

# Congregazione Cristiana dei Testimoni di Geova



Via della Bufalotta 1281, 00138 Roma RM Telefono 06872941

June 9, 2014

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Adjusted approval and financing process to accelerate Kingdom Hall and Assembly Hall construction

Dear Brothers:

We are writing to provide further information regarding the adjustments that will accelerate construction of Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls. It is exciting to see this program develop and hear the many positive comments of support from congregations around the world. This feeling of support is no doubt based largely on you faithful elders taking the lead in showing your cooperation and trust in Jehovah's united organization. We are confident that under this new arrangement, with congregations pooling their resources worldwide, a true "equalizing" will take place and the construction of needed theocratic facilities will be accelerated. (2 Cor. 8:13, 14) In view of this adjustment, we are providing additional information regarding funding and project approvals at the congregation level.

**Funding:** As explained previously, congregations will continue to pay for monthly operating expenses and minor renovations and repairs from the local congregation account or Kingdom Hall Operating Committee account. Therefore, the body(ies) of elders should determine a reserve amount of funds that would generally be needed to cover about two to three months of operating expenses. If this amount has not already been established, the body(ies) of elders should meet as soon as possible to do so. Included in this amount should be funds for utilities, supplies, services (for example, snow removal and servicing of building or irrigation systems, if applicable). Each body of elders will also need to ensure that sufficient funds are retained in their individual congregation account to cover all other resolutions, such as for the Kingdom Hall Assistance Arrangement, the Convention Travel Fund, and Kingdom Hall and Assembly Hall construction worldwide.

If a repair or minor renovation is needed, the body(ies) of elders should explain the need to the congregation(s) and give the publishers the opportunity to contribute for the expense locally. If a Kingdom Hall is used by more than one congregation and if the combined bodies of elders believe there is a need, an *additional* amount (that is, in addition to the amount described in the previous paragraph) equaling no more than three months of the operating committee's average expenses may be maintained by the operating committee for the purpose of keeping the existing facilities in good repair. A similar guideline could be applied by a congregation not sharing a Kingdom Hall. In order to obtain funding for more significant projects, please seek assistance from your Local Design/Construction Department (LDC).

If funds in excess of the amounts described above accumulate in the future, the elders could consider whether to recommend to the congregation(s) that the funds be donated in full or in part to the worldwide work and/or Kingdom Hall and Assembly Hall construction worldwide.

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**Project approvals:** In the past, each body(ies) of elders, in cooperation with the Regional Building Committee, played a significant role in determining both when a new Kingdom Hall construction or renovation project was needed, as well as the scope and cost of the project. The Governing Body has now directed that much of this responsibility be transferred to the branch office. These decisions will be based on a careful examination of the circumstances of each congregation and a branch-wide plan that is being developed to assess and prioritize the need for Kingdom Halls. With a clear understanding of the overall needs, the branch office will be able to implement greater standardization and simplification for the benefit of all. Additionally, the challenging and time-consuming work of researching available options to meet the needs of the congregations will gradually be assigned to representatives of the LDC. Branch-office approval will be needed for (1) any new property purchase or sale, (2) any new construction project, (3) the addition of any new major element or feature to the existing Kingdom Hall, or (4) any project that will cost more than three months of operating expenses.

It is certainly thrilling to see firsthand how Jehovah is continuing to speed up the ingathering work as well as the closely-associated theocratic building work! (Isa. 60:22) Along with you, we continue to pray for his blessing upon these arrangements and future organizational adjustments. It is our privilege to be working alongside you during these momentous last days, and we want to express our warm Christian love and greetings as well as our appreciation for all of your fine work.

Your brothers,

*Congregazione Cristiana dei Testimoni di Geova*

c: 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.