my tour reservation? We recommend that you arrive no earlier than one hour prior to your tour reservation. This will prevent overcrowding in the parking lots and lobbies.

Dress and Grooming: Before your visit, please review the brochure *Dress & Grooming for Visitors Touring Bethel*, which is posted on the information board at your Kingdom Hall. At all times, our dress and grooming should reflect the decency and dignity that befit servants of Jehovah. (*km* 3/08 p. 3; *od* pp. 125-126) It has been observed that some brothers and sisters tend to be casual in their dress when visiting Bethel. Such dress is not appropriate for those touring Bethel. Therefore, it would be good to speak with our Bible students and others who may be visiting Bethel for the first time to remind them of the importance of giving attention to proper dress and grooming. When visiting Bethel, we would do well to ask ourselves the following questions: ‘Is my dress and grooming modest? Would others be distracted or offended by my appearance?’

Lodging Information: Before making *any* hotel reservations, please read the information at the beginning of the *Bethel Visitors Lodging and Car Rental List*, which can be provid-

Re: 2017 United States Bethel Visitors Information

February 21, 2017

Page 2

ed by an elder in your congregation. There are benefits to using these arrangements and adhering closely to the instructions provided on the lodging list.

We are confident that your visit to Bethel will be both encouraging and motivating. May Jehovah continue to bless your efforts in serving Kingdom interests!

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

PS to bodies of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the first midweek meeting after its receipt. Thereafter, it should be posted on the information board for one month. Additionally, the brochure *Dress & Grooming for Visitors Touring Bethel* is available on jw.org for viewing by those with the "View Forms-General" role. It should be printed in color and placed on the information board until further notice. When you become aware of someone planning to visit world headquarters or any branch facility, please remind them to review the brochure.