

Announcements and Reminders

July 2022

FOR ELDERS

1. **Slideshows and Videos at Weddings:** We have received reports that personal slideshows and videos presented before or after some wedding talks have not been dignified and, in a few cases, were outlandish. As a reminder, the *Shepherd book*, chapter 27, paragraph 5, states: “If any video footage is used before or after a wedding talk, it should be in good taste.” The entire occasion should be spiritually uplifting and dignified, whether the wedding is held at the Kingdom Hall or via videoconference.

2. As part of the preparations, the elder who will preside at the wedding may provide suggestions to the couple on how they can adjust a slideshow or video to harmonize with Bible principles. (1 Cor. 10:31, 32) The aforementioned direction regarding slideshows and videos also applies in connection with a funeral talk.

3. **Public Information Department:** The Public Information Department (PID) at the branch office officially represents Jehovah’s Witnesses to government officials, academics, the media, and other entities. The PID’s responsibility is to assist in providing accurate information about our beliefs, activities, and history. In addition, regional and local spokesmen have been appointed throughout the branch territory and work under the direction of the PID.

4. If a media representative contacts the congregation to request an interview or comments, please request his name, his contact information, the name of the media outlet he represents, and the deadline for a reply. Inform him that his request will be given consideration, but do not commit to providing a response. In most cases, two elders should then immediately contact the PID, which will provide further direction. The same general approach should be taken if government officials, academic institutions, or nongovernmental organizations contact the congregation to obtain information.

5. If any of the above entities contact the congregation about a matter related to a current or past judicial case, to the standing of a publisher in the congregation, or to the congregation’s handling of a theocratic matter, two elders should immediately contact the Service Department for direction.

6. At times, publishers may be approached by a member of the media or an academic requesting a personal interview in connection with the activities or beliefs of Jehovah’s Witnesses. While it is a publisher’s decision whether to accept or refuse, if you learn that a publisher has agreed to such an interview, you should promptly inform the Service Department. It would not be appropriate for any individual to speak on behalf of the organization unless assigned to do so by the branch office.

7. This direction will be included in a future revision of the *Shepherd book*.

8. **Security at Meetings:** Jehovah is deeply interested in protecting his servants. (Ps. 97:10) Recent events show that the security of individuals who are gathered in a public setting cannot be taken for granted. Acts of extreme violence can erupt without warning, even in areas where there had previously been no disturbances. Therefore, we urge you to remain alert to the security of those who attend our meetings. At congregation meetings, attendants should be alert to what is taking place, not only inside the Kingdom Hall but also outside.

Please convey this reminder as well as the key points found in the *Shepherd* book, chapter 20, paragraphs 38-39, to all who serve as attendants.

FOR COORDINATORS OF THE BODIES OF ELDERS

1. **Midweek Meeting Part the Week of July 11, 2022:** Please ensure that the brother who is assigned the midweek meeting part “Set Goals for the New Service Year—Move to Where the Need Is Greater” during the week of July 11, 2022, mentions the following: “At times, publishers consider moving so that they can live closer to a Bethel facility or a branch construction project. The Scriptural principles and practical suggestions in this article will be very helpful for anyone considering such a move.”

FOR SERVICE OVERSEERS

1. **2023 Public Magazines:** We are pleased to inform you that the Governing Body decided that one new issue of the public edition of *The Watchtower* and one new issue of *Awake!* will be produced for 2023. Additionally, it has been decided to feature two issues of *The Watchtower* and two issues of *Awake!* from previous years. Listed below are the subjects of the public magazines that will be featured in 2023:

Feature Months	Subject
January and February	<i>The Watchtower</i> No. 2 2018 “What Does the Future Hold?”
March and April	<i>Awake!</i> No. 2 2018 “12 Secrets of Successful Families”
May and June	New issue of <i>The Watchtower</i> No. 1 2023 General topic: Mental health
July and August	<i>Awake!</i> No. 1 2020 “Find Relief From Stress”
September and October	<i>The Watchtower</i> No. 2 2020 “What Is God’s Kingdom?”
November and December	New issue of <i>Awake!</i> No. 1 2023 General topic: Environment

2. As a reminder, language-coordinating congregations may need to reduce the quantity of a reprinted issue to ensure that all copies of the issue in your inventory are used. Request quantities should be confirmed before the cutoff date indicated on jw.org, since requests cannot be adjusted thereafter.