

Announcement

July 29, 2022

FOR CONGREGATIONS

1. **Attending In-Person Meetings:** In reviewing the results of resuming in-person congregation meetings since April 1, 2022, it is evident that Jehovah is clearly blessing this arrangement. We thank Jehovah for the opportunity to greet our brothers and sisters face-to-face, sing songs of praise to Jehovah harmoniously, and make other appropriate expressions of Christian affection once again. (Prov. 27:17, ftn.; Rom. 12:10; Eph. 5:19) After more than two years of not being able to meet together at our Kingdom Halls, we have renewed appreciation for in-person Christian meetings that lift our spirits and strengthen our faith during these difficult times.

2. We acknowledge that because of advanced age, infirmities, or other circumstances, some may be limited in their ability to attend meetings in person. For such ones, please keep in mind the loving reminder at Hebrews 6:10: “God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name by ministering and continuing to minister to the holy ones.”

3. On the other hand, some brothers and sisters—younger and in good health—have more favorable circumstances that may allow them to attend Christian meetings regularly at the Kingdom Hall. However, it has been observed that some have developed a tendency to attend meetings on a videoconference when, according to their circumstances, they could be physically at the Kingdom Hall. If this is our situation, we can ask ourselves the soul-searching question, ‘Can I put forth greater effort to worship Jehovah in person?’

4. We capture a sense of Jehovah’s thinking on this important matter by reviewing the following scriptures:

- Psalm 22:22: “I will declare your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”
- 1 Corinthians 14:23: “The whole congregation comes together to one place . . .”
- 3 John 14: “I am hoping to see you soon, and we will speak face-to-face.”

5. We encourage you to consider prayerfully the aforementioned scriptures and to do research on this subject in our publications, perhaps during your next Family Worship or personal study session. Of course, each one should show balance, reasonableness, and love so that we do not unnecessarily put others at risk by attending meetings in person if we test positive for COVID-19, display cold or flu-like symptoms, or have recently been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Please contact the elders if you have questions in this regard.

6. If we are attending via videoconference (or by some other means), we should still view the meeting as part of our worship and sacred service. Remembering this should affect how we dress and act during a meeting, an assembly, or a convention. We need to ask ourselves: ‘Even if it is not possible for me to be physically at the Kingdom Hall, do I still show the same respect for the program? Are there ways that I can improve in this area?’

7. Strong faith and endurance are required to face deteriorating world conditions. So, we take this opportunity to warmly commend you dear brothers and sisters for your faithfulness, love, and heartfelt desire to praise our glorious God, Jehovah. We love you very much!—3 John 4.

Announcement

August 9, 2022

FOR CONGREGATIONS

1. **Resuming In-Person House-to-House Ministry:** We are delighted to share the following news with you. On August 3, 2022, the Governing Body informed all Branch Committees that they may resume the in-person house-to-house ministry beginning September 1. After considering the local situation in our branch territory, we are pleased to provide the following direction that will be of assistance to you as you carry out your personal ministry.

2. All should use good judgment when deciding whether to wear a mask when witnessing in person. When you approach people in the ministry, we know you will continue to show due respect and consideration for their feelings and circumstances. This would include maintaining a discreet distance. This is in harmony with Jesus' words found at Matthew 7:12: "All things, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must do to them."

3. **Mask-Wearing at Congregation Meetings:** For the time being, we strongly encourage all to continue to wear a mask at congregation meetings.