

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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

October 9, 2013

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH TERRITORY

Re: 2014 international conventions

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to provide further details regarding the international conventions being planned for the United States in 2014. There are 16 international conventions being planned for the United States that will be held in 10 host cities. A few cities will host multiple conventions. The international convention host cities are: **Arlington, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; Detroit, Michigan; East Rutherford, New Jersey; Honolulu, Hawaii; Houston, Texas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Landover, Maryland; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Seattle, Washington.**

In what ways will the international conventions be different from the district conventions also being scheduled in 2014? The international convention locations will host a Governing Body member and an appointed helper to a Governing Body committee as key speakers. Also, each international convention city will be hosting international delegates. Congregations in the vicinity of the host city will be asked to share in showing hospitality to the approximately 2,500 international delegates.

Will any delegates be selected from the United States to attend these international conventions? No. However, you will be pleased to know that a special provision is being planned for all 2014 district conventions in the United States. Each district convention will be tied in by video to an international convention for selected talks and special program parts that will be presented.

What if my congregation is not assigned to an international convention? Every congregation in the United States branch territory will be assigned either to an international convention or to a district convention. Since there will be only 16 international conventions, most congregations will not be assigned to one. Therefore, it will be important that all attend the convention to which they are assigned. This is especially important in conjunction with international conventions. Most of these have contractual obligations that limit the number of attendees permitted and also have limited parking and other restrictive requirements. Of course, it is understandable that there may be some unique circumstances that would necessitate attending a convention other than the one to which a person is assigned. However, if circumstantially you must attend a different convention, we ask that you do not select an international convention as your substitute location.

What should I do now? Early in 2014 your congregation will receive its convention assignment. If you are assigned to a district convention rather than to an international convention, we are certain you will enjoy the special video-linked features being planned for each district convention. At this time, we ask that you await further direction. Please do not call the branch office or any convention venue in the locations listed above to obtain more information. **Addi-**

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tionally, please do not call hotels in any of these key cities to try to make reservations before these arrangements are finalized and further direction is provided. Each of us can contribute to the success of the arrangement by closely following all the direction that is provided. —1 Cor. 14:40.

We are confident that you will be spiritually refreshed by attending the convention. May Jehovah richly bless your efforts to attend the entire program.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

PS to coordinator of the body of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation by a capable brother at the first Service Meeting after its receipt. The letter should be read with clarity and the proper emphasis. Thereafter, it should be posted on the information board.