

# THE KINGDOM HALL TRUST

1 KINGDOM WAY, WEST HANNINGFIELD, CHELMSFORD, CM2 8FW

Telephone 020 8906 2211

TSG June 4, 2020

TO THE BODY OF ELDERS OF SELECTED CONGREGATIONS

Re: Merging Congregations with The Kingdom Hall Trust

Dear Brothers:

The “faithful and discreet slave” has the responsibility to care for the preaching work as well as the master’s belongings, including material assets. (Matt. 24:45-47) One way the Governing Body seeks to fulfil this responsibility is by simplifying organisational operations wherever possible.

At present, each congregation is a separate legal entity and in most cases also a registered charity. This involves additional work to prepare annual reports and submissions to the Charity Commission, to hold regular business meetings, and further work to benefit from Gift Aid on donations. The Governing Body has therefore approved merging congregations in Britain into one entity—*The Kingdom Hall Trust*. This will result in each congregation becoming a *branch* of this national charity. Your congregation has now been scheduled to participate in this scheme.

We appreciate that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the current focus is to ensure publishers are cared for and have access to congregation meetings. However, we have confidence that with the recommendations noted below you will be able to implement the changes outlined in this letter.

The attached letter TAA:TAD November 8, 2019, (KHT 1.2) discussing the above points should be read to the congregation at the end of the Christian Life and Ministry Meeting during the week of **June 8, 2020**. While you should not cancel scheduled meeting parts, please adjust the timings to read the letter. Following the reading of the letter, please inform the congregation that a resolution will be presented at the following week’s meeting. The enclosed FAQs have been provided to assist elders to answer questions that publishers may ask. We encourage the elders to speak positively of the proposal and help publishers understand the changes being proposed.

While congregation meetings are being presented using a videoconferencing program, once the resolution has been read, those connected may be asked to indicate their approval using the same method used to raise hands when commenting. If the congregation meeting is split into a number of smaller videoconferences, the resolutions should be presented and approved in the same way at each one, however only one resolution for the congregation should be kept.

The body of elders should meet briefly using a videoconference to discuss the proposal. Please find enclosed an example minute for this meeting and a resolution to present to the congregation. You must complete one of the two attached resolutions. One is for congregations that are registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The other is for any non-registered congregations. These non-registered congregations are treated as charities under the Charities Act, hence the references to ‘charity’ and ‘trustees’ within the resolution. If the congregation agrees to the merger, please send signed copies of these for the attention of the Accounting Department using [jw.org](http://jw.org). Electronic signatures are acceptable. We will then provide you with further instructions on how to proceed. Any questions relating to this matter should

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*A Company limited by guarantee registered in England No. 355443.*

*Charity Registration for England and Wales: 275946*

*Charity Registration for Scotland: SC046541*

be addressed by letter via your congregation jw.org inbox to the Accounting Department. We appreciate your cooperation with this request.

We pray that Jehovah may bless this arrangement and take this opportunity to convey our warm Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,

*The Kingdom Hall Trust*

Attachments (4)