

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) 306-1100

January 22, 2011

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Re: Residence survey

Dear Brothers:

Over the years, many congregations have shown a generous and hospitable spirit by their willingness to provide modest accommodations for traveling overseers and special pioneers. (3 John 7, 8) There are several hundred such Kingdom Hall residences and other dwellings that are being used by those in special full-time service throughout the United States branch territory. Certainly, these are valuable theocratic assets that are included in the “belongings” entrusted to the faithful and discreet slave class.—Matt. 24:45-47; w09 6/15 22 par. 11.

In view of this, the branch office is interested in maintaining accurate records of all these dwellings to better evaluate requests for new residences and to better care for the changing needs of special full-time servants in the field. To that end, we are asking each Regional Building Committee (RBC) to verify specific details regarding all congregation-owned residences within their respective regions. For this initial assessment, the RBC will initiate communication with each congregation holding title to a Kingdom Hall where a dwelling is located and gather the needed information from them. In cases in which a residence is owned by a congregation not holding title to the Kingdom Hall or if it is known that a residence is being rented for use by a traveling overseer, the local body of elders should notify the RBC regarding the location of the residence and the monthly rent. After the RBC provides this initial report to the branch office, their biennial inspection of your Kingdom Hall will include an inspection of any residences owned by the congregation, and they will update the branch office of any adjustments.

Additionally, the information provided to the RBC should include any congregation-owned residences occupied by those not in special full-time service or any that are vacant or are currently used for another purpose. (As stated in the letter dated March 15, 2000, to all bodies of elders in the United States, congregation-owned residences should be used only for those who are in special full-time service. However, there may be some rare circumstances in which an exception has been made to this general policy. If this is the case, please include details with the information you provide to the RBC.) Your list should also include residences currently under construction or those that have been approved by the branch office but construction has yet to begin. As indicated above, places of residence being *leased or rented* by the circuit for traveling overseers should also be included.

We are requesting that the RBCs provide their report to the branch office **by April 29, 2011**; thus, your assisting the committees to compile the needed information in a timely manner will be appreciated. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this arrangement.

Please accept an expression of our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,  
*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Regional Building Committees  
Traveling overseers