

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

Many of you have heard regular and special pioneers express appreciation for the pioneer meeting held each year in conjunction with the circuit assembly. September 1, 2001, marks the 14<sup>th</sup> year that pioneers have been invited to attend these sessions. Until now, the only elders attending were those who were also serving as regular pioneers. This fact made it difficult for most elders to help pioneers to apply the suggestions given at the pioneer meetings.

You will be happy to know that, beginning with this service year, approval is granted for one member of the Congregation Service Committee, preferably the service overseer, to attend the pioneer meeting. If the service overseer is unable to attend, the body of elders should select any other elder to attend in his place. If the elder is a member of the Bethel family, an Assembly Hall overseer, or assistant Assembly Hall overseer, he will need to use vacation time to attend.

The elder who attends the meeting should take notes on the entire program. Thereafter, the presiding overseer should include a point on the agenda for the next elders' meeting on how the elders can assist pioneers. During the elders' meeting, the brother who attended the session should share a few highlights with the entire body of elders. As a result of reviewing specific points from the pioneer meeting, you will be in better position to help and encourage the regular pioneers.

In letters of appreciation for these special meetings, pioneers have written the following: "It was so wonderful a meeting, very encouraging, motivating—making us feel very cared for." "The meeting was just what I needed. It came at the right time." "The emphasis to look for and make opportunities to witness at all times will not only make us more effective in the service but also help us to do better in meeting our goal hour-wise." "The program was well thought out, well prepared, and refreshing. It helps us as pioneers to continue joyfully." Even though only one elder from each congregation is invited to attend the pioneer meeting, we are confident that you will be pleased to support this new arrangement.

Please be assured of our joy in serving alongside you as "God's fellow workers" as we look forward to the day when "the earth will certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters are covering the very sea."—1 Corinthians 3:9; Isaiah 11:9.

Your brothers,

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Jehovah's Witnesses*