

Announcement

April 1, 2020

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL ELDERS

1. **2020 Convention:** Further direction regarding the convention invitation campaign and the local needs part typically held before the start of the campaign will be provided in due course. If you have already received your allotment of convention invitations, please refrain from including times and locations on the invitations until further direction is received.

2. **Congregation Expenses:** The body of elders (or the Kingdom Hall Operating Committee if more than one congregation uses the Kingdom Hall) should determine if any Kingdom Hall expenses could be reduced during the COVID-19 outbreak, especially if the Kingdom Hall is not currently being used for congregation meetings. If more than one congregation uses the Kingdom Hall, the operating committee may be able to recommend a lower monthly contribution amount to the congregations. The body of elders in each congregation should review the congregation's expenses and the donations that are being received. If needed, monthly resolved donations, such as those in support of Kingdom Hall and Assembly Hall construction worldwide or the Global Assistance Arrangement, may be suspended. If despite all efforts, the publishers cannot support the remaining expenses, please contact the Service Department for direction and assistance.—See the subheading “Insufficient Funds” in *Instructions for Congregation Accounting* (S-27).

3. **Theocratic Facilities and Congregation Records:** Depending on local restrictions, you should take reasonable steps to verify periodically that the Kingdom Hall and other theocratic facilities are secure if they are not being used during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you believe that the Kingdom Hall is particularly vulnerable to theft or vandalism, you should take steps to protect congregation records. It may be necessary to secure the files temporarily in the home of an elder. Contact the Local Design/Construction Department if assistance is needed to secure the facility.—*sfl* chap. 21 par. 26; chap. 22 par. 10; chap. 26 par. 4.

4. **Memorial Discourse on JW.ORG and JW Stream:** Each body of elders should arrange to have a speaker for the Memorial. However, those who are unable to attend in person or tie in to a live observance of the Memorial may watch a prerecorded Memorial discourse on jw.org or JW Stream. If publishers must view the prerecorded discourse, please inform them that when the video shows a black screen they should pause the video, read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, and say a prayer over each emblem before passing these to all those watching the recording. (The prayers should be said whether it was possible for those of the other sheep to acquire suitable emblems or not.) If a qualified baptized brother is not present, a baptized sister wearing a head covering can say the prayers and pass the emblems. Thereafter, the conclusion of the recorded talk can be viewed. Those having observed the Memorial in this manner would appropriately be counted among those having attended this important occasion.

5. **Memorial Emblems:** As a reminder, Memorial emblems should be available at each location if possible. However, it is understood that it may not be possible for some to acquire the emblems. Please inform such individuals that they do not need to put forth extraordinary efforts to acquire the emblems if no anointed ones will be present.—*w85* 2/15 p. 31 par. 4.

6. **Special Talk and Memorial Chairmen:** This year, the announcements appearing in the documents *Special Talk Chairman* (S-125) and *Memorial Chairman* (S-126) must be adjusted as needed.

7. After the special talk, the following announcement should be read to all in attendance: “We are very happy that you have been able to listen to this special talk which is being presented worldwide in over 119,000 congregations of Jehovah’s Witness! The annual observance of the Memorial of Christ’s death will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. We invite you to celebrate it with us. In order to watch the celebration, please contact the person that invited you to this meeting, or go to our website, jw.org, where you will find a pre-recorded talk for the Memorial celebration. If you would like to know more about our free Bible study courses, please speak to the person that invited you. In addition, we invite you to visit our website, jw.org, where you will find Bible-based information in more than 1,000 languages. There are topics that appeal to married couples, parents, single ones, teenagers, young children, and all who desire to know more about the Bible.”

8. After the Memorial talk, the following announcement should be read to the audience: “We are very happy that you have been able to attend the annual observance of the Lord’s Evening Meal. If you would like to know more about our free Bible study courses, or if you would like to join the two weekly meetings that we are currently holding via videoconference, please speak to the person that invited you. In addition, we invite you to visit our website, jw.org, where you will find Bible-based information in more than 1,000 languages. You will find topics that appeal to married couples, parents, single ones, teenagers, young children, and all who desire to know more about the Bible.”

9. **Local Needs Part for Week of April 13, 2020:** Play the video *Jehovah Cares for His Sheep*. To access the video on jw.org, go to LIBRARY > JW BROADCASTING > TALKS. Thereafter, review a few of the points on page 14 of the brochure *Return to Jehovah*, and warmly encourage inactive ones to take the necessary steps to restore their relationship with Jehovah. The elder assigned the part may take up to 20 minutes. The length of the Congregation Bible Study should be adjusted accordingly.

FOR FOLLOW-THROUGH BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE BODY OF ELDERS

1. **Announcements for the Congregation:** Ensure that the announcement regarding donations to support theocratic activities is read to the congregation at the next midweek meeting. Ensure that the announcement regarding the 2020 conventions is read **after the Watchtower Study the week of March 30, 2020.**

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April 1, 2020

FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. **[Read after the *Watchtower* Study the week of March 30, 2020.] 2020 Convention:** Many governmental authorities have restricted large gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In view of these circumstances and in order to provide encouragement to the worldwide brotherhood, the Governing Body recently approved a very special arrangement for the 2020 convention season. A prerecorded convention program will be available in as many languages as possible. The speakers will feature all Governing Body members and their helpers who host JW Broadcasting monthly programs. This program will be posted on JW Broadcasting incrementally during the months of July and August. It will replace the JW Broadcasting monthly programs for these two months.

2. Depending on local circumstances, some congregations may meet together to watch the sessions. In other cases, brothers and sisters can enjoy the program in private homes as small groups or individuals. In view of this, all previously-scheduled regional and special conventions are being canceled for the 2020 convention season. We are confident the worldwide brotherhood will benefit from this unifying, simultaneous convention program from world headquarters, no matter what the local situation proves to be at that time. This is further proof that Jehovah is guiding his people during these critical last days.—Ps. 32:8.

3. **[Read at the next midweek meeting.] Donations to Support Theocratic Activities:** Thank you for your continued financial support of the Kingdom work locally and worldwide. As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, many Kingdom Halls cannot be used for meetings, which limits opportunities to donate using the contribution boxes. However, we commend your desire to continue providing financial support for the worldwide work, for your congregation, and for your circuit by using credit and debit cards, electronic funds transfers, mobile money accounts, or other electronic donation methods found on donate.jw.org, if these are available. This shows your commendable spirit of generosity in the face of difficulties, restrictions, and economic hardships. Even if your personal circumstances will temporarily not allow you to donate as much as you have in the past, remember that Jehovah notices even the smallest of donations. (Luke 21:2-4) He will bless your efforts to show appreciation for the support and direction he is providing through his organization. Feel free to contact the elders or the branch office if you need assistance with any of the electronic donation methods. Economic uncertainties will continue to plague us as we move deeper into the last days. (2 Tim. 3:1) Your generous spirit reflects your confidence in Jehovah's promise found at Hebrews 13:5, where he says: "I will never leave you, and I will never abandon you."