



WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

25 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201-2483, U.S.A. PHONE (718) 560-5000

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TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to inform you that beginning with the 2001 "Teachers of God's Word" District Conventions, a simplification in the provisions for parking will be implemented at nearly all of the convention locations in the United States. The following information will explain the adjustments being made and help you plan for your parking needs.

Over the years, in order to keep the convention delegates' parking costs at a minimum, we have negotiated a buyout of all parking controlled by the facility management for our use during the district convention. This has been done at quite an additional expense. However, if this were not done the parking fee that delegates would pay would be a great deal more. Thus, where possible, we will continue to negotiate such buyouts of the parking and operate it ourselves.

In the past, a parking ticket was obtained in advance by delegates attending most convention locations, which was then displayed in the vehicle window to identify cars entering the parking areas. Of course, providing these parking tickets involved much time and expense for their printing, mailing, and distribution in advance of the convention. We are pleased to inform you that under a simplified arrangement, we will no longer supply or require the display of parking tickets in vehicle windows at most district conventions. Also, delegates will no longer be asked to contribute a pre-determined amount for parking.

Instead of using parking tickets, the district convention lapel badge worn by the driver will serve as the appropriate identification when entering designated parking areas. Consequently, to expedite parking in an orderly fashion, the driver should have his or her lapel badge clearly visible when entering the convention parking area. Where possible, in and out privileges will be granted, but the lapel badge must be shown when re-entering the lot. It is also good to note that since most convention facilities do not have an abundance of parking available, we ask that you please arrange for carpooling to the extent possible rather than arrive with only one or two persons per car.

The following is an important change to note under this simplified arrangement. Only vehicles with a disabled person's license plate or an official disabled person's parking identification placard will be permitted to park in stalls marked for the disabled or in additional space set aside for the disabled by the convention. Anyone who parks in spaces legally identified for the disabled without proper licensing can be fined by city or state authorities. Therefore, all that are in need of disabled parking at the convention must have a disabled person's license plate or an official disabled person's parking identification placard.

Being conscious of the considerable expense involved in providing suitable parking, we are sure that all will recognize the value of these arrangements when making voluntary contributions for the worldwide work in the contribution boxes in our local Kingdom Halls or at the district convention. Thus, may our hearts compel us to continue making use of our "valuable things" in ways that benefit Kingdom interests.—Proverbs 3:9, 10.

For a few convention locations, circumstances will not make it possible to implement these simplified arrangements completely in 2001. Where there is an exception, those congregations involved will soon receive further instructions about how parking will be cared for from their local convention headquarters.

Without doubt, these simplifications regarding parking will make our convention arrangements easier for all. May the upcoming "Teachers of God's Word" District Conventions prove to be a spiritual blessing to you and a praise to our heavenly Father, Jehovah.

Your brothers,

Watchtower B. & F. Society

OF NEW YORK, INC.