

**CONSTITUTION****ARTICLE I****STYLE AND JURISDICTION**

**Section 1.** Style - The style of the Grand Lodge is “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida.”

**Section 2.** Jurisdiction - The jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Florida extends over all the recorded Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons within the political boundaries of the State, and within which it is the Supreme Masonic head and authority. Its jurisdiction also extends to any State, Province, or Territory in which no Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons exists, in which it may Charter Particular Lodges; *provided*, that its jurisdiction and authority over Lodges so Chartered ceases as soon as a Grand Lodge is legally constituted in such State, Province, or Territory.

**Section 3.** Corporate Entity - It is recognized that the Grand Lodge is a regularly constituted Masonic Grand Lodge and as such is subject to and governed by the Landmarks of Freemasonry and those laws and customs that govern all Masonic Grand Lodges.

It is further recognized that the Grand Lodge is a body politic and corporate created and existing under and by virtue of Chapter 4281, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1893, and it, and all Particular Lodges Masonically Chartered by it, are corporate bodies subject to laws governing corporations so created and existing in Florida.

**Section 4.** Corporate Board - (1) The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden are hereby designated as corporate officers and together with the Grand Treasurer and two appointees as hereinafter set forth are hereby designated as the Board of Directors of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida in its corporate character, which Board of Directors may be referred to as the Corporate Board.

(2) The Grand Master shall be Chairman of the Corporate Board and the Deputy Grand Master shall be Vice Chairman of said Board.

(3) The Grand Treasurer shall be Treasurer of the Corporation and the internal auditor of all claims and orders for disbursement of corporate funds and shall be responsible for pre-audit of all such claims and orders. When in doubt as to the legality or validity of any such claim or order the Grand Treasurer shall not make payment thereof pending appeal to and decision by majority vote of membership of the Corporate Board. The Corporate Board shall prescribe the procedure for such appeals and the disposition thereof.

(4) The Grand Secretary shall, ex-officio, be Secretary to, but not a member of the Corporate Board and shall be the keeper of the Seal of the Grand Lodge, which Seal shall be the Corporate Seal. In the event the Grand Secretary shall be, for any reason, unable to attend his duties as Secretary to the Corporate Board, the Board may designate a member of said Board to act as Secretary. Full and complete minutes of the proceedings and actions of the Corporate Board shall be made and signed by the Grand Master and by the Secretary or acting Secretary and shall be filed in the office of the Grand Secretary.

(5) The two appointive members of the Corporate Board, one of which shall be a Past Grand Master, shall be appointed by the Grand Master for a term of one year. No appointive member of said Board shall serve for more than three consecutive years.

(6) The Grand Master and any three other members of the Corporate Board shall constitute a quorum. All decisions and actions by said Board shall be by majority vote, which majority shall and must include the Grand Master. There shall be no proxy voting.

(7) In the event of a vacancy arising by death, resignation, removal, or any other cause of an appointive member of the Corporate Board the Grand Master, then in office, shall appoint a successor to serve the unexpired term of such appointive member.

**Section 5.** Grand Master Supreme in Fraternal Matters-In all purely fraternal matters, as hereinafter designated, the Grand Master is the supreme authority and in corporate matters, as hereinafter designated, the Corporate Board is the supreme authority. In the recess of the Grand Lodge all executive powers of the Grand Lodge of fraternal character vest in the Grand Master and all powers of the Grand Lodge of corporate character vest in the Corporate Board.

**Section 6.** Corporate Board Powers - (a) All financial affairs of the Grand Lodge are hereby declared to be corporate in character and the Corporate Board is hereby declared to be and constituted as the Budget Commission of the Grand Lodge and is hereby vested with all the powers and duties of such Budget Commission as now or hereafter prescribed by this Constitution and the Regulations of the Grand Lodge and all programs, projects, activities, functions, and operations of the Grand Lodge financial in nature or character are hereby declared to be under the supervision of the Corporate Board and to be administered by such Board in accordance with this Constitution and the Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

(b) All programs, projects, activities, functions, and operations carried on or directed by and under the jurisdiction of the Corporate Committees as set forth, defined and prescribed in and by the terms and provisions of Article IX of this Constitution are hereby declared to be corporate in nature and character to-wit: The Board of Directors as provided for herein and as the Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge as provided in this Constitution and in the Regulations of the Grand Lodge, the Masonic Home Endowment and Investment Committee, the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home, the Finance and Accounts Committee, the Endowment Procurement Committee, the Committee on Grand Lodge Properties, the Panel of Attorneys, the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, the Committee on Perpetual Membership, and the Insurance Committee. (1991)

(c) Except as provided for elsewhere in this Constitution the Grand Master shall appoint all Corporate Committees. (1989)

**Section 7.** Fraternal Matters Defined - The following activities, functions, operations, and programs of the Grand Lodge carried on, directed by, or under the jurisdiction of the following Committees are declared to be fraternal in character and are hereby designated as Fraternal Committees, and shall be subject to supervision, direction, and control of the Grand Master, subject to provisions of the Landmarks of Freemasonry and the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge to-wit:

- (a) The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence
- (b) The Committee on Work
- (c) The Committee on Returns and Credentials
- (d) The Grand Master's Coordinating Committee
- (e) The Committee on Arrangements
- (f) The Penal Affairs Panel
- (g) The Committee on Museum and History

- (h) The Committee on Masonic Education
- (i) The Committee on Public Education and Citizenship
- (j) The Committee on Youth Activities
- (k) The Committee on Workshops for Lodge Officers
- (l) The Committee on Public Relations and Publicity (1993)
- (m) The Committee on Wardens' Workshop (2001)
- (n) The Committee on the Child ID Program (2002)
- (o) The Flagship Charity Committee (2016)

The duties, powers, and jurisdiction of the Committees designated in this Section shall be prescribed by this Constitution and by the Regulations of the Grand Lodge, but no power, duty, authority, nor jurisdiction shall be conferred upon the above designated Committees nor upon any other Committee of the Grand Lodge that limits, restricts, or impairs the duties, powers, authority, or jurisdiction of the Committees designated in Section 6 hereof as Corporate Committees.

Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the Committees designated in this Section shall be appointed by the Grand Master.

**Section 8.** Fraternal Matters Further Defined - Any and all activities, functions, and operations of the Grand Lodge, except those defined, delineated, and designated as Corporate activities, functions, and operations are hereby declared to be Fraternal in character including but not limited to appointment of District Deputy Grand Masters, District Instructors, and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers; visitation by the Grand Master to the Lodges and Districts; issuance of Edicts, Proclamations, Executive Orders, and Dispensations and all such fraternal matters, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge shall be under exclusive control and direction of the Grand Master.

**Section 9.** Powers, Duties, and Limitations of and on Corporate Board - The Corporate Board shall also have the following powers, duties, and authority and be subject to the limitations, restrictions, and prohibitions enumerated herein:

(a) Prescribe by appropriate Resolution the manner, procedure, and requirements for disbursement of Grand Lodge funds but such Resolution shall provide for one genuine signature of at least one Corporate Officer and one facsimile signature on all checks or drafts not to exceed \$10,000. All disbursements over \$10,000 will require genuine signatures of at least two Corporate Officers. (2015)

(b) Make recommendations for legislation fixing the fiscal year of Grand Lodge.

(c) No Committee shall be approved or appointed whose operation, meetings or functions will require expenditure of Grand Lodge funds without specific appropriation therefore and approval by the Corporate Board, which approval must be recorded

in the minutes of the said Board together with detailed statement of the purpose, authority, and scope of activity of the Committee and no Committee shall be approved or appointed for a purpose, project or program that is within the power, jurisdiction, or scope, either expressly or by fair implication, of an Officer or Committee provided for in the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

(d) No program, project, or undertaking shall be initiated, promoted, carried on, or prosecuted which requires expenditure of Grand Lodge funds or solicitation of funds from membership of the Fraternity except such programs or projects as are authorized by this Constitution or by Grand Lodge Regulation or Resolution or with written approval of the Corporate Board, which approval by the Corporate Board shall set forth in detail the nature, scope, purpose, method of procedure, and other relevant matters in respect to the proposed project or program.

(e) The Seal of the Grand Lodge shall be the Corporate Seal and shall be affixed to all documents requiring such Seal. In the event of incapacity or for any other reason the Grand Secretary shall not affix such Seal, the Corporate Board may designate a member of the Corporate Board to affix such Seal as Acting Secretary.

(f) The Grand Master may be suspended, and the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, or Grand Secretary can be suspended or removed from office in such manner as the Grand Lodge may prescribe by Constitutional provision or Regulation of the Grand Lodge.

(g) Documents requiring execution in the name of or on behalf of the Grand Lodge that obligate the Grand Lodge to do or perform any act or action or permit any act or action by another party or provides for expenditure of funds shall be executed by the Grand Master or Acting Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Seal affixed and the document attested by the Grand Secretary or Acting Grand Secretary. No such document shall be executed as aforesaid except by approval of the Corporate Board.

(h) Subject to review by the Grand Lodge at the next succeeding Annual Grand Communication, the Corporate Board may promulgate and issue Rules for the procedures and conduct of business of any Corporate Committee not in conflict with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. (1984)

(i) The Corporate Board may authorize the solicitation and sale of advertising for *The Florida Mason* and other publications, providing that such advertising does not pertain to the sale of alcoholic beverages, or violate the principles of Masonic teachings. (1997)

**Rulings and Decisions**

The Deputy Grand Master, upon being elected and installed to the Office of Grand Master of Masons, is supreme in his appointments and cannot be held to any nomination made by the newly elected and or installed Senior Grand Warden. (1989 Proc. 74)

## ARTICLE II

**GRAND OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** The Officers of the Grand Lodge are: the Grand Master, whose title is Most Worshipful; the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Secretary, the title of each being Right Worshipful; and the Right Reverend Grand Chaplain - who shall be appointed by the Grand Master; and a District Deputy Grand Master from each Masonic District, which Districts shall not exceed twenty-nine (29) in number, who shall be appointed by the Grand Master, the title of each being Right Worshipful. (2022)

And the following Subordinate Grand Officers, viz: Grand Orator, Grand Marshal, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Senior Grand Steward, Junior Grand Steward, Grand Pursuivant, and Grand Tyler whose title is Worshipful - who shall be appointed by the Grand Master, but the Junior Grand Deacon shall be appointed only upon nomination of the Senior Grand Warden. (1990)

**Section 2.** The members of the Grand Lodge by inherent right are the Masters and Wardens of the Particular Lodges, and U.D.

Lodges who have paid for their Charters and have been working more than one year in this jurisdiction, or their regular appointed proxies, and who with the elected Officers of the Grand Lodge for the time being only, and all Past Grand Masters, have the right to vote for Grand Officers.

**Section 3.** All the Elected Past Grand Officers and Past Masters of Lodges are, by courtesy, members of the Grand Lodge, so long as they continue membership of some Particular Lodge under this jurisdiction, and have a right to vote upon all questions arising in the Grand Lodge, which are determined by the usual Masonic Sign at the sound of the gavel.

**Section 4.** All members of the Grand Lodge are entitled to one vote; and in case of a tie, the Grand Master, or Officer presiding, has the casting vote.

### ARTICLE III

#### ELECTION AND INSTALLATION

**Section 1.** The election of Grand Officers shall be held at the Annual Grand Communication at such time as the Grand Lodge may appoint by appropriate Resolution.

**Section 2.** In balloting for Grand Officers, each Lodge is entitled to three (3) votes; if there be but two (2) of the three (3) principal Officers of a Lodge present, the Officer highest in rank shall cast two (2) votes; the Officer present shall have precedence over the proxy of an Officer higher in rank, but if two (2) or more of the Officers are represented by proxies, such proxies shall have precedence according to the rank of the Officers they severally represent; and if there be but one (1) Officer or proxy present, he shall cast the three votes of his Lodge.

**Section 3.** The Grand Master is always in nomination, and a majority of all the votes cast is requisite to a choice.

**Section 4.** Only members of the Grand Lodge who have been regularly elected and installed the Master of a Particular Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Florida are eligible to be elected to any Office in the Grand Lodge. (1992)

**Section 5.** It is the duty of the Grand Master-elect, as soon after the election as may be, to appoint the Subordinate Grand Officers and to announce the same to the Grand Lodge.



**Section 6.** The last Grand Master, or any other Past Grand Master, may install the Grand Master-elect, whose duty it is to install the other Grand Officers elected and appointed, which duty must be performed before the close of the Grand Lodge; *provided*, any Past Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, or Past Deputy Grand Master, may perform that duty. But no Elected Grand Officer can be installed by proxy, except under some peculiar circumstances when the Grand Master may grant a Dispensation for that purpose.

**Section 7.** All Grand Officers duly elected and installed shall continue in office one year, and until their successors in office are duly elected and installed. The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Wardens cannot resign during the year for which they are elected and installed in office.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

The Deputy Grand Master upon being elected and installed to the Office of Grand Master of Masons is supreme in all his appointments and cannot be held to any nomination made by the newly elected and or installed Senior Grand Warden. (1989 Proc. 74)

## ARTICLE IV

### **GRAND COMMUNICATIONS**

**Section 1.** The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida shall be held within the State of Florida between the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and the 30<sup>th</sup> of June at the time and place to be appointed by the Grand Master by Executive Order. At least sixty (60) days prior to the time and place of the Annual Communication, notice shall be provided to each of the Particular Lodges, Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters. The Grand Master may call a special Communication of the Grand Lodge when, in his opinion, the interest of the Craft may require it. (1996)

**Section 2.** A due representation of at least three Particular Lodges is necessary to constitute a quorum to open the Grand Lodge; *provided*, that should there not be a quorum of Lodges represented by 11 o'clock a.m. on the first day of the Annual Communication, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to adjourn the meeting from day to day, or time to time, until a quorum shall be in attendance, not exceeding three days.

**Section 3.** The Grand Master, when present, presides, and the Grand Lodge is opened in Ample Form. In his absence, the Deputy Grand Master presides, and the Grand Lodge is opened in Due Form. In the absence of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden presides; and in his absence also, the Junior Grand Warden presides. And should the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Wardens be absent, the Grand

Master may appoint as his Special Deputy, any permanent member of the Grand Lodge to preside, and in case no Special Deputy shall be appointed and be present, and in case neither of the Grand Officers mentioned shall be present, then the oldest Master Mason present, being a Master of a Lodge, shall preside; and in either of the four last alternatives, the Grand Lodge will only be opened in Form, and the Officer so presiding pro tem, shall, during his presence in the East, be clothed with all the powers, prerogatives, and authority of the Grand Master, and be held to worship until a Grand Officer higher in rank shall appear and take his place.

**Section 4.** When the Senior Grand Warden is not in the West, the Junior Grand Warden does not succeed to fill it, because his proper place is in the South; and the West must be filled by a pro tem appointment from time to time.

**Section 5.** Prior to the opening of Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall appoint a Committee on Returns and Credentials and the Grand Secretary shall deliver to such Committee all necessary materials for the work of the Committee. The Committee on Returns and Credentials shall report as soon as practicable after opening of Grand Lodge.

## ARTICLE V

### POWERS OF THE GRAND LODGE

**Section 1.** The Grand Lodge is a representative body and derives its power from the Particular Lodges who are its constituents, and from immemorial usage and custom; and is, therefore, the supreme head and authority of Ancient Craft Masonry in this jurisdiction.

**Section 2.** It has original jurisdiction over all subjects of legislation for the benefit of the Craft, and judicial powers in the interpretation and administration of its own Laws, and in the trial and punishment of its own Officers and members, and appellate jurisdiction in all cases involving Masonic rights and benefits, not in violation of this Constitution, and the established Landmarks of the Order; *provided*, that the Grand Master cannot be tried during his Grand Mastership, because no one can preside in his presence, but when the term for which he is elected and installed expires, he may be tried as provided by Grand Lodge Regulations for trial of past Elected Grand Lodge Officers, if charges and specifications be filed against him within one year after the expiration of his Grand Mastership. (1985)

**Section 3.** In cases of an appeal from a suspension or expulsion, if the Grand Lodge acquits the accused, or reverses the decision of the Lodge or Special Trial Commission below, or when the Grand Lodge confirms the decision of the Particular Lodge or Special Trial Commission and subsequently restores the party

to the rights and benefits of Masonry, the action of the Grand Lodge does not in either case restore the party to membership in the Lodge from which he is suspended or expelled without the unanimous consent of the Lodge, as in cases of a ballot for membership. In all cases of definite suspension, the member returns to his membership upon the expiration of the term of suspension.

**Section 4.** The Grand Lodge has the power to constitute new Lodges, and grant Charters or Warrants of Constitution for the same, and has the supervision and approval of the By-Laws of the Particular Lodges, and therefore may adopt a Uniform Code of By-Laws for their government; *provided*, that local Regulations for the benefit of the Craft be not interfered with.

**Section 5.** The Grand Lodge has the power to suspend the Charter of any of the Particular Lodges or of arresting or withdrawing the Charter of any of the Particular Lodges for good cause shown; and when a Lodge forfeits or surrenders its Charter, the Grand Lodge succeeds to all its furniture, jewels, funds, books, papers, and other property, and may appoint some proper officer to take charge of the same for the benefit of the Craft; *provided*, that when the Charter of a Lodge is restored, all its furniture, jewels, books, papers, and other property, shall also be restored.

**Section 6.** The Grand Lodge has the power to assess and collect an annual revenue, adequate to its current demands, and to make such other assessments from time to time, and appropriations, as may be required for its permanent accommodation, the increase of its library, and the preservation and security of its public proceedings and archives; and to do all other matters and things which, in its wisdom, may be required and necessary for the general benefit of the Craft in the jurisdiction, not prohibited by this Constitution and the Old Landmarks of Freemasonry.

## ARTICLE VI

### POWERS AND DUTIES OF GRAND OFFICERS

**Section 1.** Besides those duties which are unwritten, and which every Officer should know and understand, and faithfully perform, the following duties are required of the Grand Officers respectively:

**Section 2.** It is the duty of the Grand Master to attend all Communications of the Grand Lodge and, when present, to preside, and at the opening of each Annual Communication, to read an address or report relating to the transactions of the past year, and suggesting such measures for the actions of the Grand Lodge as in his opinion the good of the Craft and the prosperity of good Masons may require.

**Section 3.** The Grand Master is clothed with powers and prerogatives, from ancient usages and customs, besides those conferred by Constitutional Law. When presiding, he is supreme, and no appeal can be taken from his decision, nor call for the previous question or motion to adjourn be entertained.

**Section 4.** In the recess of Grand Lodge, all the executive powers and authority of the Grand Lodge in fraternal matters devolve upon the Grand Master. He can grant Dispensations for new Lodges, and may suspend a Lodge or take possession of its Charter, when he believes the good of the Order requires it, until the next Annual Communication. He can suspend the Master and Wardens of a Lodge, or any of them, and may cause charges to be preferred against the officer or officers so suspended. He can make a Mason at sight; but he must be made in a body of a regularly constituted Lodge, and by the trial of the ballot. He can grant Dispensations for extraordinary processions and in all cases of emergency when in his opinion the good of Masonry will be promoted. In the recess of Grand Lodge all Corporate power and authority of the Grand Lodge devolve upon the Corporate Board. (1984)

**Section 5.** It is the duty of the Grand Master, with the assistance of the Deputy Grand Master, or one of the District Deputy Grand Masters, to visit the Particular Lodges in his jurisdiction at least once a year, and to examine their work and condition; and, when necessary, to have access to books and papers, and to preside, with the Master of the Lodge on his left.

**Section 6.** When the Grand Lodge is in session, it is the duty of the Grand Master to appoint all committees and to make pro tem appointments; to appoint the Subordinate Officers, and install the Grand Officers. He has general supervision of the books and accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and unrestrained access to them; and in case of vacancy by death, resignation, removal, or other cause of the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, to make other appointments until the next Annual Communication. And generally, the Grand Master being the representative of the Grand Lodge in recess, may do, order, and direct all matters and things which in his wisdom and judgement may tend to the prosperity of the Craft, not in violation of this Constitution and the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry. (1984)

**Section 7.** It is the duty of the Deputy Grand Master to assist the Grand Master in the discharge of all his official duties, and in his absence to preside. And in case of his death, or incapacity from any cause, to perform the duties of his office, all the duties, powers, and prerogatives of the Grand Master devolve on the Deputy Grand Master until the next Annual Communication.

**Section 8.** It is the duty of the Senior Grand Warden to assist the Grand Master in opening and closing the Grand Lodge, and in his absence, and in the absence of the Deputy Grand Master, to preside; and in case of the death, removal, or inability from any other cause to perform the duties of the office of the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden succeeds to all the powers, rights, and prerogatives of the Grand Master. And in case of the death, removal, or inability from any cause to perform the duties of the office of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden succeeds to all the powers, rights, and prerogatives of the Grand Master.

**Section 9.** It is the duty of the Grand Treasurer to receive all monies received or collected for or on account of the Grand Lodge, giving his receipt for same, and to keep a just and true account thereof in a book to be provided for that purpose, to which the Grand Master and Corporate Board shall at all times have free access for inspection; and at each Annual Communication to make a full and accurate statement of his accounts, to be laid before the Committee on Finance and Accounts for examination and report. In case of the death, resignation, or removal from office of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Master has authority to take possession of all the books, papers, accounts, and funds appertaining to his office, to be turned over to his successor in office. The Grand Treasurer, for his service and responsibilities, shall be entitled to receive compensation as may be provided for, from time to time, by Budget appropriation. (1984)

**Section 10.** It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to receive all monies due to the Grand Lodge payable to him, and to pay the same to the Grand Treasurer, taking a receipt therefore, to keep a just and true account of all monies received by him, and paid over to the Grand Treasurer, in books provided for that purpose, to which the Grand Master and members of the Corporate Board shall at all times have free access; and at each Annual Communication, to make out a true and accurate statement and report of the same, to be laid before the Committee on Finance and

Accounts for examination. It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to report to the Grand Lodge all communications and correspondence which may have been received at his office during the recess of Grand Lodge, pertinent to be reported on; to furnish the respective committees with all necessary papers, documents, and records to them referred; to keep a true and accurate journal and record in a book provided for that purpose, of all the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, proper to be written, must be signed by the Grand Master and the Junior Past Grand Master or other officer who presided at the Communication, and their signatures shall be shown in the printed Proceedings. To preserve in his office all the returns, papers, and other documents from the Particular Lodges, and the Proceedings, foreign correspondence, and other communication, from other Grand Lodges in correspondence with the Grand Lodge to which the Committee on Foreign Relations of this Grand Lodge shall have access during the recess. And as soon after the close of the Grand Lodge as may be, he shall cause a true copy or transcript of all matters ordered or intended to be published as the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, to be prepared for the Corporate Board for publication, and which, when published, he shall cause to be transmitted to all the Particular Lodges under this Jurisdiction, and to all the Grand Lodges in correspondence with this Grand Lodge. It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to furnish the Particular Lodges with all necessary blank forms as prescribed, or may from time to time, be prescribed by the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary is, by virtue of his office, Grand Librarian and has charge and custody of all books, papers, and archives of the Grand Lodge. It is his duty to provide all necessary blank forms of Charters, Dispensations, Diplomas, etc., and to cause the same, when required, to be properly executed under the Seal of the Grand Lodge, and to furnish widows and orphans of Master Masons Certificates or Diplomas, when required, without fee.

In the event of the death, removal, or resignation of the Grand Secretary, it is the duty of the Grand Master to appoint a successor, who shall take charge of all the books, papers, archives, Seal, and furniture, and other effects belonging to the Grand Secretary's Office, and make and preserve a correct inventory of same.

If the Grand Secretary is requested or directed to execute or attest any document and has doubts as to the legality or validity thereof under civil or Masonic Law, he shall appeal to the Corporate Board for instructions or directions in the matter. (1984)

**Section 11.** Each District Deputy Grand Master shall visit every Lodge in his District, at a Stated or Called Communication, at least once during his term of office, and of such intended visit he shall give notice to the Master or Secretary of the Lodge. He shall examine the records of the Lodge, and see if they are regularly kept, inform himself of the number of members, inquire into the condition of the Lodge, point out any errors he may observe in the condition or manner of working, instruct the Lodge in every particular wherein he may conceive them to require information, recommend attention to the moral and benevolent principles of the institution, caution in the admission of candidates, and a punctual representation of their Lodge in every Communication of the Grand Lodge. When any District Deputy Grand Master shall discover, either in his own District or any other part of the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, any Masonic error or evil, he shall immediately endeavor, by Masonic means, to arrest its progress, and if he shall judge it expedient he shall forward to the Grand Master full information of the whole subject. The District Deputy Grand Master shall, under direction of the Grand Master, receive the whole property belonging to any dormant or extinct Lodge, and, except in cases where a different disposition shall be made, or hereafter may be made, in relation to any part of the whole thereof, forward to the Grand Secretary the several Charters, Jewels, Seals, books, papers, etc., and sell the furniture or other personal property of such Lodge, and account to the Grand Lodge for the proceeds thereof. Previous to every Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, every District Deputy Grand Master shall so far as it is proper to be done, make out in writing a full report of the state of each Lodge in his District and forward it to the Grand Master.

**Section 12.** The duties of the Subordinate Grand Officers are defined by the unwritten law and ancient Masonic usage and custom, and inculcated in their installation Charges and instructions of the

Grand Master. The Grand Tyler is entitled to receive for his services such compensation as shall be provided for by Resolution of the Grand Lodge.

**Section 13.** (New) In case of the death, incapacity, or inability from any other cause to perform the duties of the office of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, and the Junior Grand Warden, the Junior Past Grand Master shall forthwith call and give notice of a meeting of all living Past Grand Masters to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than fifteen (15) days after notice of such meeting at the time and place specified in such notice, and the Past Grand Masters in such meeting, shall, in such manner as they deem appropriate from among themselves fill all vacancies then existing in Elective Grand Lodge Offices and the Officers so elected to fill such vacancies shall have all of the powers appertaining to the offices to which they have been designated to fill, and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed at the next Special or Annual Grand Communication, and the Past Grand Masters may, at such meeting, call a Special Communication of Grand Lodge for the purpose of filling by election the offices filled by selection of the Past Grand Masters. The Grand Master designated by the Past Grand Masters shall immediately, after such meeting of the Past Grand Masters, promptly proclaim and publish to the Particular Lodges the actions of the Past Grand Masters.

## ARTICLE VII

### CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

**Section 1.** The Grand Lodge is clothed with the power of constituting new Lodges upon the Petition of not less than twenty (20) Master Masons. But no Dispensation nor Charter shall be issued to a Lodge except upon written consent of the Lodge nearest the place where the new Lodge is to be located and Certificate of the Committee on Work or its duly authorized representative that the Officers and membership of the new Lodge are qualified and capable of conferring the Degrees of Freemasonry.

In the event that two or more Lodges meet at the place nearest the location of the new Lodge, the consent of any one of such Lodges shall be sufficient.

**Section 2.** In the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master has authority to grant Dispensations for new Lodges until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, when due returns of the



work, with a copy of their proposed By-Laws for examination, shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge, when a Charter may be granted. But until a Charter is granted, the petitioners for the Dispensation continue their membership in their respective Lodges.

## ARTICLE VIII

### TAXATION AND REVENUE

**Section 1.** The fee for a Charter, or Warrant of Constitution for a new Lodge, shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00), to be paid at time of delivery, and five dollars (\$5.00) to be paid as a fee to the Grand Secretary. For Dispensation, a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid to the Grand Secretary for his services, but no fee for the Dispensation.

**Section 2.** The Particular Lodges under this Jurisdiction shall make Lodge Returns, and shall account for and pay to the Grand Lodge such fees, dues, assessments, and revenue at such time as shall be prescribed by Regulations, and until such Returns are made, and dues paid or remitted, no Lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge; *provided*, that members exempted from payment of dues by provisions of this Constitution shall not be included and accounted for in the Returns; *provided further*, that members who have membership in more than one (1) Lodge during the year shall only be accounted for by the Lodge wherein such members first had a membership during the year, except in the case of newly Chartered Lodges. Members whose names appear upon the Returns of the Lodge of which they were former members, and also upon the Returns of newly Chartered Lodges, shall be accounted for by such newly Chartered Lodges only.

**Section 3.** No Officer, Group of Officers, Agency, Board, or Committee of The Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Florida can borrow money or execute any evidence of indebtedness, nor create any debts whatsoever, in the name of the Grand Lodge, nor in the name of any Officer, Group of Officers, Agency, Board, or Committee of the said Grand Lodge, unless notice of the amount and purpose thereof is given by the Grand Master, or by his authority, to each Particular Lodge at least sixty (60) days prior to any Grand Communication, and be authorized by a majority vote of Grand Lodge, except that notice to the Particular Lodges shall not be necessary in case of great emergency and necessity resulting from fire, storms, or other acts of God. (1982)

ARTICLE IX  
STANDING COMMITTEES

**Section 1.** Corporate Committees - The Corporate Committees of the Grand Lodge are:

- (1-a) The Corporate Board of Directors, constituted as provided in Article I of this Constitution and as the Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge as provided in this Constitution and the Regulations of the Grand Lodge.
- (1-b) The Corporate Board composed of the Grand Master as Chairman, the Deputy Grand Master as Vice Chairman, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer, and two members appointed by the Grand Master, one of which shall be a Past Grand Master, which Corporate Board shall have power of general supervision over and management of Grand Lodge Funds and property, except Masonic Home property.
- (2) The Masonic Home Endowment and Investment Committee composed of nine Master Masons in good standing in Florida Lodges. The members of the Committee shall be men of experience in the management and investment of funds or men qualified in professions that acquaint them with the duties and responsibilities of management and investment of funds, including but not limited to bankers, public accountants, lawyers, financial counselors, and men of similar training and experience.

Each incoming Grand Master shall make three appointments to this committee for a term of three years each. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Master for the remainder of the vacant term. Initial implementation shall be by appointment by the Grand Master of three members for three year terms, three members for two year terms, and three members for one year terms. (1999)

No person while a member of this committee, or for a period of two (2) years after serving on this committee, may, directly or indirectly, gain any economic benefit by reason of bidding, providing, or contracting to provide financial services to The Grand Lodge of Florida. Any attempt to circumvent this Regulation will be prima facie evidence of unmasonic conduct and will be punishable as such. (1999)

The Committee shall make recommendations to the Corporate Board in respect to the following matters: (1999)

- (a) Selection of Registered Investment Adviser(s) to manage, or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm to act as custodian for such portions of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund as shall be entrusted to such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm by written contract/document with the Grand Lodge. (1999)
  - (b) The terms of contract with the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or the Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer for management and custodianship of the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. (1999)
  - (c) The means, methods, and standards for evaluation of the services of the Registered Investment Adviser(s), the Registered Representative(s), or its broker-dealer managing and investing the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. (1999)
  - (d) The Committee shall comply with the foregoing in respect to other Grand Lodge funds. (1999)
- (3) The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall be composed of ten (10) members. One (1) member shall be appointed by the Grand Master as Chairman. The Board shall be divided into sub-committees as shall be prescribed by the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as shall be deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Board. The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary shall be Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, of the Board. The Grand Master shall designate one (1) of the members of the Board to serve as Vice Chairman. (2019)

Paragraph referring to terms of Board of Trustees Members removed. (2019 Proc. 351)

The members of the Board of Trustees shall be men of experience in the management of or men qualified in professions that acquaint them to the duties and responsibilities of managing and operating all aspects of nursing facilities for the aged, including, but not limited to, accountants, building maintenance, dieticians, doctors, food management, health insurance advisors, inventory management, legal counsel, marketing specialist, nurses, pharmacist, and men of similar training and experience.

The Board shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge, such as Committee on Admissions and Non-Resident Relief, Long Range Planning/Facility, Masonic Home Budget, Hal W. Adams Hospital Service and Emergency Relief, Masonic Home Activities, and such other sub-committees as shall be deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Board, which sub-committees shall report to the Board of Trustees the results of their respective investigations with their recommendations. All actions taken by the Board must be approved by a majority thereof.

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Board of Trustees to determine and fix basic policy for operation of the Masonic Home and Relief Programs; to employ an Administrator to implement, administer, and operate the Masonic Home. No member of the Board of Trustees, except the Chairman, shall give or attempt to give instructions or directions to the Administrator in respect to administration or operation of the Masonic Home. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to insure strict compliance with the provisions of this paragraph. (2011)

The Board of Trustees shall have the care, custody, and control of Masonic Home property, real and personal, and shall maintain and make routine repairs thereto and shall arrange for insurance coverage through the Insurance Committee and the Corporate Board. (1992)

- (4) The Finance and Accounts Committee, of which the Senior Grand Warden shall be Chairman and a Past Grand Master shall be a member. This Committee shall prepare proposed Budget and simplified financial statement as to financial condition of the Grand Lodge, which proposed Budget and statement shall be delivered to the Corporate Board for consideration and transmittal to the Particular Lodges as shall be prescribed by Regulation or by Resolution of the Corporate Board. (1992)
- (5) The Endowment Procurement Committee shall be composed of the Junior Grand Warden as Chairman and not more than thirty-five (35) members, which Committee shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulation of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Chairman of the Committee shall deem appropriate, but there shall be a sub-committee designated Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents, a sub-committee designated Wills and Gifts, and a sub-committee designated Masonic Home-100, each sub-committee to be composed of a Chairman and at least three (3) other members of the Committee. (2015)
- (6) The Committee on Grand Lodge Properties shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulation of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate. This Committee shall have the care, custody, and control of all Grand Lodge properties, except the Masonic Home and shall advise the Insurance Committee in respect to appropriate insurance coverage thereof. (1992)

- (7) A panel of Attorneys at Law to advise with the Grand Master and Corporate Board on all matters of civil law and to represent the Grand Lodge or any Officers, Committee, Board, or Commission thereof when designated so to do by direction of the Grand Master or the Corporate Board. (1984)
- (8) The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, constituted as provided in Article IX, Section 1, of this Constitution, which shall be divided into such Sub-Committees as shall be prescribed by Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate. When acting as a Corporate Committee, it shall have the duty and authority to review report and make recommendations to the Grand Lodge on all Corporate matters. (1989)
- (9) The Committee on Perpetual Membership shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall be composed of a Chairman and not more than ten (10) members. Under the direction of the Grand Master, the Committee shall promote Perpetual Membership in the Particular Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction. (1995)
- (10) The Insurance Committee shall review all insurance matters, including insurance policies of the Grand Lodge of Florida and residents of the Masonic Home of Florida, and shall make recommendations concerning the same to the Corporate Board. No person while a member of this committee, or for a period of two (2) years after serving on this committee, may bid or contract to provide insurance to the Grand Lodge of Florida. (1992)

**Section 2.** Fraternal Committees -The Fraternal Committees of the Grand Lodge as defined in Article I of the Constitution are:

- (1) The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, which shall be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed herein or by Regulations of Grand Lodge, and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate, but there shall be a sub-committee designated Committee on Resolutions, a sub-committee designated Committee on Masonic Digest, a sub-committee designated Committee on Appeals, a sub-committee designated Committee on Lodge Charters, a sub-committee designated Committee on Appendant and Allied Orders, and a sub-committee designated Committee on Foreign Relations.

Sub-committees shall be composed of a Chairman and at least two (2) other members. All Resolutions, except Memorial Resolutions, all penal appeals, all applications for Lodge Charters, all requests for recognition or withdrawal of recognition of organizations whose

membership is predicated on Masonic affiliation, all correspondence or reports of recognized foreign Jurisdictions and all matters of recognition or withdrawal of recognition of foreign Masonic Jurisdictions and all matters of Masonic Law, customs, practices, policies, and procedures shall be referred to this Committee for report and recommendation thereon. All Past Grand Masters in good standing shall be members of this Committee together with such additional members as may be appointed by the Grand Master.

- (2) The Committee on Work, which may be divided into such sub-committees as shall be prescribed by Regulations of the Grand Lodge and such other sub-committees as the Grand Master shall deem appropriate, but there shall be a sub-committee designated committee on Actual Past Master Degree. The Committee shall give instructions in the Forms and Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge and conduct appropriate memorial ceremonies and confer the Actual Past Master Degree at each Annual Grand Communication. All matters of Masonic Etiquette, ceremonies, and ritual shall be referred to this Committee for report and recommendation thereon. All Resolutions, changes, corrections, or revisions to the sacred written work shall be limited to once every three (3) years. Grand Lodge may waive this provision and requirements by three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) vote. (1990)
- (3) The Committee on Returns and Credentials. This Committee shall examine credentials of and register all members of the Grand Lodge in attendance at each Grand Communication and make report thereon and shall include in such report or indicate therein the Brothers eligible to be placed on the payroll of the Grand Lodge and shall furnish copy of the report to the Grand Secretary and to the Grand Treasurer.
- (4) The Grand Master's Coordinating Committee. This Committee, subject to direction of the Grand Master, shall provide and arrange for presentation to the Grand Lodge by appropriate reports all matters of Grand Lodge business and affairs.
- (5) The Committee on Arrangements, which shall have a sub-committee designated Committee on Distinguished Guests. The Committee, subject to the direction of the Grand Master, shall make all arrangements for facilities,

entertainment, and related matters for each Grand Communication and for accommodation and introduction of Distinguished Guests.

- (6) A Committee on Workshops for Lodge Officers composed of a Chairman and ten (10) members. Under direction of the Grand Master, this Committee shall conduct workshops for instruction of Lodge Officers in all matters of Masonic Law and Practice relating to their offices. (1995)
- (7) A Penal Affairs Panel composed of fifteen (15) Master Masons of Florida Lodges to render such service in Penal matters as may be prescribed by Regulation. The appointment, term, duties, and powers of the Panel and the members thereof may be prescribed by Regulation or by the Constitution.
- (8) The Grand Lodge, by Regulation, may create and prescribe duties and powers of a Committee on Museum and History, a Committee on Masonic Education, a Committee on Public Education and Citizenship, a Committee on Youth Activities, a Committee on Public Relations and Publicity, a Committee on Wardens' Workshop, a Committee on the Child ID Program, and a Flagship Charity Committee. (2016)
- (9) The above Committees named in Section 2, (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8) are hereby declared to be Fraternal Committees as designated in Section 7 of Article I of the Constitution and shall be appointed by the Grand Master and shall be under his exclusive direction and control subject to the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge and budgetary limitations.

**Section 3.** Power to Sit in Recess of Grand Lodge - All Corporate Committees shall have power to sit in the recess of the Grand Lodge. The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and the Committee on Work shall have power to sit during the recess of the Grand Lodge and other Fraternal Committees and members thereof may sit or perform duties during the recess of Grand Lodge by direction of the Grand Master.

**Section 4.** General Service Panel - Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution to the contrary, the Grand Master and Corporate Board may agree upon and designate a Panel of not more than twelve (12) Master Masons for assignment to aid or assist any Grand Lodge Committee upon showing to Corporate Board of need for such aid and assistance. Members so selected and assigned to assist a Committee shall not be members of or have

vote on such committee. This panel shall not be considered a committee, no funds shall be appropriated for the panel, and no report need be made in respect to its activities. Funds necessary for use of General Service Panel shall be included in committee appropriation of the committee using members of the panel.

**Section 5.** Appropriation - Appropriation shall be made in the annual budget for each of the above committees or Panels by name except General Service Panel.

**Section 6.** Special Committee Limitations - No special committee shall be appointed, designated, or authorized except pursuant to provisions of Section 9(c) of Article I relating to Special Committees.

**Section 7.** Number of Committees - Except as specified above or elsewhere in this Constitution, each committee shall be composed of not fewer than three nor more than eleven members, except the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence which shall have such number of members as may be determined by the Grand Master, subject to provisions of Sub-section (1) of Section 2 thereof. The Committee on Masonic Education shall be composed of not fewer than three nor more than twelve members. The Committee on Work shall be composed of not fewer than ten nor more than eighteen members, of which one shall be the State Chairman, another may be the Vice Chairman, and at least one must be Spanish speaking. (2018)

**Section 8.** Committee Reports - All committees shall report in writing to the Grand Lodge. Reports of all sub-committees of committees provided for herein shall be reviewed by the full committee and included in and made a part of the full committee report. (1984)



## ARTICLE X

**PARTICULAR LODGES**

**Section 1.** The Particular Lodges are the source and foundation of all Symbolic Masonry, and possess inherent rights and powers, sanctioned by immemorial custom and usage, which never can be changed or altered.

**Section 2.** The Officers of a Lodge are the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary, who must be elected by ballot, and a majority of all the votes cast is necessary to a choice and shall have a current paid dues card for the forthcoming year, or a receipt for the same, prior to installation. The Subordinate Officers are the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior and Junior Stewards, and Tyler, who are appointed by the Worshipful Master, but the Senior Warden has the nomination of the Junior Deacon; and the Worshipful Master may also appoint a Chaplain and a Marshal. (1997)

**Section 3.** Every Lodge must have one Stated monthly Communication at which every Brother should punctually attend, but the Lodge may dispense with the Stated Communications in the months of July, August, and September. The Worshipful Master has the power to order Called Communications of the Lodge at any time, by causing sufficient number of the members to be served with timely notice thereof.

**Section 4.** The election and appointment of the Officers of Lodges shall take place at the first Stated Communication in December of each year and such Officers shall be installed on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist, or as soon thereafter as practical, and the Officers so elected and installed shall continue in office for one year and until their successors are duly elected and installed unless for good and sufficient reasons the Most Worshipful Grand Master has granted permission for the resignation and authorized an election to fill the vacancy and such other vacancies created by the election; *provided*, that if, from any cause, there should be no election at the time appointed for the annual election, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to order an election at any time before or on the anniversary of Saint John the Evangelist. (1997)

**Rulings and Decisions**

The Subordinate Officers, who are the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Chaplain, Marshal, Organist, and Tyler, who are appointed by the Worshipful Master, shall also have a current paid dues card for the forthcoming year, or a receipt for the same, prior to Installation. (2011 Proc. 142-143)

If one written nomination is made for one or more office(s) and no other written nomination has been made for such office(s), a motion can be made from the floor to elect the nominated member by acclamation. Once the motion is seconded, the member(s) may be elected by a majority, show of hands vote by the members present, thereby completing the election process. If more than one member is nominated in writing for any office, a majority vote by written ballot is required to complete the election process for that office. (2016 Proc. 120)

The nomination form shall be read at the next Stated Communication after it is received by the Secretary of the Lodge and handled in the same manner as all other correspondence received by the Lodge Secretary and read again on the night of the Election of Lodge Officers. (2017 Proc. 116)

A member of a Florida Lodge may not hold any two or more Offices at the same time in any Lodge of which he is a member. The intent of this Ruling and Decision is to restrict any member from holding more than one Office at a time whether the Office is elected or appointed. (2017 Proc. 116)

**Section 5.** The Master and Wardens of a Lodge cannot be tried by the Lodge; but complaint may be made against them or either of them to the Grand Master by not less than seven members of the Lodge, and he may investigate the matter, and file charges or direct that charges be filed for Grand Lodge Trial as provided by Grand Lodge Regulations. The Grand Master may suspend the accused from office pending trial of the charges. (1985)

**Section 6.** The Master is supreme in his Lodge and must be held to worship. No appeal can be taken from his decision, nor call for the previous question, nor motion to adjourn, can be entertained.

**Section 7.** The Master and Wardens, or their duly appointed proxies, are the representatives of their Lodge in the Grand Lodge.

**Section 8.** Besides the duties inculcated by the unwritten law, and the installation ceremonies, which every Mason should understand, remember, and faithfully perform, there are duties required by the Constitution, of the Worshipful Master, the Wardens, the Treasurer, and Secretary which cannot be neglected without being liable to Masonic censure.

**Section 9.** The last Master, or any Past Master of a Lodge, can install the Master-elect and he then can install the other Officers, but when the Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, or one of the District Deputy Grand Masters is present, it is his privilege to install the officers.

**Section 10.** Every Particular Lodge has a right to adopt its own By-Laws in conformity to Grand Lodge Regulations, and subject to the supervision of the Grand Lodge.

**Section 11.** The Master and Wardens of a Lodge cannot resign during the year for which they are elected and installed unless for good and sufficient reasons the Most Worshipful Grand Master has granted permission for his resignation. If by death, removal from the jurisdiction, or other cause, the Master becomes incapable to perform the duties of his office, the Senior Warden succeeds to all powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Master, and the Senior Warden's place in the West must be filled by pro tempore

appointment, from time to time; and if from any of the like causes the Master and Senior Warden should both be rendered incapable of performing the duties of Master of the Lodge, then the Junior Warden succeeds to all the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Master, and the South must be filled, from time to time, by pro tempore appointment. But the Junior Warden cannot succeed to the seat in the West, when vacant, by absence of the Senior Warden. (1996)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Any Lodge wishing to have an advance night for any purpose may do so at a Called Communication of the Lodge when called for that purpose. Or the Lodge may hold a practice night at the Lodge when wishing to demonstrate the proficiency of its Officers before advancing to the next highest Office. (2013 Proc. 131-132)

**Section 12.** The work and business of the Lodge must be transacted in a Master Mason Lodge, except the work and lectures in conferring the Degrees of Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft; but those Degrees should be opened when there is no work to be done, for the instruction of the young Masons, and all Degrees should be closed at the close of every Communication.

**Section 13.** No Lodge in this Jurisdiction shall confer the Three Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, for a less sum than one hundred dollars, of which a minimum fee of fifty dollars shall be required for Initiation in addition to the fee for a criminal background investigation must accompany the petition or be paid electronically to any processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge. The fee received for Initiation shall be returned to the petitioner if rejected, however, the fee received for the criminal background investigation shall be retained by the Lodge, the Grand Lodge, or any processing company selected and approved by the Grand Lodge. The fee for Passing or Raising must be paid to the Secretary before the Degree is conferred; *provided*, that any Lodge may remit monthly or annual dues to members of the Lodge, who from bodily infirmities or misfortune, have become unable to pay them. (2018)

**Section 14.** Every candidate for Initiation should read and approve the By-Laws of the Lodge, and must present his petition in writing vouched for by two members of the Lodge at a Stated Communication, which must lie over at least one month for the Brethren to make due inquiry into the character and standing of the candidate and review a criminal background investigative report of the candidate. And a petition thus presented cannot be withdrawn, but must be acted upon, and if rejected, cannot again be presented within six months. But rejections for Passing and Raising, and for membership, shall not be required to lie over six months, but may be renewed at any subsequent Stated Communication of the Lodge. (2009)

**Section 15 (a).** Any upright Mason, on presentation of satisfactory evidence of his having paid all dues against him, and having regularly withdrawn from a Lodge from which he was last a member, may present a petition in writing, which must be vouched for by two members of the Lodge, at a Stated Communication, and which must lie over at least one month for the Brethren to make due inquiry into the character and standing of the petitioner; *provided*, that any Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may adopt a By-Law (subject to approval of the Grand Master), permitting a member in good standing of a Particular Lodge of a Grand Jurisdiction with which this Grand Lodge sustains fraternal relations, to petition such Particular

Lodge for affiliation without dimitting from his home Lodge; in such petition all facts and circumstances upon which such petition is based, and the reasons for the dual membership thereby sought, shall be fully stated; upon the reception of such petition

it shall take the usual course with respect to investigation and voting, and be subject to the same requirements as to vouchers, as a regular petition based upon a regular dimit; *provided*, that such petition for dual membership shall not be received from a Mason from a Grand Jurisdiction whose laws prohibit its members from becoming dual members.

If such petition for affiliation be voted upon favorably, such petitioner shall thereupon become a member of such Particular Lodge, vested with all the rights and privileges of membership, and be subject to the discipline of the Lodge; and *provided further*, that upon the suspension, or expulsion, of such member by the Lodge of which he was a member prior to applying for dual membership as above provided for, such member shall be automatically suspended or expelled from the Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction with which he shall have affiliated; *provided further*, that in the event that a member receiving the privileges of dual membership in this Grand Jurisdiction shall take his dimit from his Lodge of original membership, it shall be his duty to place such dimit, and his full membership, in the Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction in which he shall have received the privileges of dual membership; and upon his failure to do so, and satisfactory evidence having been presented to the Particular Lodge of such failure, it shall be the duty of such Particular Lodge to suspend such member from membership; *provided further*, that the Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction may draft and promulgate such Regulations as he may find necessary and expedient for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this Section into effect, which Regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge, and subject to amendment and alteration from time to time, as in the case of other Regulations. (2005)

**Section 15 (b).** Any Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction may adopt a By-Law (subject to approval of the Grand Master) permitting a member in good standing of another Particular Lodge in Florida to petition such Particular Lodge for affiliation without dimitting from his home Lodge, regardless of any action that his home Lodge may or may not have taken with respect to accepting Plural Members. In such petition all facts and circumstances upon which such petition is based, and the reasons for the plural membership thereby sought, shall be fully stated. Upon the reception of such petition it shall take the usual course with respect to investigation and voting, and be subject to the same requirements as to vouchers, as a regular petition based upon a regular dimit. If such petition for affiliation be voted upon favorably, such petitioner shall thereupon become a member of such Particular Lodge, vested with all the rights and privileges of membership, and be subject to the discipline of the Lodge, except, that such member shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed an Officer in more than one Particular Lodge at one and the same time; and *provided further*, that upon suspension, or expulsion, of such member by any Lodge of which he was a member prior to applying for plural membership as above provided for, such member shall be automatically suspended or expelled from any other Particular Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction with which he shall have affiliated;

*provided further*, that in the event that a member receiving the privileges of plural membership shall take his dimit from his Lodge of original membership, it shall be his duty to place such dimit, and his full membership, in a Particular Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction in which he shall have received the privileges of plural membership; and upon his failure to do so, and satisfactory evidence having been presented to the Particular Lodge of such failure, it shall be the duty of such Particular Lodge to suspend such member from membership; *provided further*, that the Grand Master of this Grand Jurisdiction may draft and promulgate such Regulations as he may determine, which Regulations shall be subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge, and subject to amendment and alteration from time to time, as in the case of other Regulations. (2004)

### **Rulings and Decisions**

A collective ballot can be used for the purpose of balloting on petitions for dual membership and for transfer by affiliation. (1994 Proc. 101)

A Plural Member suspended or expelled for any cause from his Lodge of Original Membership shall automatically be suspended or expelled from all Florida Lodges with which he is affiliated. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

A Plural Member expelled or suspended for any cause other than non-payment of dues shall be automatically expelled or suspended from all Florida Lodges in which he is a member. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

A Plural Member suspended for non-payment of dues from a Lodge with which he is affiliated shall be automatically suspended from all Lodges with which he is affiliated but not from his Lodge of Original Membership. (2008 Proc. 106-107)

A member of a Florida Lodge may not hold any two or more Offices at the same time in any Lodge of which he is a member. The intent of this Ruling and Decision is to restrict any member from holding more than one Office at a time whether the Office is elected or appointed. (2017 Proc. 116)

**Section 16.** Balloting for Initiation, Passing, Raising, and membership must be unanimous; but when only one black ball appears, the ballot should be spread again to guard against



mistakes; but if a black ball appears on the second ballot it is final, as it shall be when two or more black balls appear on the first ballot. Not more than one Degree shall be conferred on the same candidate at the same Stated Communication, unless under a Dispensation from the Grand Master.

**Section 17.** The Grand Lodge, shall, by Regulation uniformly applicable to all Lodges prescribe, define, and regulate the jurisdiction of Lodges in regard to accepting and receiving petitions for the Degrees, administering Masonic Justice, and for all other purposes.

**Section 18.** Every member of a Lodge must pay to the Secretary of the Lodge such monthly or annual dues as may be prescribed by the By-Laws of the Lodge.

**Section 19.** The Grand Lodge shall, by Regulation, prescribe the procedures for administration of Masonic Justice. Such Regulations shall provide for notice to an accused Mason, service of specific charges upon him, reasonable opportunity to respond thereto, fair and impartial hearing thereon, and right of appeal from any judgment to the Grand Lodge.

**Section 20.** Every member of a Lodge who is six months or more in arrears for dues shall be notified thereof by the Secretary, and in case of failure or refusal to come forward and pay his dues, or give satisfactory excuse, within three months after such notification, may be suspended at the discretion of the Lodge.

**Section 21.** Any member of a Lodge who has no charges preferred against him has a clear Masonic right to withdraw from membership by dimit, on payment of all dues against him.

**Section 22.** Every Lodge must make full and complete Return of the proceedings annually to the Grand Lodge, with the names of its Officers and members, and a statement of all dues, signed by the Master, and countersigned by the Secretary under the Seal of the Lodge; and without such Returns made, and payment or remission of all dues, no Lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge. And every Lodge failing to be represented in the Grand Lodge for two consecutive years shall forfeit its Charter; *provided*, that if such defaulting Lodge shall, on or before the next Annual Communication, make full Returns and payment of dues to the Grand Secretary, and satisfactory explanation to the Grand Lodge, or in the recess to the Grand Master, such forfeiture shall be released and the Lodge restored to its regular standing.

**Section 23.** Every Particular Lodge must be furnished with a Seal and appropriate Jewels, Furniture, and Working Tools, and all official documents must be verified by the Secretary, under the Seal of the Lodge.

**Section 24.** No Lodge has the right to receive a petition of any person for the Degree of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason, residing out of its jurisdiction, without the express consent of the Lodge in whose jurisdiction such person resides, certified by its Secretary with the Lodge Seal.

**Section 25.** The Master and Wardens of each Particular Lodge are a standing Committee on Masonic Education in their respective Lodge jurisdictions. (2015)

**Section 26.** On the death of a Master Mason in good standing in his Lodge, leaving a widow and orphan, or a widow, or an orphan, or orphans, it is the duty of the Secretary of the Lodge to grant to such widow and orphans, or to the widow or to the orphan or orphans of such deceased Master Mason, a Certificate of the fact under the Seal of the Lodge; and on the presentation of such Certificate to the Grand Secretary, it shall be his duty to grant to the said widow and orphans an appropriate Grand Lodge Certificate of Respect without charge or fee.

**Section 27.** Every Particular Lodge has the right and it is the duty of its members when summoned by the Worshipful Master to turn out in public procession on the anniversaries of Saint John and in funeral procession of a Master Mason, or laying a cornerstone, but on all extraordinary Masonic occasions (except attendance on Divine Service for which no Dispensation is necessary), a Dispensation must be obtained from the Grand Master.

**Section 28.** It is the duty of each Worshipful Master of the Particular Lodges in this jurisdiction to make a report of the Proceedings of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to his Lodge, as soon as practicable after said Communication has been closed, and to impress upon all the members of his Lodge the duty of familiarizing themselves with this Constitution and the Old Charges of Free and Accepted Masons.

**Section 29.** The vote or decision at a Stated Communication of the Lodge cannot be rescinded, altered, or amended at a Called Communication of the Lodge, nor at any subsequent Stated Communication; unless the membership of the Lodge is given due notice of such proposed reconsideration.



**Section 30.** Expulsion and suspension from the “higher Degrees” of Masonry do not necessarily work as such in Symbolic Masonry, but may be good cause for investigation by a Lodge.

**Section 31.** When all of the three principal Officers of a Particular Lodge are absent, the Lodge may be opened and presided over by the District Deputy Grand Master or by the Junior Past Master present.

## ARTICLE XI

### AMENDMENTS

**Section 1.** Any proposed Amendment or alteration of this Constitution shall be presented in writing to the Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication as provided by Regulation; and if sanctioned by written vote by a majority of the members of the Grand Lodge present and voting, it shall be published in the Proceedings as a subject for action at the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge; and, if sanctioned by two-thirds written vote of the members present and voting at that Annual Communication, the same shall become a part of this Constitution. Alternatively, in the event such proposed Amendment or alteration of this Constitution is sanctioned by two-thirds written vote of the members of Grand Lodge present and voting, at its initial presentation, the same shall become part of this Constitution. (2009)

## ARTICLE XII

### MASONIC HOME

**Section 1.** The supervision of the Masonic Home including all Relief Programs, is hereby vested in a Board of Trustees constituted and organized as provided in Section 1(3) of Article IX of this Constitution and having the powers and duties and subject to the provisions of said Section. (1985)



**Section 2.** The Board of Trustees shall meet not less than once a month, at the Home in St. Petersburg, Florida, on a day to be fixed by the Chairman of the Board; *provided* the Board may hold the monthly meeting at the same location as the Annual Grand Communication for the month of said Annual Grand Communication and at such other times and places as the Grand Master or the Chairman of the Board may designate. All actions taken by the Board must be approved by a majority of the membership of the Board. (2014)

**Section 3.** The Grand Treasurer of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida and Grand Secretary thereof, shall respectively be the Treasurer and Secretary of the Board of Trustees. (2011)

**Section 4.** The Grand Lodge of Florida in Annual Grand Communication shall, by Regulation, adopt such Rules and Regulations as may be found necessary or desirable for the management, operation, and supervision of the Masonic Home and Relief Funds, relating to eligibility for admission to the Home or to receive Masonic Relief, and for the management of finances, and all operations and actions pertaining to the above shall be in strict accord with such Rules and Regulations.

**Section 5.** All the Rules and Regulations now in effect and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article shall remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed as herein provided for.

### ARTICLE XIII

#### LANDMARKS AND CERTAIN LAWS OF FREEMASONRY

**Section 1.** It being well known that for any concept, precept, or principle of Freemasonry to be recognized as being a Landmark, the same must be possessed of two (2) principal attributes, namely, Antiquity and Universality, the following definition of those terms are hereby adopted:

“Antiquity: Those beliefs and those practices which were fixed at the time when Freemasonry emerged from its prehistoric era into the period of recorded Masonic history.”

“Universality: A suggested Landmark has universality when it is one of the practices, principles, or beliefs which Masons everywhere accept, believe, and practice and without which there would be no Freemasonry.”

**Section 2.** The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida hereby recognizes, as being Landmarks of Freemasonry, the following:

- (a) A belief in the existence of one ever living and true God.
- (b) A belief in the immortality of the human soul and a resurrection thereof to a Future Life.
- (c) The Volume of the Sacred Law, open upon the Altar, is an indispensable furnishing of every regular Lodge while at labor.
- (d) The Legend of the Third Degree.
- (e) Secrecy, which includes: The necessary words, signs, and tokens, whereby one Mason may know another to be such, ‘in darkness as in light,’ that every regular Lodge must be tyled while at labor; that every visitor seeking admission to the Lodge must be examined and prove himself a Mason, unless duly and properly avouched for; those other matters which cannot be written in any language.
- (f) The symbolism of the Operative Art.
- (g) Every candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, free born, of lawful age, being under the tongue of good repute, and well recommended, and unless Dispensation is granted by the Grand Master, having no maim or defect of body that may render him incapable of learning the art or of being advanced to the Several Degrees. (1992)
- (h) The division of Ancient Craft Masonry into three (3) classifications, namely, Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, and Master Masons, out of which classifications grew the present Three Degrees of Craft Masonry.

- (i) The government of the Fraternity by a presiding Officer who, since the advent of Speculative Masonry, has borne the title of Grand Master and been elected from the body of the Craft, and the prerogatives inherent in that office, among which are:

The prerogative of the Grand Master to enter into and preside over every assembly of Masons within his jurisdiction and, corollary thereto, to supervise and regulate the affairs of Masonry within that jurisdiction, between Communications of the Grand Lodge, subject to the Constitution and lawful Regulations duly enacted by the Grand Lodge.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to grant his Dispensation.

The prerogative of the Grand Master to make a Mason at sight in the body of a regularly constituted Lodge and by trial of the ballot.

- (j) The necessity for Freemasons to congregate in Lodges.

The recognition of the above as Landmarks shall not be construed to mean or imply that this Grand Lodge is in any wise prohibited from recognizing, from time to time, hereafter, by appropriate amendment hereto, other principles, precepts, practices, or tenets, of Freemasonry as being Landmarks, nor is this Grand Lodge prohibited from reconsidering and, if deemed proper, withdrawing, this recognition of any of the above.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

The Grand Lodges of the United States use the Holy Bible as the Volume of Sacred Law on their Altars (Mentor's Manual, 3.14.) Therefore, the Holy Bible with the Square and Compasses displayed is the only Volume of Sacred Law authorized to be displayed upon the Altar during Lodge, except that a candidate may seal his obligation upon the Volume of Sacred Law of his choice, e.g., a Muslim on the Koran or a Jew on the Torah. These other Volumes of Sacred Law may be present only during the Obligation and are to be removed immediately after the candidate has sealed his Obligation. At no time shall the Holy Bible, with the Square and Compasses displayed upon the Holy Bible, be absent from the Altar. (2008 Proc. 105)

**Section 3.** Although not recognized as being Landmarks, this Grand Lodge recognizes the following as being fundamental concepts, principles, precepts, practices, and tenets, of Freemasonry possessing the qualities and characteristics of Ancient Craft Masonic precedents and law, but not possessed of the immutable qualities of Landmarks:

- (a) The government of the Craft, when congregated in a Lodge, by a Master and two (2) Wardens.
- (b) The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft and to instruct his representatives.

- (c) The right of every Mason to appeal to the Grand Lodge from any decision affecting his status as a Mason.
- (d) The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular Lodge.
- (e) No Lodge can interfere with the business of another Lodge.
- (f) Every Freemason is amenable to the laws of the Masonic Jurisdiction in which he resides.
- (g) The equality of all Masons.

#### ARTICLE XIV

### GRAND LODGE FINANCES AND ACCOUNTS

#### Section 1. Budget System Established-

- (a) The Funds and finances of the Grand Lodge shall be managed, invested, and expended in accordance with an annual budget adopted at each Annual Grand Communication. The budget shall be divided into Funds for each major operation, activity, or purposes of Grand Lodge and each of such Funds shall be divided into accounts and sub-accounts for detailed appropriations to accomplish the purpose of the Fund. Grand Lodge shall by Regulations further prescribe the form of the budget.
- (b) There shall be a Budget Manual that shall prescribe in detail the Funds by letter and accounts and sub-accounts of the budget by number with description as to the purposes, limitations, restrictions, and conditions relating to each of such funds, accounts, and sub-accounts, and such Budget Manual shall upon its approval by the Grand Lodge be and become a part by reference of each and every Annual Budget. (1985)

#### Section 2. Corporate Board of Directors-

- (1) The Corporate Board of Directors as provided in this Constitution shall be and act as the Budget Commission of the Grand Lodge.
- (2) The Corporate Board of Directors shall meet at least once each month at such time and place as determined by the Board, and at call of the Grand Master.

- (3) A quorum of the Corporate Board shall be any three (3) members and the Grand Master. All decisions of the Board shall be by majority vote of members present which majority shall and must include the Grand Master. There shall be no proxy voting. (1985)

**Section 3.** Preparation of Budget-Each Officer, Board, Commission, and Committee of the Grand Lodge shall submit a request for appropriation of funds at such time and in such manner and in such form as may be prescribed by Grand Lodge Regulation. The Finance and Accounts Committee shall consider such requests and prepare a tentative Budget with such amendments, additions, and deletions made thereto or therefrom by the Corporate Board, together with a narrative statement of the general financial condition of the Grand Lodge shall be sent to each Particular Lodge at least thirty (30) days prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication each year. At the ensuing Grand Communication the proposed Budget shall be reviewed by the Finance and Accounts Committee and the Corporate Board and presented, with suggested changes, for final action by the Grand Lodge but any and all suggested changes shall be specifically recited in detail to the Representatives of the Particular Lodges when the Budget is presented for final adoption. The Grand Lodge by Regulation shall adopt such other provisions as shall be necessary to fully implement the purpose of intent of this Section. (2021)

**Digest of Masonic Law**

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**Section 4.** Adoption of Budget and Effect Thereof-The proposed Budget shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Grand Communication with such amendments thereto as may be approved by the Grand Lodge, after which such Budget shall be adopted. Upon the adoption of the budget by the Grand Lodge, the Budget shall control the expenditures for all departments of the Grand Lodge and the itemized estimates of the expenditures shall have the effect of fixed appropriations and shall not be amended, altered, or exceeded except as provided for herein. Transfers from one sub-account to another sub-account within the same Fund in the Budget shall be made upon Executive Order of the Grand Master. No Officer, agent, committee, or board shall make any expenditures in excess of the Budget appropriation except as may be authorized in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall compile a monthly statement of expenditures of each Budget account and a statement of disbursement of trust funds and mail or deliver a copy to each of the Elective Grand Officers, Past Grand Masters, and Chairmen of all Committees authorized to meet during the recess of the Grand Lodge.

**Section 5.** Duties and Powers of the Corporate Board-The Corporate Board is hereby vested with the following powers, duties, and authority over the finances of the Grand Lodge:

- (1) During the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Corporate Board shall supervise the financial affairs of Grand Lodge and shall administer the same in accordance with the Budget provided for herein and the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.
- (2) The Corporate Board shall cause to be set up the Budget accounts in the books of the Grand Lodge immediately after the close of each Annual Grand Communication.
- (3) The members of the Corporate Board and any authorized agent of such Board shall have access to the records of every Officer, agent, committee, and board handling moneys of the Grand Lodge, or having supervision of any Grand Lodge function with reference to finances.
- (4) The Corporate Board shall have authority during the recess of the Grand Lodge to set up such temporary sub-accounts as may be necessary for the keeping of clear and accurate records of all receipts and disbursements for which an account is not already provided.

(5) The Corporate Board is hereby vested with authority to invest and reinvest current income funds, budgeted funds, and reserve funds in savings accounts or in obligations of the United States of America, maintaining only sufficient checking account balance in the depositories to meet current demands.

(6) The Corporate Board shall develop and supervise insurance and retirement programs affecting Grand Lodge properties and employees and make arrangements to implement the same.

(7) The Corporate Board shall provide for minutes of every meeting to be properly recorded, which shall include copies of each and every order by number, as issued by them, and make written report to the Grand Lodge each year and shall attach a copy of all such minutes.

(8) The Corporate Board is hereby vested with the authority to do all things necessary and proper to the full exercise of the power and authority provided for herein.

**Section 6.** Emergency Expenditures-When in the recess of Grand Lodge an emergency that could not have reasonably been foreseen or anticipated and which requires immediate expenditure of funds, reserve or otherwise not budgeted for such emergency, that the Corporate Board may meet in called meeting and by vote of at least three members and the Grand Master, recorded in the minutes of the meeting together with full statement of the material facts as to the emergency, may transfer necessary funds of the Grand Lodge to a special and/or sub-account to meet the needs raised by the emergency. All records and facts relevant to such proceedings shall be reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee and reported to the Craft thereon. (1985)

**Section 7.** Audit-There shall be an annual audit of the books, records, and accounts of the Grand Lodge. Special audits shall be made of all such books, records, and accounts or any part or portion thereof when ordered or directed by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master or by the Corporate Board. The Grand Lodge may adopt other and further Regulations concerning the audit as may be appropriate. (1985)

**Section 8.** Masonic Home Endowment Fund-

(a) The Masonic Home Endowment Fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a sacred trust fund, the principal amount whereof may not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment; the income therefrom to be expended for the uses and purposes of Masonic Charity and for no other purpose whatever save the payment of unexpended balances of such income into the Masonic Home Endowment Fund to further increase the said Fund.

(b) The Corporate Board is hereby empowered and directed to receive and hold all assets now or hereafter belonging to said Masonic Home Endowment Fund and which may have or may hereafter be given, devised, or bequeathed to or for the benefit of the Masonic Home; to invest and reinvest from time to time all moneys and assets in the said capital Fund in securities listed on recognized stock exchanges in the United States of America, or in bonds of the United States Government, or in direct obligations of the United States Government, or agencies which are fully guaranteed by the United States Government, or in securities issued by instrumentalities of the United States Government, or in corporate bonds having a rating of "A" or better by some nationally recognized rating institution, or in deposits in federal savings and loan associations of Florida or in banking institutions not to exceed the insurance limit provided by FDIC. (1999)

(c) The Corporate Board shall employ the services of Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) and shall make investments only on the advice of such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) and by majority approval of the Corporate Board and the concurrence of the Grand Master; and *provided further* that the expressed wish of every donor as to the type or kind of investment shall be followed. The Corporate Board is hereby authorized to retain any property acquired by gift, bequest, or otherwise, for as long as is deemed advisable, even though such property may not qualify under the above and foregoing provisions for investment of capital and/or principal constituting such Fund. The Corporate Board shall receive the income from said Endowment Fund on or before the close of the Grand Lodge Fiscal year and pay over said income annually to the Grand Secretary to be used for such Masonic Charity as the Grand Lodge may direct. (1999)

(d) The Corporate Board shall authorize the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm to act as custodian or custodians of said Fund and all capital and/or principal belonging to said Fund may be delivered to said Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm as custodian or custodians and said Registered Investment Adviser(s) or

Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm so authorized shall proceed to keep the assets of said Fund in Trust, holding all assets in the name of its nominee and be authorized by reason thereof to execute all stock powers, proxies, and other instruments pertaining to said assets and held by such Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm. No broker-dealer or its clearing firm may hold Grand Lodge securities or funds in excess of the amount of their respective insurance on accounts. (1999)

(e) The Corporate Board shall authorize the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative(s) selected as financial adviser(s) to make the decision as to the purchase and sales of securities according to prescribed limitations and guidelines approved by the Corporate Board but such guidelines shall conform to the requirements of this Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge relating to investments of the Endowment Fund. (1999)

(f) The Corporate Board shall meet immediately after close of Grand Lodge and shall employ the Registered Investment Adviser(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer above provided for and shall meet in regular meeting of at least once every quarter thereafter and at such other times as called by the Grand Master. (1999)

**Section 9.** There is hereby established a Grand Lodge Fund to be designated the Cumulative Depreciation Fund, which Fund and all monies deposited in or allocated to or appropriated for such Fund, shall be used exclusively for replacement of existing facility for administration of Grand Lodge affairs, or Masonic Home affairs, or for place of residence of or care for Residents of the Masonic Home.

Any monies deposited, allocated, or appropriated as aforesaid may be invested in same manner as investment of Masonic Home Endowment Fund and all interest and dividends earned by the Cumulative Depreciation Fund shall accrue to and be credited to such Fund.

Any monies deposited, allocated, or appropriated for such Fund shall not be withdrawn, except for investment purposes as aforesaid, nor expended for any other purpose whatsoever except by direct action by secret written ballot of Representatives of Particular Lodges, Elected Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters in Annual Grand Communication after thirty (30) days written notice by the Corporate Board to all Particular Lodges, District Deputy Grand Masters then in office, and all Past Grand Masters. (2021)

The Grand Lodge shall by Regulation provide for funding of such Cumulative Depreciation Fund and designation thereof by appropriate letter with designation shown in Grand Lodge financial records.

Anything in this Constitution to the contrary notwithstanding this Section 9 of Article XIV of the Constitution may be amended only by two-thirds majority of secret written ballots of Representatives of Particular Lodges, Elected Grand Lodge Officers then in office, and Past Grand Masters in two consecutive Annual Grand Communications after written notice sixty (60) days before each Annual Grand Communication to all Particular Lodges, Elected Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters. (1985)

**Section 10.** There is hereby established a Grand Lodge Fund to be designated the Masonic Museum Fund of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida. Said fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a Sacred Trust Fund, the principal amount whereof may not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment, the income therefrom to be expended for the use of capital improvement of the Masonic Museum of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida. All expenditures are to be under the direction and supervision of the Corporate Board. (1989)

**Section 11.** There is hereby established a Grand Lodge Fund to be designated the Grand Lodge Administrative Endowment Fund of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. Said fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a Sacred Trust Fund, the principal amount whereof shall not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment. The income therefrom may be expended for the use of the Administrative Budget of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. All monies received from the Grand Lodge proportion of the Perpetual Membership Program in excess of the current per capita shall be paid into this fund. (1993)

## ARTICLE XV

### FORMS AND CEREMONIES

**Section 1.** All ritualistic ceremonies, forms, services, and esoteric work of the Grand Lodge and all Subordinate, Particular, or Individual Lodges, hereinafter referred to as "Forms and Ceremonies" as transcribed and written and adopted in Annual Grand Communication, April 26, A.L. 5967, A.D. 1967, and on file in the office of the Grand Secretary, together with such changes, amendments, and deletions as from time to time may be duly authorized and made, is declared to be the true, authentic, and genuine Forms and Ceremonies of the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida, and are the only Forms and Ceremonies authorized for use in such Grand Jurisdiction, and no other Forms or Ceremonies shall be used by the Grand Lodge or any of the Subordinate, Particular, or Individual Lodges of said Grand Jurisdiction.

**Section 2.** There shall be one (1) original and up to thirty-five (35) duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein. There shall also be one Spanish Translation and three (3) duplicate copies of the Spanish Translation of the Forms and Ceremonies. There shall also be one (1) digitized copy of the original and Spanish Translation of the Forms and Ceremonies. (2019)

The digitized copy shall be used for the purposes of updating, printing corrections, or replacement copies of the bound volumes of the Forms and Ceremonies as necessary and approved. The digitized copy shall only be accessed on a computer or printing device that, as applicable, 1) has received all operating system updates and 2) is running an updated version of virus protection software and 3) is not connected to any network (including the internet) either physically or wirelessly or through any other connection means and 4) does not have any form of removable media attached except the media containing the digitized copy. (2019)

The original shall be permanently bound in not more than three volumes and shall not be used unless such use is specifically authorized by appropriate Resolution of Grand Lodge, which Resolution shall specify in detail the use to be made of such original and the terms and conditions governing such use. (1989)

The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any other building or place except by direction of the Grand Master and only after the Lodge in the requesting District has signed a satisfactory contract and agreement with The Grand Lodge of Florida and agreed to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction of the duplicate copies and provides a safe to house the "Books." The duplicate copy of the "Forms and Ceremonies" retained at the Grand Lodge Building will be used as the "Master" for producing those duplicates. (2009)

There shall also be a First Letter Cipher of the Forms and Ceremonies, which shall be available to all Master Masons in good standing in a Particular Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. This Cipher shall contain the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Three Degrees, the Degree Work of the Three Degrees, the Lectures of the Three Degrees, and the Catechisms of the Three Degrees. There shall also be two untitled and uncredited booklets containing the First Letter Cipher of the Catechisms of the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Degrees, which shall be available for use by the Particular Lodges of Florida to assist the candidates. (1997)

There shall also be a Grand Lodge Officers First Letter Cipher Code Book. Copies of this Grand Lodge Officers Code Book shall be prepared at no cost to the Grand Lodge; printed on 8½ X 11 inch sheets, mounted in a cover folder and kept with the Aprons of the Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers having speaking parts for their use during the year. A master copy of said Grand Lodge Officers Code Book shall be prepared and held by the Grand Secretary in order to provide future replacement copies if necessary. (2001)

The Grand Lodge by Regulation may further regulate the use of such duplicate copies and Ciphers. (1995)

**Section 3.** The original and duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein shall be kept in a safety deposit box permanently anchored in the vault in the Grand Lodge Building, which safety deposit box shall be provided with lock which can only be opened by operation of two different keys, one of which keys shall be in the custody of the Grand Master except as hereinafter provided and the other of such keys in the custody of the Grand Secretary.

The safety deposit box herein above referred to shall not be opened except by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary in the presence of at least one Past Grand Master and a member of the Committee on Work; *provided, however*, the Grand Master may be represented by the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, or Junior Grand Warden when he shall so direct in writing.

In the event of illness, incapacity, or unavoidable absence of the Grand Secretary, the Grand Master may designate, in writing, an additional Past Grand Master to act for the Grand Secretary. A record shall be provided and kept on file in said safety deposit box showing each time that said safety deposit box is opened, what was removed therefrom, the use made thereof of the original or duplicate copy, the persons present at the time of opening of said safety deposit box, and the time of return of anything removed therefrom.

**Section 4.** At no time and under no circumstances and by no person shall any copy be made of the secret work adopted by the Grand Lodge, nor any notes or memorandum made or prepared therefrom, nor any changes, amendments, or deletions made thereto or therefrom, unless authorized by Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication, and then only after sixty (60) days notice to the Particular Lodges of any proposed change, modification, abridgement, amendment, or repeal hereof.

At no time and under no circumstances and by no person shall any copy be made of the Ciphers authorized by Grand Lodge, nor any notes or memorandum made or prepared therefrom, nor any changes, amendments, or deletions made thereto or therefrom, unless authorized by the Grand Lodge. (1995)

**Section 5.** The provisions hereof shall not be changed, modified, abridged, amended, or repealed by any manner or means whatsoever except by direct action of the Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication after not less than sixty (60) days notice to all Particular Lodges of any proposed change, modification, abridgement, amendment, or repeal hereof.

### **Rulings and Decisions**

Article XV, Section 3, requires that the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, at least one other Elective Grand Lodge Officer, and at least one Past Grand Master be personally present at the opening and closing of the vault, wherein is kept the written Forms and Ceremonies. (1971 Proc. 301-302)

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