

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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August 23, 2010

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Kingdom Ministry School

Dear Brothers:

Final arrangements are being made for the upcoming Kingdom Ministry School, and we are now pleased to provide you with some additional information and direction.

A revised, softcover textbook entitled "*Shepherd the Flock of God*"—1 Peter 5:2 has been prepared in connection with the school. In addition, lapel cards are being provided for elders and ministerial servants for use as identification upon entry at the school location and during the course. The appropriate number of textbooks will be shipped to the mailing address of the coordinator of the body of elders when the textbooks become available in the language of the congregation. The lapel cards will be shipped to the same address at a later date. Copies of the textbook that were requested in languages other than the language of the congregation will be sent to the circuit overseer for distribution.

The coordinator of the body of elders should immediately give each elder a copy of the *Shepherding* textbook. However, the lapel cards should be kept in a safe place until the week before the school. Then he should give the appropriate card to each elder and ministerial servant. This may prevent cards from being lost. The lapel card should be worn when entering the school location and at all times during the school. We will leave it to each elder to decide what he will do with his 1991 Kingdom Ministry School textbook. If he decides to keep the book, he must make sure it is put in a secure place so that others do not have access to it. Otherwise, the book should be completely destroyed.

We would like to emphasize the importance of keeping these new textbooks secured and confidential, both before and after they are distributed. The textbooks should not be left on tops of desks or in other places where they are easily accessible by family members or other individuals. The information is designed for use by the **elders only**, and other individuals should not have any opportunity to read the information.

If an elder has moved away and you have an extra textbook or lapel card, or for some other reason you have extra textbooks or lapel cards, the coordinator of the body of elders should hand-deliver them to the circuit overseer. He should not send textbooks or lapel cards through the mail. If your circuit overseer is a considerable distance away, the coordinator of the body of elders may give him these items the next time he sees the circuit overseer. Likewise, if for some reason you do not receive enough textbooks or lapel cards, the coordinator of the body of elders should contact the circuit overseer for assistance.

We are providing the textbooks to elders in advance so that you will be able to read the book through before attending the school. You will want to concentrate particularly on chapters 1, 2, 4-7, 9, and 11, since they will be considered specifically at the school. In addition to your *Shepherding* textbook, please remember to bring your Bible, *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will, Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education*, and some note paper. In the *Organized* book, you should review chapters 3 and 7, along with pages 117-119. In the *Ministry School*

Re: Kingdom Ministry School

August 23, 2010

Page 2

book, you should review pages 47-55, 130, and 265-271. Please advise ministerial servants that in addition to their Bible and note paper, they should bring their *Organized* and *Ministry School* books. They should review the same material in the *Ministry School* book as the elders, and in the *Organized* book, they should review chapters 6-8, along with pages 117-119.

You will note in chapter 5, paragraph 9, of the *Shepherding* textbook that a change in terminology is being introduced. A new term, “brazen conduct,” will be used in addition to “loose conduct,” or in some cases instead of “loose conduct.” This new term has been chosen by the Governing Body because it more accurately conveys the thought of the original Greek word that is translated “loose conduct” in the *New World Translation*.

The Governing Body desires that elders and ministerial servants in each congregation attend the school at the same time. However, if an appointed elder or ministerial servant is not able to attend with the elders and ministerial servants of his congregation because of extenuating circumstances, he can contact his circuit overseer for the dates and locations of schools in neighboring circuits. The circuit overseer will then contact the neighboring circuit overseer and request permission for the brother to attend. The brother’s coordinator of the body of elders should provide him with a lapel card. If he attends the school before other elders or ministerial servants in his congregation, he should be instructed to keep the information strictly confidential until after the other brothers from his congregation have attended.

Any brother appointed as an elder or ministerial servant in his congregation may attend the school. If new appointments are made, the coordinator of the body of elders should inform the circuit overseer of this so that the brother can receive the appropriate lapel card, and a new *Shepherding* textbook if he is being appointed as an elder. If an elder or ministerial servant is in the process of transferring from one congregation to another and comes with a favorable recommendation from his former congregation, and if the circuit overseer has not yet served his new congregation since his move, then the circuit overseer should provide him with a lapel card. If the circuit overseer has served the new congregation and the brother has been recommended for appointment to the branch office, then the circuit overseer would also provide him with a card. However, if the circuit overseer has visited the new congregation since the brother moved in and the body of elders did not recommend his reappointment for some reason, then he should not attend the school.

We are looking forward to this special program of instruction, and we pray for Jehovah’s rich blessing upon all the arrangements being made for the Kingdom Ministry School and upon your efforts to shepherd the flock in a fine way. Although there is much material to prepare before attending the school, the most important thing to prepare is your heart. (Ezra 7:10) If you do so, Jehovah will truly bless your diligent efforts. Please be assured of our warm love and Christian greetings.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah’s Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

PS to secretary:

There is no need for this letter to be retained in the congregation permanent file of policy letters. Additionally, the September 16, 1991, and June 20, 1994, letters to all bodies of elders should be removed from the congregation file and be destroyed. You may wish to update the congregation copy of *Index to Letters—For Bodies of Elders* (S-22) at this time as well.