

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

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



November 8, 2011

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH TERRITORY

Re: Use of electronic tablets

Dear Brothers:

We have received inquiries on the use of an electronic tablet, such as an iPad, when conducting the *Watchtower* Study or for viewing notes when giving a public talk. Herein we wish to provide some guidelines concerning this matter.

There is no objection to the use of an electronic tablet by an attendee in the audience as a means of following along with the material being presented. However, at this time, an electronic tablet or other similar device should not be used on the platform, such as for reading the paragraphs at the *Watchtower* Study, conducting a meeting, or giving a talk of any kind.

In addition to the possibility of a technical problem occurring, it is felt that using an electronic tablet from the platform could prompt others to feel that they too should invest in such a device. Additionally, since many brothers cannot afford such a device, using one prominently from the stage could, in effect, create “class distinctions” or appear to be a “showy display of one’s means of life.”—Jas. 2:4; 1 John 2:16.

Thank you for noting this direction. We send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Field training instructors
Traveling overseers

PS to secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation permanent file of policy letters. You may wish to update the congregation copy of *Index to Letters—For Bodies of Elders* (S-22) at this time as well.

PS to bodies of elders of sign-language congregations and groups:

In view of the unique needs in the sign-language field, it is understood that there will be occasions when use of an electronic tablet from the platform would be helpful. While this is acceptable, please keep in mind the Scriptural principles cited above.