

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1RN Telephone: 020 8906 2211

November 11, 2012

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: District convention Service Meeting part the week of January 7, 2013

Dear Brothers:

The material in the attached sheet entitled "2013 District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses" should be presented by the secretary to the congregation as a talk during the local needs part scheduled on the Service Meeting for the week of January 7, 2013. If more than 10 minutes are needed for the part, you may adjust the timing of the other Service Meeting parts.

If there is a circuit event during the week of January 7, 2013, each group overseer could inform his group of any pertinent information.

All congregations have been advised of their convention assignment. All convention locations and dates are available on the jw.org website under the heading "About Us" for any who may wish to search for this information. If any publishers do not have access to the Internet, please assist them in obtaining the information they need rather than having them call the branch office. Please print the list of conventions, which was enclosed with the November 26, 2012, letter to all bodies of elders, and place it on the noticeboard after the meeting. The secretary may duplicate the list for the benefit of any publishers who request a copy.

Regarding the portion on "Special needs," please note that before the secretary sends a *Special Needs Room Request* (CO-5a) form to the Rooming Department, the Congregation Service Committee should review the guidelines on the form and in the December 14, 2010, letter to all bodies of elders. The *Convention Rooming Headquarters Addresses and Telephones* (CO-5b) for 2013 has also been posted in the *Forms* section under the *Documents* tab of the jw.org website. This is **only** for the congregation secretary's use.

We appreciate your diligently following through on these important matters. Our conventions always bring spiritual refreshment and "food at the proper time." (Matt. 24:45) We pray Jehovah's rich blessing on the results of the convention programme.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Travelling overseers
Convention Committees

2013 DISTRICT CONVENTION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

(To be given as a talk on the local needs part for the Service Meeting the week of January 7, 2013.)

We eagerly anticipate the spiritual banquet in store for us at the 2013 district convention. Our congregation has been assigned to _____. Each of us should be present for *all three days*. Inform teachers and employers well ahead of time that the convention is a necessary part of our worship. By making our plans now and helping others as needed, you can be sure of Jehovah's blessing on your efforts.—Prov. 10:22; 16:3.

Programme times: Friday and Saturday: 9:20 a.m. – 4:55 p.m. Sunday: 9:20 a.m. – 3:40 p.m. A number of foreign-language sessions will be held at various convention locations. Sessions are held in a separate area in conjunction with an English convention. Foreign-language sessions consist of qualified speakers presenting selected parts directly in that language. Such parts might include the keynote address, release talks, the baptism talk, the public talk, etc. The extent of the programme presented in the foreign language may vary with simultaneous interpretation of the remainder of the programme being presented to the extent possible.

We assign each congregation to a specific convention to avoid overcrowding and thereby make adequate provisions for their welfare. We have arranged additional venues to reduce travelling time and the need for overnight accommodation. We appeal for your wholehearted cooperation as a token of your love for your brothers and their welfare.—Phil. 2:4; 1 Cor. 13:5.

Obtaining information: A complete list of all conventions in Britain and Ireland will be placed on the noticeboard and is also available on the jw.org website. If it is necessary for you to attend a convention other than the one to which your congregation is assigned, you may obtain a *Recommended Hotel List*, if available, by writing to the rooming headquarters for that convention. Your congregation secretary can provide the postal or email address. Please do not write to or telephone the branch office for convention information such as accommodation or parking tickets. Correspondence should not be sent to the convention venue.

Special needs: Do you know of someone in our congregation who could use help in getting to and from the convention? Why not offer to assist? (Prov. 3:27; Heb. 13:16) When a publisher requests assistance in obtaining accommodation, the Congregation Service Committee will determine if the publisher qualifies to submit a *Special Needs Room Request* (CO-5a) form.

Parking: We continue to encourage each congregation to hire a coach. The increased use of coaches in recent years has eased parking problems. At all convention sites where we have secured control of the parking facilities, the spaces will be made available through the congregations at no charge. When it comes to the distribution of parking tickets, every effort will be made to ensure that the disabled and infirm are given priority. Congregation Service Committees should only accept requests for such tickets if there is a genuine need. We have an on-going problem whereby many request parking tickets but do not use them. If for some reason you no longer need a parking ticket, please return the ticket so that another car party may use it. At some of the new indoor city centre venues, parking will only be available in commercial car parks.

Malta: The district convention will be held on September 6-8, 2013. Briefly review the letter dated November 30, 2012, to all congregations regarding the appointed travel agent and hotel arrangements.

Our annual district convention will afford us a fine opportunity both to take in divine instruction and to enjoy the warm association of our brothers and sisters. (Deut. 16:15) May Jehovah bless your efforts as you prepare to attend the 2013 district convention!

(After the meeting covering this material, please place this sheet on the noticeboard until the convention.)