

## **Tioga Announcements for the Public Ministry**

### **FOR THE BODY OF ELDERS:**

The Service Committee met yesterday to discuss the Tioga Public Ministry arrangements. Our overall theme as we talked centered around safety and sound reasoning. We wanted to share our notes of the discussion and get your input and approval.

- Field Service Locations for meetings
  - We recommend that we continue to meet on Zoom for all meetings for field service. In 6 months, December 2022, we'll re-look at this to see if any changes need to be made.
- Branch Approved Methods of Witnessing
  - Return Visits
    - In-person return visits can be made, **starting June 25**, with the strongly urged precautions:
      - Wear a mask
      - Do not make in-person return visits alone
      - Be mindful of the time making the return visit. Evening is not recommended
    - What happens when making the return visit and other neighbors engage us, not violently, but curious as to what is going on? Reference- OD pages 96-97, para 27 - “We today can let the Kingdom truth shine forth by our words and actions whenever there is an opportunity for us to tell others about the good news.”
  - Bible Studies
    - This method of our ministry should follow the example of the 1<sup>st</sup> four bullets under the **Return Visits** discussion above.
  - Cart Witnessing
    - Our concern is safety. With that in mind we ask for the support of the FSGO and all baptized brothers in your groups to support the Sisters engaged in this part of our ministry.
    - The Cart Witnessing will start off on the weekends, **starting Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**
      - Saturday
        - 8 -10
        - 10 -12
        - 12-2
      - Sunday
        - 2:30- 3:30
    - We'll monitor this form of witnessing for 30 days to potentially open it up Sunday through Saturday with any needed adjustments
    - We'll utilize the same signup sheet we used previously for use of the Carts

- Seven carts are available for use and they appear to be in good condition
  - Those who are interested in this phase of the ministry **must qualify**
    - The publishers must inform their FSGO their interest in this form of the ministry even if they previously qualified
    - The Service Committee will make the approvals with the input of the FSGO
  - Location of Carts will be what we used previously
    - We need to double-check to see if any permissions need to be re-confirmed
    - We're also on the lookout for any new additional locations
- Street Witnessing
  - We share the same concerns for Safety as we have with Cart Witnessing
  - The recommendation is when engaging in this form of witnessing, have multiple publishers engaged, definitely more than two and during reasonable hours.
- Car Witnessing
  - This is not a formal arrangement by the Branch
  - We recognize though that some of our friends engage in this informal form of witnessing
  - Safety again is our concern. If we continue to engage in this form of witnessing the encouragement to have a car full of publishers, at least 4, and constantly be aware of your surroundings. Carjackings are on the rise so heightened awareness is needed

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### FOR THE CONGREGATION:

The Body of Elders collectively came to agreement outlining the Tioga Public Ministry arrangements. Our overall theme as we communicated centered around safety and sound reasoning. We want to share our direction with the congregation.

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  - We recommend that we continue to meet on Zoom for all meetings for field service. In 6 months, December 2022, we'll re-look at this to see if any changes need to be made.
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  - Return Visits
    - In-person return visits can be made, **starting June 25**, with the strongly urged precautions:
      - Wear a mask
      - Do not make in-person return visits alone
      - Be mindful of the time making the return visit. Evening is not recommended
    - What happens when making the return visit and other neighbors engage us, not violently, but curious as to what is going on? - *Snippet from the Reference OD pages 96-97, para 27 - “We today can let the Kingdom truth shine forth by our words and actions whenever there is an opportunity for us to tell others about the good news.”*
  - Bible Studies
    - This method of our ministry should follow the example the **Return Visits** just discussed.
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    - Our concern is safety.
    - The Cart Witnessing will start off on the weekends, **starting Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**
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