



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

TELEPHONE 020 8906 2211

September 2, 2008

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Coordinator of the Body of Elders

Dear Brothers:

Jehovah is the Supreme Overseer, and he has appointed Jesus Christ as head over the congregation. (Eph. 1:22; 1 Pet. 2:25) Congregation elders serve as shepherds, cooperating together with Jesus Christ and the faithful and discreet slave class for the advancement of Kingdom interests and for the good of the entire congregation.—Matt. 24:45; Eph. 4:15, 16.

One of the many positions of responsibility in the body of elders is that of presiding overseer. Effective January 1, 2009, the term “presiding overseer” will no longer be used, since that expression may convey the thought that one overseer holds more authority than the rest do. Scripturally, individual elders are to cooperate closely with the body of elders, with each member holding equal authority. Hence, no elder is above the others in the body, and none of them should try to dominate the others.—Matt. 23:10; *od* p. 37 par. 1.

In view of this, the designation “presiding overseer” is being changed to “coordinator of the body of elders.” This term more accurately describes his role as one who helps the body of elders to work together harmoniously. He is not the coordinator of the *congregation* but rather the coordinator of the *body of elders*. In recognition of Christ’s headship, he humbly works along with the other elders in caring for the flock of God.—Rom. 12:10; 1 Pet. 5:2, 3.

We are confident that this adjustment will help all to more fully understand how the body of elders functions. Please accept a sincere expression of our appreciation for your tireless work in behalf of Kingdom interests.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society
OF BRITAIN

cc: Travelling overseers

PS to the presiding overseer:

Please promptly arrange for this letter to be read to the body of elders. All the cited scriptures and the cited paragraph in the *Organized* book should be included in the reading. Thereafter, the secretary should place the letter in the congregation’s permanent file of policy letters. An announcement regarding this change will appear in *Our Kingdom Ministry*.