

# GOVERNING BODY OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York 11201-2483, U.S.A.

April 22, 2014

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: Adjustment in process for appointing elders and ministerial servants

Dear Brothers:

With regard to Paul and Barnabas' visit to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, Acts 14:23 states: "They appointed elders for them in each congregation, offering prayer with fasting, and they entrusted them to Jehovah, in whom they had become believers." Titus and Timothy evidently are also recorded as taking part in appointing elders in the congregations. (1 Tim. 5:22; Titus 1:5) In accord with this Scriptural precedent, the Governing Body has decided that effective September 1, 2014, circuit overseers will be responsible for the appointment and deletion of elders and ministerial servants. Additional information will appear in the November 15, 2014, issue of *The Watchtower*.

We request your continued prayers on our behalf as the preaching work is speeding up and more and more people are beginning to worship God by going to "the mountain of the house of Jehovah." (Isa. 2:2) Please accept an expression of our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

*Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Traveling overseers

PS to body of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the first Service Meeting after its receipt or after the next *Watchtower Study*, whichever comes first. **This postscript should not be read to the congregation, and the letter should not be posted on the information board.** If the circuit overseer is visiting your congregation, he will read this letter at the conclusion of the next congregation meeting. At circuit assemblies and special assembly days, the letter will be read by the last speaker on the program at the conclusion of his talk. **We would appreciate your keeping this matter confidential until the letter is read to the congregation or circuit.**

In due course, further direction regarding the aforementioned adjustments will be provided to all bodies of elders.