

JOB'S DAUGHTERS INTERNATIONAL®
Supreme Jurisprudence Committee 2019-20
Rick L. Holloway, PASG, Chairman
Lois Ann Sharpe, PGG (2) Lynell McCracken, PGG (2)
Pam Henderson, PSG (3) Beth Bohlman, PGG (3)

March 7, 2020

Linda Luttrell, Supreme Guardian

RE: Options for holding meetings in areas affected by COVID-19

Dear Supreme Guardian Linda,

The Supreme Jurisprudence Committee has reviewed your request for options for Bethels to hold meetings in areas where COVID-19 (coronavirus) precautions have been determined to be a public health emergency. Declarations of such an emergency typically include instructions for people to refrain from congregating in large groups, enhanced infection control procedures, self-isolating in a person's home if they have signs/symptoms of flu or COVID-19, and limiting travel to areas where the COVID-19 virus has been identified. The question posed to the Supreme Jurisprudence Committee was whether a meeting could be held via Skype or other video conferencing services when travel restrictions are in place due to identified infectious disease precautions.

SOP-Bethel-21 Art. IV Sec. 2 contains the requirements to hold a meeting. Section 2(b) states, "No meeting can be opened without the presence of the Dispensation or Charter and seven (7) members of the Bethel, including one (1) of the first three (3) officers. There shall also be present at least one (1) Executive Member of the BGC, or an officer of the Supreme/Grand Guardian Council, or a Supreme/Grand Deputy."

The Supreme Jurisprudence Committee had determined that, in very specific instances, the Supreme/Grand Guardian can issue a Special Dispensation under SOP-Bethel-18 to allow a Bethel to hold a meeting via Skype or other video conferencing services under the following situations:

1. The Bethel is located in an area under which public health officials have determined travel and group activities should be limited to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
2. The Special Dispensation should be time limited, either for a single meeting or for the projected duration of the public health emergency.
3. The Special Dispensation should be area specific, which could include multiple Bethels within the boundary of the designated public health emergency declaration.
4. There would still need to be at least one of the first three officers present at the Bethel room where the Dispensation or Charter is located, as well as a member of the Executive BGC.
5. If travel is restricted to the point that one of the first three officers of the Bethel and one member of the Executive BGC cannot travel to the place where Bethel meetings occur based on their Uniform Code, a Special Dispensation may be issued by the Supreme/Grand Guardian to allow that Bethel to hold a meeting in another location as long as the Charter or Dispensation is present.
6. Daughters connecting to the Bethel meeting via a video conferencing service must be sure the area where they are located is secure from anyone participating who is not authorized to attend a Bethel meeting.
7. There can be no recordings of the Bethel meeting.

8. Roll Call of officers and Council Members should indicate which of them participated in the meeting via video conferencing.

We recognize that this is a highly unusual situation and want Bethels who are located in areas in which infectious disease outbreaks are occurring to still be able to meet. The use of video conferencing of a closed Bethel meeting should be used only if necessary for the health and safety of the Daughters and adult leaders.

Please let me know if you have further questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Rick Holloway, Chair
Supreme Jurisprudence Committee