

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses Congrégation chrétienne des Témoins de Jéhovah



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November 26, 2014

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: 2015 conventions

Dear Brothers:

We eagerly anticipate the exciting spiritual banquet in store for us at the 2015 conventions. All are encouraged to begin now to inform teachers and employers of their convention dates so that they and their family can be present for *all three days*. Additional consideration should be given to those in the congregation who might need assistance to attend the convention. (Prov. 3:27; Heb. 13:16) By making your plans now and helping others as needed, you can be sure of Jehovah's blessing on your efforts.—Prov. 16:3.

A complete list of all conventions in Canada and the United States will be posted on the information board after the Service Meeting tonight. In due course, the list will also be made available on jw.org. Look under ABOUT US > CONVENTIONS.

Please attend the convention to which your congregation is assigned. If because of some unique circumstance you must attend a different convention, you may obtain a *Recommended Lodging List* by writing the rooming headquarters for that convention. The congregation secretary can provide the postal address or e-mail address for the convention you select.

Publishers in groups or pregroups are encouraged to attend the convention being held in the language of their group, if they are able to do so, even if that convention falls on the same weekend as the one to which their host congregation has been assigned. While such publishers may attend both of these conventions if they wish, they should not feel compelled to attend the convention to which their host congregation is assigned.

The *Recommended Lodging List* will be posted on the information board after the Service Meeting tonight. Please adhere to the following instructions as you make your hotel reservations:

- Remember that your speech and demeanor should always reflect the fruitage of the spirit.—Gal. 5:22, 23.
- Stay only in the hotels on the *Recommended Lodging List*. Accept only the rate shown on the list. If no more rooms are available at a particular hotel at the approved rate, call another hotel on the list.
- Do not call hotels that are not on the list to ask if they have a rate for our conventions.
- Obtain a confirmation number, and make your deposit within ten days by debit/credit card, check, or money order.
- Each room should be reserved in the name of the person who will actually occupy it. Please do not reserve a number of rooms from the hotels on the *Recommended Lodging List*. Each one should reserve rooms only for his own family or for someone

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who is not capable of doing so for himself. Some hotels report that many rooms are being reserved and then cancelled (even at the last minute). This causes difficulty in working with some hotels and can bring reproach on the organization.

- If you must cancel a reservation, do so well in advance of the convention so others needing accommodations can use the room. Be sure to get a cancellation number. If you cancel a room less than 48 hours ahead, your deposit will not be refunded.
- Fire code regulations restrict the total number of persons—of any age—allowed in each hotel room. Unless otherwise stated on the *Recommended Lodging List*, this restriction is usually four persons per room. How does this affect your reservations? If your family or group, including children, has more persons than a hotel allows in a room, you will need to reserve more than one room or reserve a room from a hotel on the *Recommended Lodging List* that legally allows more persons.—Heb. 13:18.
- If no rooms at the approved rate are available after calling ALL the hotels listed, or if you have a problem with a hotel, inform your congregation secretary. He will communicate with the convention Rooming Department, using the contact information on the *Recommended Lodging List*.
- Please also note that if you use a debit or credit card to register at a hotel, it is standard practice for them to place a hold on the amount of money in your account that will cover your total room cost, plus any possible damages or incidentals during your stay. You will not be able to use that money until your total hotel bill is settled within a few days after you depart.

Our annual conventions 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 2015 conventions!

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Circuit overseers

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PS to body of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the Service Meeting for the week of January 5, 2015. Thereafter, it should be posted on the information board. **This postscript should neither be read to the congregation nor be posted on the information board.** The convention assignment letter that you will receive separately should be read to the congregation just prior to reading this letter.

If for some reason the congregation is unable to have its Service Meeting the week of January 5, 2015, each field service group overseer should be given a copy of the *Recommended Lodging List* (if applicable) and should inform his group of their convention dates and location on the evening that their Service Meeting would normally be held. Thereafter, he should arrange for anyone in his group needing accommodations to write down hotel reservation phone numbers from the list. However, they should not receive a copy of the list in any form. A copy of this letter along with the *Recommended Lodging List* should be posted on the information board at the next meeting. The letter should be read to the congregation at the next scheduled Service Meeting.

A printable list of conventions for Canada and the United States will be posted in the "Forms" section under the "Documents" tab on jw.org shortly before the week of January 5, 2015. Please print this entire list prior to the Service Meeting that week, and post it on the information board after the meeting. A copy of the list may be provided to any publishers who request a copy.

The Congregation Service Committee should review the October 27, 2013, letter to all bodies of elders regarding convention arrangements. When a publisher requests assistance in obtaining accommodations, the service committee will determine if the publisher qualifies to submit a *Special Needs Room Request* (CO-5a) form.