

# TESTIGOS CRISTIANOS DE JEHOVÁ

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SE May 7, 2018

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Pioneers who Care for Theocratic Assignments from the Branch

Dear Brothers:

In recent years there has been an increase in theocratic activities in various fields that require the collaboration of willing and experienced brothers and sisters. Many participate from their homes, or travel to Bethel one or more days a week. At the present time, a number of necessary tasks at the branch could hardly be cared for without the support of brothers outside Bethel. The branch remodeling project also requires the attention of many volunteers. In many cases this means a sacrifice of time and effort, travel and expense. We at the branch can only express appreciation for these faithful and self-sacrificing brothers. —Psalm 110:3.

In most cases these dear hard-working brothers are also regular pioneers. Their additional assignments do not permit them to devote as much time to the ministry as before. So they may not be able to reach the annual hour requirement, nor support the preaching work in the congregation as much as previously.

In view of this situation, we would like to mention that pioneers who handle such assignments may be granted a credit of hours to help them reach the monthly goal of hours. Among the assignments in which a credit of hours is possible are the following: Serving as commuter Bethelites, remote volunteers or branch consultants, participating in Kingdom Hall construction as requested by the branch or its representatives, pre- and post-convention activity as requested by the branch, coordinating preaching in penal institutions or public preaching in metropolitan areas, and others (see letter of May 15, 2017, ¶12-17).

In all these cases, it is understood that the body of elders has previously approved the application of these brothers to serve in the assignments mentioned. If any factor that would disqualify a person for these activities has come to light, the body of elders should inform the branch without delay.

We feel sure that the elders will support those pioneers that, besides preaching, collaborate with Jehovah's organization in other ways. (1 Corinthians 15:58) Regular pioneers who desire to participate in these features of sacred service should not be discouraged, nor should they be pressured to continue supporting congregation activities as much as previously. And of course we would not want them to feel guilty because their participation in field service or their support of the congregation is more limited than before. These willing brothers and sisters certainly deserve the recognition of all, as well as the support needed so they can continue working with God's organization in the ways mentioned above. No doubt you will continue to encourage and commend these "fellow workers in the truth".—3 John 8.

Along with many thanks for your assistance in this matter, receive warm greetings and an expression of fervent Christian love.

Your brothers,

*Testigos Cristianos de Jehová*

c. Circuit Overseers