

# **Minnesota Masonic Code**

**2011 Revision**

**Containing State Laws and Statutes,  
Constitution, General Regulations,  
and Standing Resolutions**

**of the**

**Grand Lodge of  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
of Minnesota**

**Prepared under Authority  
of the Board of Corporate Trustees  
by the  
Code Review Committee**

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## CHAPTER I. STATE LAWS AND STATUTES

Original Act Incorporating the Grand Lodge of Minnesota  
**Chapter 72, Private Acts of the Territory of Minnesota, 1853.**  
(Chapter 17, Laws of Minnesota, 1853)

An Act to incorporate the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota.  
Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota:

**SECTION 1.** That Alfred E. Ames, the present Grand Master, Aaron Goodrich, Deputy Grand Master, Daniel F. Brawley, Senior Grand Warden, and Abram Van Vorhes, Junior Grand Warden of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Minnesota, and D. B. Loomis, J. C. Ramsey, E. Case and A. T. C. Pierson, as trustees, and their successors in office, be, and they are hereby declared to be, a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Grand Lodge of Minnesota," may have and keep a common seal, and the same alter, change or renew at pleasure; and by their corporate name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all courts, either of law or equity, and shall have perpetual succession.

**SECTION 2.** Said Grand Lodge shall be established in St. Paul, and in their corporate name may contract and be contracted with, may receive by gift or purchase, and may hold and convey real and personal estate to the amount of fifty thousand dollars, and may make such by-laws, rules and regulations as they may deem best: Provided, That such by-laws, rules and regulations be not contrary to the constitution of the United States, or of the organic act of this Territory.

**SECTION 3.** That Alfred E. Ames, the present W. Master, D. M. Coolbaugh, Senior Warden, and C. T. Stearns, Junior Warden of Cataract Lodge, No. 2, of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and their successors be, and they are hereby, declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "Cataract Lodge, No. 2, of St. Anthony," and by such name may have and possess all the rights and privileges given the Grand Lodge in the first and second sections of this act.

**SECTION 4.** That Daniel F. Brawley, the present W. Master; D. W. C. Dunwell, Senior Warden, and Lott Moffet, Junior Warden, of St. Paul Lodge, No. 3, of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and their successors be, and they are hereby, declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "St. Paul Lodge, No. 3, of St. Paul," and by such name may have and possess all the rights and privileges given the Grand Lodge in the first and second sections of this act.

**SECTION 5.** That F. K. Bartlett, the present W. Master; H. N. Setzer, Senior Warden, and Wm. Holcombe, Junior Warden, of St. Johns Lodge, No. 1, of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and their successors be, and they are hereby, declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "St. Johns Lodge No. 1 of Stillwater," and by such name may have and possess all the rights and privileges given the Grand Lodge in the first and second sections of this act.

**SECTION 6.** That whenever said Grand Lodge shall authorize or charter Subordinate Lodges in any part of Minnesota, the Master and Wardens of each such Subordinate Lodge, upon filing with the clerk of any court of record in the county where such Lodge is established, or in the county to which the same is attached for judicial purposes, a certificate, signed by the Master and Wardens then constituting the Lodge, setting forth therein the name of the Lodge, the county and the place where the Lodge is to meet, shall have and possess all the rights and privileges given the Grand Lodge in the first and second sections of this act, in the name specified in said certificate, and that said clerk shall have a fee of one dollar for filing and recording every such certificate, which he is hereby required to do, upon the payment of such fee.

**SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.  
Approved March 5, 1853.

**Chapter 85, Special Laws of Minnesota for 1885.**

An Act to Amend, Confirm and Define an Act Entitled:

"An Act to Incorporate the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota," approved March Fifth (5th), One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Three (1853). Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

**SECTION 1.** That an act entitled "An act to incorporate the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota" approved March Fifth (5th), one thousand eight hundred and fifty three (1853), be amended, and the same is hereby amended, by adding thereto as follows:

**SECTION 8.** That Henry R. Denny, the present Grand Master, R. H. Gove, the present Deputy Grand Master, J. A. Keister, the present Senior Grand Warden, Albert Marden, the present Junior Grand Warden, of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Minnesota, and D. B. Loomis and A. T. C. Pierson, the first (1st) four (4) being the successors of the Grand officers named in said act, and the last two (2) being the surviving individual corporators named in said act, be, and they are hereby, declared to be the existing and surviving members of said corporate body; and they are hereby authorized to meet and elect, from members of said Grand Lodge, two (2) persons to succeed J. C. Ramsey and E. Case, deceased, as trustees, to complete the membership of said corporate body as contemplated by said act.

**SECTION 9.** That the present Grand officers of said Grand Lodge above named, and their successors in said offices, shall serve as, and continue to be, respectfully, members of said corporation and trustees, with the powers, rights and privileges contemplated in said act, for the term for which they shall have been respectively elected by said Grand Lodge to their respective offices, and until their successors in such offices shall have been duly elected and installed, and said D. B. Loomis and A. T. C. Pierson, and the two (2) persons so to be elected as above provided, shall serve as and continue to be members of said corporate body and trustees, with the powers, rights and privileges contemplated in said act, one (1) for the term of one (1) year, one (1) for the term of two (2) years, and one (1) for the term of three (3) years, and one (1) for the term of four (4) years, from January fifteenth (15th), one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five (1885), the period of incumbency of said persons respectively to be determined by lot. At the next Grand Annual Communication of said Grand Lodge, and at each successive Annual Communication there shall be elected by the members of said corporate body, after the election and installation of Grand officers of said Grand Lodge, one (1) trustee, who shall serve for four (4) years and until his successor is elected.

**SECTION 2.** That section two (2) of said act be, and the same is hereby, amended by striking out after the word "estate," in the third (3rd) line thereof, the words "to the amount of fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars"; also by striking out the last six (6) words of said section, and inserting in lieu thereof the following words: "this state: Provided further, that said board of trustees, which shall consist of said Grand officers and said individual corporators and their successors as above provided, shall not sell or convey any estate or interest in real property belonging to said Grand Lodge, nor lease the same for a term exceeding three (3) years, without the approval of the Grand Lodge, obtained when in session, nor without the approval of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the members of said corporation."

**SECTION 3.** That the incorporation of the Subordinate Lodges named in Section three (3), four (4) and five (5) in said act, and of all Subordinate Lodges heretofore incorporated, or purporting to have been incorporated, under the provisions of Section six (6) of said act, be, and the same is hereby, legalized and confirmed, and all conveyances and leases of real estate, or of any interest therein heretofore made to or acquired by such Lodges or any of them, or which purported to have been made to them or any of them, in their corporate name or otherwise, be, and the same are hereby legalized and confirmed.

**SECTION 4.** That Section six (6) of said act be, and the same is hereby, amended by striking out the words "clerk of any court of record," and in the third (3rd) line of said section,\* and inserting in place thereof the words "register of deeds"; also by striking out the words in said section "or in the county to which the same is attached for judicial purposes," and in third (3rd) and fourth (4th) lines\*; also by striking out the word "clerk," in the eighth (8th) line,\* and inserting in lieu thereof the word "register."

**SECTION 5.** That all Lodges heretofore incorporated under the provisions of said act, having filed the certificate therein required, with the clerk of the court, may file and have recorded with the register of deeds of the respective counties where such Lodges are located, a certified copy of the certificate so filed with the clerk, which shall be recorded as provided herein, and such certificate, or the record thereof, or a certified copy of such record, shall be received as conclusive evidence in all courts and elsewhere, of the corporate existence of the Lodge named therein, from the original date and filing of such certificate with such clerk.

**SECTION 6.** That any Subordinate Lodge which has been heretofore or may be hereafter incorporated under the provisions of said act, either as originally enacted or as hereby amended, may, at the next or any subsequent (Annual) Communication of such Lodge, at which the officers of such Lodge shall be elected, elect three (3) trustees, who shall hold their offices for one (1), two (2) and three (3) years, respectively, to be determined by lot; and thereafter such Lodge shall elect one (1) trustee at each Annual Communication of such Lodge, whose term of office shall be three (3) years and until his successor is elected. Any vacancy in said board of trustees may be filled by appointment by the Master of the Lodge until the next Annual Communication, when an election shall be had of a trustee for the unexpired term. Such trustees shall be members of such Lodge, and shall have the care and control of all property belonging thereto, and shall make all contracts and transfers relating thereto, for the disposition thereof, under the direction of the Lodge. The Master and Secretary of the Lodge shall join with such trustees in all conveyances and contracts of or relating to real property, and the same shall be attested by the seal of the Lodge.

**SECTION 7.** That no Subordinate Lodge incorporated under the provisions of said act, either as originally enacted or as hereby amended, shall sell or dispose of any real property or lease the same for a term exceeding five (5) years, unless a majority of all the members thereof shall have appeared at some regular communication of said Lodge and assented by vote thereto.

**SECTION 8.** That the characters \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ wherever appearing in said act, shall be defined and construed for all purposes as meaning "Lodge" and "Lodges" respectively.

**SECTION 9.** That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved February 28, 1885.

(Lodges may have no need of incorporation unless it is deemed advisable in order to hold real estate. Besides the foregoing Private Acts, a Lodge may prefer incorporation under the Non Profit Corporation Act of the State of Minnesota. When incorporation is contemplated, a Lodge should always consult a lawyer, who is also a well informed Mason, before proceeding to do so. Special care should be taken to preserve absolute control in the representatives of the Lodge.)

(The election and organization of the Board of Corporate Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, a Corporation, and all legislative acts pertaining thereto were accepted and confirmed by the Grand Lodge on January 12, 1888.)

#### **Chapter 520, Laws of Minnesota for 1955**

An act relating to any corporation created by a special act of the Legislature of the Territory of Minnesota or of the State of Minnesota; amending Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 300.026.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

**SECTION 1.** Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 300.026, is amended to read:

**300.026.** Creation by special act, selection of trustees or directors. Subdivision 1. Any corporation created by a special act of the Legislature of the Territory of Minnesota or of the State of Minnesota which prescribes a method of selection of the trustees or directors of such corporation may change such method as to trustees or directors other than those automatically made such by special act, through the adoption of a resolution by the body or persons empowered by such special act to select such trustees or directors; and may provide in such resolution that those selected shall hold office until their successors are selected and have qualified, and that a vacancy in the office of trustee or director shall be filled by the remaining trustees or directors, the appointee to hold office until the next annual meeting of the corporation, at which

time there shall be elected in the manner provided by the resolution, a trustee or director to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**Subd. 2.** A certified copy of the resolution referred to in subdivision 1 shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, and upon such filing the resolution becomes effective.

**Subd. 3.** After the resolution becomes effective the board of trustees or directors of the corporation are self-perpetuating. All vacancies are to be filled as provided in subdivision 1.

**Subd. 4.** This section does not apply to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota.  
Approved April 19, 1955.

**SECTION 2.** The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota, a Corporation created under Chapter 72 Private Acts of the Territory of Minnesota, 1853, (Chapter 17, Laws of Minnesota 1853), and amended, confirmed and defined in Chapter 85, Special Laws of Minnesota for 1885, does hereby accept the provisions of Chapter 520, Laws of Minnesota for 1955 amending Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 300.026.

The Grand Lodge shall have eight (8) Trustees or Directors who shall be such members in the Grand Lodge as follows: Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, Two immediate Past Grand Masters.  
who shall hold office until their successors are selected and have qualified, and if a vacancy shall occur in the office of any trustee, the remaining trustees may appoint another trustee to hold office until the next annual communication of this Corporation.

A certified copy of this resolution shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the State of Minnesota.  
Adopted April 2, 1971.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State, State of Minnesota, on May 12, 1971.

**Chapter 151, Laws of Minnesota for 1965**

An Act relating to grand lodges of fraternal organizations created by territorial or state laws; authorizing a change in the place of establishment.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

**SECTION 1. Subdivision 1.** The grand lodge of any fraternal organization created by a special act of the legislature of the territory or of the State of Minnesota which designated the place of establishment may change the place of establishment thereof by conforming with the provisions of this act.

**Subd. 2.** The place of establishment of such grand lodge may be changed from time to time when authorized by a majority of the board of trustees or other governing body thereof and a majority of the members of the grand lodge, and the change shall become effective when a certificate, duly executed by the presiding officer and the secretary of such grand lodge, setting forth the change of the place of establishment and reciting compliance with the provisions of this act, is filed for record in the office of the Secretary of State.

**Subd. 3.** A change of establishment of a grand lodge authorized by this act is limited to a place within the State of Minnesota.

Approved April 1, 1965.

## CHAPTER II. CONSTITUTION OF GRAND LODGE

### PREAMBLE

The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of Minnesota, practicing the Ancient York Rite, and inalienably invested with supreme and exclusive jurisdiction, as exercised, over all matters of Ancient Craft Masonry in the State of Minnesota, and possessing the inherent power to form a constitution as its fundamental written law, and to prescribe such other regulations and laws for its government and that of its constituents as it may deem best, and to alter and change the same at pleasure in order to establish and preserve fraternal union, maintain order, insure tranquility, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft and secure to the Fraternity the blessings of Masonic privileges, does ordain and adopt the following:

### ARTICLE I. Name and Title

The name and title of the Grand Lodge shall be "The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota" for all ordinary Masonic purposes, but for all legal documents its corporate name, "The Grand Lodge of Minnesota," a corporation, shall be used.

### ARTICLE II. Masonic Laws

**Section C2.01** Constitutions are those written compacts or laws adopted by Freemasons for the government of the Grand Lodge and its Constituent Lodges and their members, and are intended to be permanent in character.

**SECTION C2.02** The Ancient Landmarks are those principles of Masonic government and policy which are among the parts of Masonic law or rules of government that may never be altered or disturbed, as, for instance, the universal language of Masons, and those peculiar marks of distinction by which they are separated from the profane, and by which they are enabled to prove themselves as the "Sons of Light."

**SECTION C2.03** The following are enumerated from the Ancient Constitutions as having the force of Ancient Landmarks of the Fraternity, having been generally received and acknowledged by Masons as such:

- (1) That belief in the Supreme Being, "The Great Architect of the Universe," who will punish vice and reward virtue, is an indispensable prerequisite to admission to Masonry.
- (2) That the moral law which inculcates charity and probity, industry and sobriety, and obedience to law and civil government, is the rule and guide of every Mason, to which strict conformity is required.
- (3) That obedience to Masonic law and authority, being voluntarily assumed, is of perpetual obligation.
- (4) That the rites and ceremonies (which include the unwritten language) of the true system of the Ancient York Rite, and which constitute a part of the body of Masonry, are immutable, and that it is not in the power of any man to make innovations therein, except when in Grand Lodge convened.
- (5) That contentions and lawsuits between Brethren are contrary to the laws and regulations of Masonry.
- (6) That charity is the right of a Mason, his widow and orphans, when poor and destitute, to demand, and the duty of his prosperous brother to bestow.
- (7) That Masonic instruction is, like charity, a reciprocal right and duty of Masons.
- (8) That to visit Masonically is an inherent right of Masons, but no visitor shall be received into a Lodge if any member present objects.
- (9) That a candidate for Masonry must be a man of mature age, free born, of good report, hale and sound, having no maim or defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art and

physically able to conform substantially to what the several degrees of Masonry respectively require of him. If a candidate is unable to so comply with the physical requirements, he shall nevertheless be eligible to receive the degrees of Masonry, if, after favorable action by the Constituent Lodge, his petition for degrees, accompanied by a detailed report of the nature and extent of his disabilities, is approved by the Grand Master.

(10) That the Grand Master may make Masons at sight, and may grant a dispensation to a Lodge for the same purpose, but in all other cases a candidate must be proposed in open Lodge, at a Stated Communication and can only be accepted at a Stated Communication following, by the scrutiny of a secret ballot, and a unanimous vote, and must pay a fixed price before admission.

(11) That it is the duty of every Mason to be a contributing member of some Lodge.

(12) That a Mason who is not a member of a Lodge is still subject to the disciplinary power of Masonry.

(13) That the Master and Wardens of every chartered Lodge are of right and inalienably representatives in, and members of, the Grand Lodge.

(14) That no one can be elected Master of a chartered Lodge, except at its first election, but a Master Mason who shall have served as a Warden.

(15) That every Mason must be tried by his peers; hence, the Master cannot be tried by his Lodge.

(16) That no appeal to the Lodge can be taken from the decision of the Master, or the Warden occupying the chair in his absence.

(17) That Masonic intercourse with a clandestine, suspended or expelled Mason is a breach of duty and an offense against Masonic law.

(18) That a restoration of the privileges of Masonry by the Grand Lodge does not restore to membership in a Constituent Lodge.

(19) That the failure of a Lodge to meet for one (1) year is cause for the forfeiture of its charter.

(20) That it is the duty as well as the right of every chartered Lodge to be represented in the Grand Lodge at its communications.

(21) That this Grand Lodge has supreme and exclusive jurisdiction, as exercised, within its territorial limits, over all matters of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry, and accepts the right of the Grand Lodge of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Minnesota as having supreme and exclusive jurisdiction over matters pertaining to that Grand Lodge.

(22) That no appeal lies from the decision of the Grand Master in the chair, or the Deputy Grand Master or Grand Warden, occupying the chair in his absence.

(23) That the office of the Grand Master is always elective, and should be filled annually by the Grand Lodge.

(24) That the Grand Lodge, composed of its officers and representatives, must meet at least once in each year, to consult and act concerning the interests of the Fraternity in its jurisdiction.

(25) That all officers of the Grand Lodge or Constituent Lodge must be Master Masons.

(26) That no subject of sectarian or political character can be discussed in a Lodge, and any Mason proposing such a subject renders himself liable to the disciplinary action of the Lodge.

**SECTION C2.04** The actions of Freemasons in their Grand or Constituent Lodges, or in their individual character, are regulated and controlled:

(a) By Ancient Landmarks.

(b) By written Constitutions.

(c) By General Regulations, Rules, Edicts and Resolutions having the force of regulations, and by usages and customs as to Masonic matters which have not been modified by the written law of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION C2.05** General Regulations, Rules, Edicts, Resolutions, Usages and Customs are those Masonic rules of action adopted by competent authority for local or temporary purposes, admitting of change at convenience and not embraced in Ancient Landmarks or Constitutions.

**SECTION C2.06** In voting, either hand may be used.

### **ARTICLE III. Composition and Titles**

**SECTION C3.01** The Grand Lodge shall be composed of its Grand Officers, together with the Master and Wardens of its chartered Lodges or their proxies and all Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters and Past Grand Wardens, the Chief Trial Commissioner, all Area Deputies, all District Representatives, Regional Lodge Education Officers and all members of the Board of Custodians; and all Past Grand Treasurers and Past Grand Secretaries who have served the Grand Lodge for ten (10) consecutive years as Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, respectively, and all Past Area Deputies all Past District Representatives, and all Past Members of the Board of Custodians and all Past Regional Lodge Education Officers who have served the Grand Lodge for ten (10) years as Area Deputies, District Representatives, Regional Lodge Education Officers, or as members of the Board of Custodians, respectively or have served the Grand Lodge for ten (10) years in total service as Area Deputy, District Representative, member of the Board of Custodians, or as a Regional Lodge Education Officer and Chairmen of Grand Lodge Standing Committees who are not otherwise members of the Grand Lodge. All the aforesaid members of the Grand Lodge shall be entitled to one (1) vote each.

**SECTION C3.02** No one can be a member of the Grand Lodge who is not a member of one (1) of its Constituent Lodges, but the membership of the Grand Lodge shall not be affected by the change of membership directly from one Lodge to another within this jurisdiction.

A proxy must be a member of the same Lodge as the officer he represents and must have been a Master of such Lodge.

**SECTION C3.03** The officers of the Grand Lodge shall be elective and appointive, and shall hold their offices one (1) year or until their successors are installed, respectively.

**SECTION C3.04** No one except the Grand Lodge Education Officer, Grand Chaplain, Grand Orator, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer and Grand Tyler shall be eligible for installation as an officer of the Grand Lodge who has not been duly installed as the Master of a chartered Lodge.

**SECTION C3.05** The officers of the Grand Lodge shall be of four (4) classes, namely: Elective Line, Elective Non-Line, Appointive Line and Appointive Non-Line, as provided in this section.

**(a)** Elective Line Officers shall be the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden and the Junior Grand Warden, each of whom shall be elected by majority ballot at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge and shall serve in the office to which he is elected and installed for one (1) year and until his successor is duly installed, except as may be otherwise provided in this Constitution.

**(b)** Elective Non-Line Officers shall be the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary, each of whom shall be selected by the Corporate Trustees, subject to the express confirmation of and election by the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication. They shall thereupon each be duly installed in their respective offices and shall serve for one (1) year and until their successors shall have been elected and installed. As compensation for their services each shall receive such amount as the Corporate Trustees shall recommend and the Grand Lodge authorize. The term of office of either may be terminated by the Corporate Trustees for due cause. Any vacancy in the office of the Grand Treasurer or of the Grand Secretary may be filled, until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, by the Corporate Trustees.

**(c)** In the event of the death or resignation of an Appointive Line Officer, the Grand Master shall appoint a qualified Brother to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Communication, at which time the Grand Marshal will become an Appointive Non-Line Officer; when a second death or resignation of an Appointive Line Officer occurs, the Grand Pursuivant will become an Appointive Non-Line Officer. Until such deaths or resignations occur, the Grand Marshal and Grand Pursuivant will remain Appointive Line Officers. The

Brother receiving the temporary appointment to fill the remaining term will not automatically become an Appointive Line Officer by virtue of this temporary appointment.

**(d)** In the event of the death or resignation of an elected Line Officer occur The Grand Master shall fill the position pursuant to C3.08, However in such a case the provisions of 3.05 (c) shall become effective in the following Grand Lodge Year, and the position of the Grand Marshal or Grand Pursuivant shall become an Appointive Non-line Officer.

**(e)** Appointive Line Officers shall be the Senior and Junior Grand Deacons, and the Senior and Junior Grand Stewards, each of whom shall be appointed by the Grand Master at the time of his installation and shall serve in the office to which he is so appointed and installed for one (1) year and until his successor is duly installed.

**(f)** Appointive Non-Line Officers shall be the Grand Lodge Education Officer, Grand Chaplain, Grand Orator, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Marshal, Grand Pursuivant and the Grand Tyler, each of whom shall be appointed by the Grand Master, at the time of his installation and shall serve in the office to which he is so appointed and installed for one (1) year and until his successor is duly installed.

**SECTION C3.06** The Grand Lodge may provide for such other appointive officers as it may determine.

**SECTION C3.07** The officers of the Grand Lodge shall be installed at the Annual Communication at which they are selected or as soon thereafter as practicable.

**SECTION C3.08** Any vacancy occurring in any office except that of Deputy Grand Master or Grand Wardens, shall be filled by the Grand Master for the unexpired term.

**SECTION C3.09** The title of the Grand Master and of all Past Grand Masters shall be "Most Worshipful"; of all other elective Grand and Past Grand Officers, shall be "Right Worshipful"; and of all appointive officers of the Grand Lodge during their term shall be "Worshipful."

#### **ARTICLE IV. Powers of the Grand Lodge**

**SECTION C4.01** The powers of the Grand Lodge are executive, legislative and judicial; and the Grand Lodge is supreme in all Masonic matters, limited only by this Constitution, which it may amend or change, as provided therein, and by the Ancient Landmarks.

**SECTION C4.02** The executive powers are such as will make effective its legislation and enforce Masonic usage and custom, and shall be carried out by the Grand Master.

The Grand Master, subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge shall have complete control of all dealings with other Grand Jurisdictions.

**SECTION C4.03** The legislative powers extend to every matter of Masonic concern not delegated to its Constituent Lodges.

**SECTION C4.04** The judicial powers are:

**(a)** Original - embracing all matters of controversy between its Lodges or between a Lodge and its members, or between the members of different Lodges, the enforcement of discipline upon its own members and its Lodges, and individual Masons; provided that this clause shall not be so construed as to deprive a Constituent Lodge of the right to enforce discipline upon any of its members except the Master or the Grand Master while in office.

**(b)** Appellate - embracing all matters of controversy and discipline arising in any Lodge, and over which it has not exercised original jurisdiction.

**SECTION C4.05** All powers, whether executive, legislative or judicial, not expressly delegated by the Grand Lodge, are inherent in and reserved to it, as the supreme governing body.

## **ARTICLE V. Powers and Duties of Grand Officers**

**SECTION C5.01** The Grand Master has power within this jurisdiction:

- (a) To convene any Lodge, to preside therein, to inspect its books and proceedings and to require full conformity to Masonic law and usage.
- (b) To require the attendance of any Grand Officer in his visitations to Lodges.
- (c) To make Masons at sight; and he may by written dispensation delegate this power to a Lodge, but in so doing must not depart from the Ancient Landmarks.
- (d) To convene the Grand Lodge in special or occasional communications as hereinafter provided.
- (e) To arrest the charter of a Lodge or suspend a Brother until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, at which time he shall present the reasons therefor in writing.
- (f) To grant dispensations for new Lodges between the Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge, or for a Lodge to change its place of communication upon its compliance with the requirements of the law in regard thereto, or for public processions or assemblies (except that no dispensation is required in case of Masonic funerals) and for the election of Masters or Wardens of Lodges in case of vacancies in said offices.
- (g) To exercise all such other powers as are warranted or required of him by the Ancient Landmarks, Usages and Customs of the Craft, provided, always, that he shall have no power to suspend the operations of any law of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION C5.02** The Duties of the Grand Master are:

- (a) To preside at all communications of the Grand Lodge and to execute the will of the Grand Lodge.
- (b) To appoint all officers and committees of the Grand Lodge, not otherwise provided for.
- (c) To lay before the Grand Lodge, at the first session of its Annual Communication, a written address detailing his official acts, the state and condition of Masonry in this Jurisdiction, and such other matters as he may deem best, and recommending to the Grand Lodge such measures as he deems necessary or expedient.
- (d) To vote in the Grand Lodge in case of tie, except in elections of officers, and when the roll is called for the ayes and nays.
- (e) To exercise supervisory control over all Grand officers, instruct them in their duties and see that the same are performed.

**SECTION C5.03** The powers and duties of the Deputy Grand Master are:

- (a) To attend the Communications of the Grand Lodge and render the Grand Master such assistance as may be required of him.
- (b) In case of the death or permanent removal of the Grand Master from the Jurisdiction, he shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the Grand Master, as Acting Grand Master, until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge; provided, however, that upon the death or permanent removal of the Grand Master from the Jurisdiction more than six (6) months prior to the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, he shall thereupon be forthwith installed as Grand Master with all the rank and privileges thereof.

**SECTION C5.04** The duties of the Grand Wardens are to assist the Grand Master in the Grand Lodge, to attend him in visitations when required and to discharge such other duties as appertain to their offices respectively. In the absence of their superior officers, they shall fill the station vacant in order of their rank and perform all of the duties of such station.

**SECTION C5.05** The duties of the Grand Treasurer are:

- (a) To have special charge of all the funds, securities and vouchers of the Grand Lodge, and to keep an accurate account thereof in such a manner and form as may be provided by the Grand Lodge.
- (b) To pay all orders drawn in accordance with the law or special directions of the Grand Lodge.
- (c) To attend the Grand Lodge, and upon the Grand Master when required, with the books and all necessary documents relating to his office, and also when required, the meeting of any whose duty it may be to act in relation to the fiscal concerns of the Grand Lodge.
- (d) To report annually to the Grand Lodge his receipts and all expenditures by items, from whom received and to whom paid, and the securities in his hands for all invested funds of the Grand Lodge.
- (e) To execute and file with the Grand Secretary an official bond in such amount as the Grand Lodge may require and with surety or sureties to be approved by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of his office.
- (f) To turn over and deliver at the expiration of his term, to his successor in office, or to such other person as shall be designated by the Grand Lodge, all moneys, funds, securities and other evidences of debt, and all books, writings and other property of the Grand Lodge in his possession or under his control, making proper assignments and orders when necessary.

**SECTION C5.06** The duties of the Grand Secretary are:

- (a) To make proper records of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge.
- (b) To receive and keep an account of all moneys of the Grand Lodge, to pay over the same without delay to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same, or to make such other disposition of the monies as the Grand Lodge may provide by law.
- (c) To keep a register in which to enter all charters or warrants, dispensations and certificates granted by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.
- (d) To keep a register of all the Lodges and their members, with a Lodge and a Grand Lodge number prefixed to each name, together with the age, occupation, residence, date of initiation, passing, and raising, joining, restoration, withdrawal, striking from the rolls, suspension, expulsion or death, as the same are reported in the annual returns from the Lodges.
- (e) To receive, file and safely keep all papers and documents of the Grand Lodge not in the custody of other officers.
- (f) To sign and certify all papers and documents of the Grand Lodge, and to have the custody of the seal thereof.
- (g) To conduct the correspondence of the Grand Lodge, under the direction of the Grand Master, in a Masonic manner.
- (h) To attend with all necessary writings under his control at all communications of the Grand Lodge, and also upon the Grand Master, on Masonic business when required.
- (i) To transmit to the several Grand Lodges in correspondence with the Grand Lodge, and to the members of the Grand Lodge and to the Constituent Lodges, a list of the Grand Officers immediately after the close of the Annual Communication.
- (j) To be the Librarian of the Grand Lodge and to have the care and custody of all the books and property thereof.
- (k) To report annually to the Grand Lodge all moneys received by him, by items, and the specific source of each, and also the Lodges that have neglected to render proper returns of their elections, members and

dues, and such general information as to the state of the Lodges as may be proper for the information and action the Grand Lodge.

(l) To execute and file with the Grand Treasurer an official bond in such sum as the Grand Lodge may require, with surety or sureties to be approved by the Grand Master and the Grand Treasurer, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of his office.

(m) At the expiration of his term to turn over and deliver to his successor in office, or to such persons as shall be designated by the Grand Lodge, all books, papers, writings, documents and other property of the Grand Lodge under his control.

(n) It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to make available as of May 1st of each year, a list of those members suspended for non-payment of dues, to the secretary/recorder of those recognized Masonic bodies as listed under General Regulations Section G5.03; and to the secretary/recorder of those other organizations whose membership is based on those recognized Masonic bodies as a prerequisite to membership.

**SECTION C5.07** It shall be the duty of the Grand Lodge Education Officer to:

(a) Attend all regular and special meetings of the Corporate Board as directed by the Grand Master.

(b) Prepare and report on a regular basis to the Grand Master and Corporate Board the plans and activities of the Minnesota Grand Lodge Education Officer program.

(c) Attend the Grand Lodge Annual Communication as a member for appointment and installation as Grand Lodge Education Officer. Encourage and promote the education programs of the Grand Lodge for use by Minnesota Masonry.

(d) In the absence of the Junior Grand Warden Chair and convene regular meetings of the Education Coordinating .

(e) Convene annually a meeting(s) of the Regional Lodge Education Officers, Lodge Education Officers and other interested Masons throughout Minnesota for the purposes of Masonic education and information, encouragement and fellowship.

(f) Convene annually regional meetings of the Lodge Education Officers of the nine regions of the state for the purpose of electing and recommending appointment of the Regional Education Officer, promoting use of Masonic education resources and doing in-service training.

(g) Complete other duties and functions of this office as directed by the Grand Master.

**SECTION 5.08** It shall be the duty of the Grand Chaplain to attend the Grand Lodge and to perform the devotional service thereof.

**SECTION C5.09** It shall be the duty of the Grand Orator to attend the Grand Lodge and to prepare and deliver an oration or address at the Annual Communication thereof and upon such other ceremonial occasions as the Grand Master may require.

**SECTION C5.10** It shall be the duty of the Grand Deacons to assist within the body of the Grand Lodge, as may be required of them by the Grand Master, or as by usage appertains to their offices.

**SECTION C5.11** It shall be the duty of the Grand Marshal to proclaim the Grand Officers at their installation, to introduce the representatives of other Grand Lodges and visiting Brethren of distinction and to conduct the processions of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION C5.12** It shall be the duty of the Grand Standard Bearer to carry the United States flag in processions and public ceremonies.

**SECTION C5.13** It shall be the duty of the Grand Sword Bearer to carry the sword in processions and public ceremonies.

**SECTION C5.14** It shall be the duty of the Grand Stewards to examine into all applications for charity made to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication and to perform such other duties as by usage appertain to their offices.

**SECTION C5.15** It shall be the duty of the Grand Pursuivant to communicate with the Grand Tyler and announce all applicants for admission by their names and Masonic titles, at communications of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION C5.16** It shall be the duty of the Grand Tyler to guard the doors of the Grand Lodge on the outside, to report all persons claiming admission, to see that none enter unless duly authorized and properly clothed, to take charge of the Grand Lodge jewels and regalia and other clothing and property present during the communications of the Grand Lodge, to carry summonses and to perform all customary services pertaining to his office.

**SECTION C5.17** As compensation, the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Tyler shall each receive such amounts for their services as the Grand Lodge shall authorize.

## **ARTICLE VI. Communications and Quorums**

**SECTION C6.01** The meetings of the Grand Lodge are styled Communications and may be either Annual, Special or Occasional.

### **(a) Annual Communications**

(1) The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge shall be held on such days during either the month of March or the month of April and at such place as shall be fixed and determined by resolution of the Board of Corporate Trustees, notice of such days and place, with copy of such resolution to be served by mail by said Board on all Constituent Lodges and the Masters and Wardens thereof, and all other members of the Grand Lodge, at least sixty (60) days prior to the day fixed and determined as the first day for the holding of the Annual Communication.

(2) The Grand Lodge shall be opened on the Master Mason's Degree, and when opened by the Grand Master he shall declare it opened "In Ample Form;" if by the Deputy Grand Master, "In Due Form"; and if by anyone else, "In Form." The same manner shall be observed in the closing of a Communication.

### **(b) Special Communications**

The Grand Master may call Special Communications at any time for the transaction of such business only as he may name in the call therefor, but no business affecting this Constitution, the General Regulations or Landmarks shall be transacted thereat.

Thirty (30) days notice shall be given by mail of such Special Communication to each Lodge and to each officer and past officer who is a member of the Grand Lodge.

### **(c) Occasional Communications**

The Grand Master may open, or authorize the opening of, an Occasional Communication at any time or place, for the purpose of Masonic funerals, dedications, cornerstone layings, breaking ground for Masonic buildings, constitution of new Lodges and other strictly Masonic ceremonial occasions. A record should be made by the Grand Secretary if present or filed with him if absent, and report made to the Grand Master when he does not personally open such Communication.

**SECTION C6.02** A majority of chartered Lodges must be represented to constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business mentioned in Sections C6.01(a) and C6.01(b) of this Article. In the transaction of business, each member of the Grand Lodge shall have one (1) vote, except that the Grand Master shall vote in case of a tie, upon any question other than the election of officers or when the roll is called by ayes and nays. Each chartered Lodge represented shall be entitled to three (3) votes through its representatives present. If less than three (3) are present, the senior officer present shall cast the additional vote or votes of such absent representatives not present by proxy. If no elective officer is present, the proxy for the senior officer present shall cast such vote or votes.

## **ARTICLE VII. Masonic Benevolence**

**SECTION C7.01** Brethren in good standing, their wives, their widows and their minor children have a claim to charitable relief, not only from the prosperous Brother, but from the funds of Constituent Lodges, upon satisfactory evidence of their Masonic character and standing and of their necessitous circumstances, or from the funds of the Grand Lodge under such rules as it may establish.

**SECTION C7.02** Whenever such claim is presented to the Grand Lodge, in session, it shall be referred to the Grand Stewards, who shall examine into and report thereon with their recommendations, during the same communication, for action by the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION C7.03** Whenever such claim is made during the recess between the Annual Communications, it must be presented to the Grand Master who shall at once appoint a committee of three (3) Past Masters to consider and report to him upon the claim, with its recommendation. If the recommendation is then approved by a majority of the Board of Corporate Trustees, the Grand Master shall direct the Grand Secretary to draw an order upon the Grand Treasurer for the amount so approved, subject, however, to the limitation provided in Section C7.04 of this Article, and such order shall be charged against the Benevolence Fund and be paid to the payee specified by the Board of Corporate Trustees action.

**SECTION C7.04** The Grand Lodge shall have and maintain a fund to be known as "The Grand Lodge Benevolence Fund," in such amount as the Grand Lodge may from time to time determine. The principal of the Grand Lodge Benevolence Fund shall be invested and kept invested from time to time by the Board of Corporate Trustees of the Grand Lodge in such safe, first class, interest bearing securities and common and preferred stocks as such trustees may from time to time select. Expenditures of monies from the Grand Lodge Benevolence Fund shall be made as authorized by the provisions of Section C7.02 and C7.03 of this article, and such other approved Masonic relief, charity, pension or benevolence purposes as are properly authorized, except, however, that the total of the said fund shall never be reduced below the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00), except by resolution approved by the Board of Corporate Trustees and adopted by the Grand Lodge by majority vote of the representatives of the Constituent Lodges and other Grand Lodge members.

**SECTION C7.05** The Board of Corporate Trustees is authorized to change the form of investment from one security to another by a majority vote, and the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, under the seal of the Grand Lodge, are then fully authorized to execute in the name of the Grand Lodge all necessary papers or documents to effect such changes as they may order, and also to satisfy or release any investments as may be paid from time to time.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Masonic Discipline**

**SECTION C8.01** Masonic offenses and unmasonic conduct embrace all such acts of commission or omission as violate either the Masonic or Moral Law and the obligations of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason degrees, as well as such acts in derogation of the laws of the land as involve moral turpitude; and for all such violations proceedings shall be had, as are or may hereafter be provided by the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION C8.02** The penalties to be imposed when guilt is established are:

**FIRST:** Reprimand, which may be given privately or in open Lodge by the Master.

**SECOND:** Suspension, which may be either limited or indefinite.

**THIRD:** Expulsion, which always terminates Masonic intercourse and connection with the body inflicting it and also with the Masonic Fraternity everywhere.

**SECTION C8.03** Suspension applies to Lodges as hereinafter provided, and when inflicted upon a Lodge it suspends all its members unless expressly excepted. Suspension and expulsion prohibit all Masonic intercourse with such members while in force.

**SECTION C8.04** Whenever an accused is found guilty of an offense charged in the manner prescribed by the Grand Lodge, and the penalty has been fixed, the same shall be final unless appeal is taken to the

Grand Lodge within sixty (60) days after knowledge of the sentence and such sentence reversed or modified or a new trial granted on such appeal.

**SECTION C8.05** The Grand Lodge may, after one (1) year from sentence, restore to the rights and privileges of Masonry, but not to Lodge membership, anyone suspended or expelled when restoration has been requested by him, but under such rules as it may prescribe.

**SECTION C8.06** It is the duty of every Mason to belong to some Lodge and to contribute to the support and funds thereof. Arrears for dues for one (1) year or more may subject a Brother to be stricken from the rolls in the manner which the Grand Lodge may prescribe; the status of such Brother so stricken shall be that of an Unaffiliated Mason, with no further right of visitation or of Masonic burial or assistance.

**SECTION C8.07** No charter of a Lodge can be revoked or forfeited except upon charges regularly made to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication, of which due notice shall be given the Lodge and an opportunity of being heard in defense; but a charter may be suspended by the Grand Lodge or arrested by the Grand Master at any time for cause, which suspension or arrest shall not extend beyond the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION C8.08** The surrender, revocation or forfeiture of a charter, when declared by the Grand Lodge, or the expiration of the term for which a dispensation has been issued, unless a charter is granted by the Grand Lodge, shall be conclusive upon the Lodge and its members and carries with it all the property of the Lodge, which thereupon becomes the property of the Grand Lodge and must, on demand, be surrendered by the last Master, or whoever has it in custody, to the Grand Lodge or its authorized officer or agent.

But in case of surrender, revocation or forfeiture of a charter, the Grand Lodge, upon investigation, may direct the Grand Secretary to issue certificates of non-affiliation to any members of the Lodge whom it finds were not at fault in the matters by which the charter was lost.

The same course shall be pursued to protect those who have received degrees in a Lodge under dispensation when no charter is issued.

## **ARTICLE IX. Constituent Lodges Powers, Officers, Jurisdiction and Degrees**

### **SECTION C9.01 Lodges**

**(a)** Constituent Lodges have a right to convene as Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, to receive Entered Apprentices, to pass Fellow Crafts, to raise Master Masons and to establish fees for degrees; provided, that the total fee shall not be less than Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) plus the amount specified in Section G3.01(c) of the General Regulations; to choose officers annually, to establish dues, but not on a sliding scale or different amounts for residents and non-residents but in no event shall such dues be less than two dollars (\$2.00) plus the amount of the Grand Lodge Per Capita, as specified in Section G3.01(d) of the General Regulations, per member per year, to establish funds for purposes distinctly Masonic; to establish funds for charitable objects; to enact by-laws and to amend the same, subject to the approval of the Grand Master and to perform and transact any and all business appertaining to Freemasonry, agreeable to their charters, the laws of the Grand Lodge and the principles and ancient usages of the Craft.

**(b)** Constituent Lodges to be known as "Educational Lodges" may be formed and work in this Grand Jurisdiction, for the sole purpose of study and research into subjects of interest to its members, particularly the history, growth and development of the philosophy of the Fraternity. None shall be eligible to membership in such Lodges except Master Masons in good standing, and loss of membership for any cause in a member's regular Constituent Lodge shall, ipso facto, and without action by the Educational Lodge, operate to terminate such member's affiliation with such Lodge. Such Lodges shall have no power to receive or vote upon petitions for degrees or to confer degrees.

**(c)** Constituent Lodges to be known as "Memorial Lodges" may be formed for the sole purpose of holding Memorial Services and-or Funeral Services for deceased Brothers who are sojourners in the area of the Memorial Lodge. These Lodges must not perform "services" for a regular Constituent Lodge without the Grand Master's express permission. None shall be eligible to membership in such Lodges except

Master Masons in good standing. Such Lodges shall have no power to receive or vote upon petitions for degrees or to confer degrees, nor shall the Master and Wardens be entitled to a vote in Grand Lodge.

**Section C9.02** A Lodge can be formed only by the charter or warrant of the Grand Lodge. A dispensation may be issued by the Grand Master between Annual Communications, upon the petition of not less than twenty-five (25) Master Masons of known skill and character, not then elective officers of a Constituent Lodge, residing in the jurisdiction of the proposed Lodge and with current receipts for dues, or certificates of good standing, and with the fee for a dispensation as may be fixed by the Grand Lodge, their recommendations for Master and Wardens, and of their reasons for believing a Lodge is demanded and can be sustained at the place named, which dispensation shall authorize them to elect petitioners, confer the degrees and discharge the duties of Masonry in a constitutional manner until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. The charter for a Lodge formed by the consolidation of two or more Lodges can be issued by the Grand Master.

**SECTION C9.03** Constituent Lodges shall consist of the following officers from the ranks of the Lodges' membership: A Master, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Treasurer and a Secretary, each of whom shall be elected by the Lodge annually; and a Lodge Education Officer, Senior and Junior Deacon, a Chaplain, a Senior and a Junior Steward, a Marshal and a Tyler, each of whom shall be appointed by the Master after his installation; and as many members as may be convenient, working and congregating by virtue of a charter or a warrant from the Grand Lodge. No one shall hold more than one office, whether elected or appointed, in any one Lodge at the same time. It is not necessary that the Tyler should be a member of the Lodge for which he is installed.

The title of a Master and of all Past Masters shall be "Worshipful."

#### **SECTION C9.04 Membership**

- (a) A Master Mason in good standing may become, by regular affiliation or by joining as a petitioner in the founding of a new Lodge, and may continue, a member of two (2) or more Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, or in this Grand Jurisdiction and another Grand Jurisdiction, at the same time, provided he shall be liable to pay the fee provided for affiliation in a Constituent Lodge in such Grand Jurisdiction; shall be liable to pay dues in each Lodge of which he shall become a member, shall be entitled to vote in each Lodge of which he is a member and to hold office therein, excepting that he shall not hold the offices of Master, Wardens, Treasurer or Secretary in more than one (1) Lodge at the same time; and the loss of membership for non-payment of dues or for other cause resulting in suspension of or expulsion from membership in any one Lodge shall cause loss of membership in all Lodges. Any Master Mason who maintains membership in two or more lodges within the state of Minnesota, may, upon written application to the Grand Secretary, receive a full refund of the per capita portion of his dues from all but one lodge.
- (b) Whenever it shall appear from any petition for affiliation presented to any Lodge, that the petitioner is at the time of submission of such petition a member of a Lodge in any other Grand Jurisdiction, and that he desires to retain his membership in such other Lodge, thereby to acquire plural membership in the Lodge with which he files his petition, such petition, before it shall be received by the Lodge, shall be forwarded immediately by the Secretary of the Lodge to the Grand Secretary of this Grand Jurisdiction; and no further action shall be taken on such petition until the Grand Secretary shall have ascertained and determined whether or not plural membership is or will be permitted or sanctioned by the Grand Jurisdiction in which such other Lodge is located, and shall have returned said petition with his endorsement thereon that said petition may be legally received and acted upon by reference to the Committee on Investigation and by ballot of the Lodge as otherwise made and provided.
- (c) If it shall appear from the endorsement of the Grand Secretary that such petition may not legally be received and acted upon, it shall forthwith be returned to the petitioner by the Lodge together with any money or fees which the petitioner shall have paid into the Lodge in connection therewith.
- (d) Upon consummation of plural membership by signing the Lodge by-laws by a Brother in any Lodge, the Secretary of the Lodge in which he acquires such plural membership shall immediately notify the Secretary of each other Lodge in which such member retains his membership, in writing by mail, of the acquisition of such plural membership by the Brother, stating the name, number and address of the Lodge in which such plural membership is acquired; in like manner should such plural member withdraw his plural membership, the Secretary shall advise the Secretary of each other Lodge of his

withdrawal. The Grand Secretary, upon receiving an application for refund of per capita dues from a bona fide plural member having membership in two or more Lodges within the state of Minnesota, shall cause a full refund of the per capita portion of the dues from all but one Lodge to be paid to the applicant within ten (10) days of receipt of said application.

- (e) The Secretary of each Lodge, from such statement, petitions or other information received by him, shall keep in the Register of the Lodge a record of all plural memberships held by members of the Lodge, together with the name, number and address of such other Lodge(s) in which plural membership is held.
- (f) The Secretary of each Lodge which shall receive into its membership by affiliation a Brother who retains membership in another Lodge shall in the annual return to the Grand Secretary report such Brother under plural membership, giving the name, number and jurisdiction of any other Lodge in which he retains membership.
- (g) If a member of any Lodge who also holds membership in any other Lodge, whether located in this Grand Jurisdiction or elsewhere, shall be unaffiliated, suspended or expelled therefrom for any cause, or shall voluntarily become non-affiliated, the Secretary of such Lodge shall immediately, in writing by mail, notify the Secretary of such other Lodge of which the Brother is a member of such unaffiliation, suspension, expulsion or non-affiliation, as the case may be.
- (h) The form of petition for affiliation as a plural member shall be the same as for customary affiliation with such amendment thereto as will affect the foregoing purposes and as may be issued by the Grand Secretary of this Grand Jurisdiction.
- (i) A petitioner for affiliation as a plural member in a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction whose membership is in a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction shall pay the Masonic Home Assessment as well as any other dues or assessments which may be duly levied by this Grand Jurisdiction upon its membership.
- (j) Anyone who is a plural member within this Grand Jurisdiction, or with another Grand Jurisdiction, may withdraw his membership in any of the Lodges by notifying that Lodge in writing of his intention to withdraw, and by notifying the Lodge or Lodges he wishes to retain membership in that he is withdrawing his membership in the other Lodge or Lodges. The Annual Dues Card of the Lodge or Lodges being withdrawn from shall be returned to that Lodge or Lodges at the time the withdrawal notice is given. He must be in good standing in each Lodge. The request shall be granted with the approval of the Lodge. The Secretary of each Lodge withdrawn from shall record the withdrawal in the minutes and on the Annual Return under the section "Withdrawn". No demit shall be issued upon the withdrawal of a plural membership.

**SECTION C9.05** All officers shall be installed, if practicable, on or before the next Stated Communication after their selection, and no elective officer except the Secretary or Treasurer can resign or demit during his term of office.

**SECTION C9.06** In case of resignation, or vacancy otherwise, in the office of Secretary or Treasurer, an election may be had to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term, at any Stated Communication, by giving at least ten (10) days notice of such election by mail to each member of the Lodge within the jurisdiction. In case a Lodge fails to hold its annual election at the regular time, the same may be held later upon a dispensation from the Grand Master and upon like notice to all its members.

### **SECTION C9.07 Jurisdictions**

(a) Jurisdiction for every chartered Lodge is both personal and territorial. Its personal jurisdiction extends over all its members, except its Master, or the Grand Master, if he belongs to it, wherever such members may reside, and over all its unfinished work wherever dispersed. All Lodges now chartered or that may be hereafter chartered within the State of Minnesota, shall have concurrent territorial Jurisdiction over all eligible petitioners residing within the State of Minnesota; Provided however, that should a petitioner petition a Lodge other than the one nearest his residence, such Lodge nearest his residence shall be notified of his petition by the Lodge being petitioned and the Lodge so petitioned shall take no further action for 28 days from such notification, and should more than one Lodge be equal distance from petitioner's residence, such notice shall be given to all such Lodges.

**(b)** Any petitioner for Masonic Degrees in the State of Minnesota shall be allowed to petition any Lodge of his choice whether the same is within the Grand Jurisdiction of Minnesota or a bordering Grand Lodge Jurisdiction: Provided that, in case any petition shall be presented to a Lodge of a bordering Grand Jurisdiction by a resident of Minnesota, the Lodge receiving the petition shall immediately notify the Minnesota Lodge nearest the petitioner's residence, and take no further action for thirty (30) days from such notification. If the petitioner shall have been rejected by the Lodge so notified, no action shall be taken upon such petition by any Lodge in such adjoining Grand Jurisdiction for six (6) months. Provided further, that this regulation shall take effect and be in force only upon and after receipt of official information from the bordering Grand Jurisdiction that a regulation with the same force and effect has been adopted by it as to residents thereof, permitting them to apply for the degrees in neighboring Lodges located in Minnesota.

**SECTION C9.08** Membership in a Constituent Lodge can be acquired only:

- (a)** By having been named in the charter or warrant under which the Lodge is constituted;
- (b)** By having been accepted as a petitioner, afterwards elected and then receiving the degree of Master Mason;
- (c)** By an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft made in a Lodge which for any reason cannot complete its work, who may apply to a Lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides at the time, for the remaining degrees and, if accepted and elected, receiving his Master Mason's degree;
- (d)** By regular affiliation, reinstatement or restoration.

**SECTION C9.09** Membership in a Lodge is consummated by election thereto or by receiving the Master Mason's degree therein, and it shall be the duty of every Brother promptly to sign or authorize, in writing, the Secretary to sign for him, the by-laws of the Lodge.

**SECTION C9.11** No Lodge shall ballot upon the petition of any person for degrees without first making full inquiry into his character and other qualifications. Such ballot is inviolably secret and must be unanimous. Where not more than one black ball appears in the ballot, the Master in his discretion, in order to be assured that no mistake has occurred, may at once cause one other ballot to be taken.

**SECTION C9.12** Objection by a member of the Lodge either orally or in writing and without giving reasons therefor may be made to the Master or to the Lodge, to any petitioner for degrees or membership; and at any time before ballot or initiation, such objection, when made, shall be as effective as a black ball;- and the Master in such case shall declare the petitioner "rejected by objection"; provided, however, that any Lodge upon request of a member thereof may file an objection, stating the reason therefor, to the acceptance or conferring of the degrees by another Lodge on any petitioner.

**SECTION C9.13** An objection to a petitioner will not apply to subsequent petitions by the same person.

**SECTION C9.14** The Master, having declared a petitioner rejected by objection, cannot recall the declaration or change the record if the objection is withdrawn, even though the petitioner had not been notified of his rejection or the fee returned. The petitioner must wait six (6) months before he can again petition.

**SECTION C9.15** Objection to the advancement of a candidate may be made, but in such case the Master must be informed of the reasons for the objection at the same time;; and if he concludes that the facts stated as reasons, if true, would subject the Brother to charges, he shall at once stop the further progress of the candidate, order charges to be formulated and the candidate tried thereon.

**SECTION C9.16** No candidate shall be advanced without first proving his proficiency in the preceding degree by a satisfactory examination in open Lodge.

**SECTION C9.17** In posting and in passing an examination, the obligation must not be omitted.

**SECTION C9.18** When conferring degrees, a Lodge shall not initiate, pass nor raise more than ten (10) candidates at the same communication unless the Grand Master, by dispensation, shall provide otherwise. Two (2) weeks time shall elapse between the conferral of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degree, unless the Grand Master, by dispensation, shall provide otherwise.

**(a)** No Lodge shall confer any degree upon credit nor accept anything except money therefor.

**(b)** A Lodge may confer the degrees for another Lodge as a courtesy upon receiving a certified request therefor from the Lodge in which the candidate was elected, but in case the request comes from a Lodge outside of Minnesota, it must be with the recommendation of the Grand Master of the foreign jurisdiction and through and with the approval of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge.

**(c)** A Lodge may hold two (2) communications upon the same day without dispensation from the Grand Master, providing that one (1) of said communications is a Special Communication called for the sole purpose of examining candidates as to their proficiency in a preceding degree, or a Lodge of Sorrow, or a communication called to conduct the Masonic funeral service of a deceased Brother; otherwise no more than one (1) communication shall be held on the same date without dispensation from the Grand Master.

All applications for dispensation to hold more than one (1) communication of a Lodge upon the same day must be by vote of the Lodge upon a motion setting forth the emergency requiring it, the degrees to be conferred at such communication, the length of time which has elapsed since conferring the preceding degree upon any candidate to be advanced at such communication and the exact number of communications to be held on the same day. This application must be signed by the Master and Secretary, under the seal of the Lodge.

**(d)** No Lodge shall transact any business at any other than a Stated Communication, except only for conferring degrees, attending Masonic funerals, examining candidates as to proficiency in the work, or participating in Masonic ceremonies; nor unless seven (7) of its own members, including the Master or a Warden be present to constitute a quorum unless the Grand Master, by dispensation, shall provide otherwise for specific stated purposes.

**(e)** No Lodge shall hold any Communication on Sunday or the first day of the week, except to conduct the Masonic funeral services of a deceased Brother, or to conduct an open and public installation of Masonic officers or to conduct an open and public reception, to which events public invitations have been extended to Masons and others.

**(f)** No Lodge shall hold its communications in a building not approved by the Grand Master.

**(g)** No Lodge shall divide or distribute its funds among its members.

**SECTION C9.19** A Lodge can be dissolved only:

**(a)** By the act of the Grand Lodge whereby its charter is revoked or forfeited.

**(b)** By the voluntary surrender of its charter, but not so long as seven (7) regular Master Masons, including the present or a Past Master, or a present or a Past Warden, are desirous of retaining it.

## **ARTICLE X. Amendments**

**SECTION C10.01** This Constitution may be amended by a resolution presented in writing at any Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, published with the proceedings of that communication and then adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

## CHAPTER III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### ARTICLE I. Grand Lodge Communications

**SECTION G1.01** The Grand Lodge shall be opened on the Master Mason's Degree, or in such other form as the Grand Master may direct, and when opened by the Grand Master he shall declare it opened "In Ample Form"; if by the Deputy Grand Master, "In Due Form"; and if by anyone else, "In Form." The same manner shall be observed in the closing of a communication.

**SECTION G1.02** Only members of the Grand Lodge, and members of other Grand Lodges with whom it is in fraternal relations have the right to be admitted to its communications, but any Master Mason in good standing may be admitted as a visitor upon proper registration, unless objection is made, in which case a majority vote by the usual sign is required.

**SECTION G1.03** No Lodge which is two (2) years in arrears for Grand Lodge per capita shall be entitled to representation at any communication of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION G1.04** At each Annual Communication the following shall be the order of business, subject to modification by the Grand Master, to expedite procedure.

Opening at ten o'clock (10:00) in the morning.

Preliminary report of Committee on Credentials.

Report of Business and Rules Committee.

Reading and approval of minutes of last and intervening communications, or adoption of the proceedings as printed.

Announcement of standing committees.

Grand Master's address and reference to Committee on Business and Rules.

Noon recess.

Calling on, Grand Treasurer's report and reference to Committee on Finance.

Grand Secretary's report and reference to Committee on Finance.

Grand Orator's Address.

Any committee reports now ready, and greetings.

Unfinished business from last Annual Communication.

New business.

Roll call and reception of District Representatives.

Any committee reports now ready and greetings.

Afternoon recess. (Announcements for the evening.)

Calling on, second morning.

Roll call and reception of Grand Representatives of other Grand Jurisdictions.

Any reports of committees not yet heard from, including final report of Committee on Credentials, and greetings.

Report of Committee on Jurisprudence.

Announce the ballot box for election of officers will close at 12:30 o'clock and tellers will begin their canvass.

Noon recess.

Calling on and the report of the Committee on Finances.

Report of the tellers of election.

Report of the Committee on Business and Rules.

Reception of the Grand Master Elect and his remarks.

Installation of Grand Officers and closing of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION G1.05** Each member of the Grand Lodge shall appear at its Annual and Special Communications properly clothed and wearing his proper jewel, if an officer. The designs for such jewels shall be for all a circle having an olive leaf imposed thereon and with the emblems of office in the center, all of gold, as follows:

For the Grand Master, the compass extended upon a quadrant, with a Blazing sun in the center.

For the Deputy Grand Master, a square.

For the Senior Grand Warden, a level.

For the Junior Grand Warden, a plumb.

For the Grand Treasurer, crossed keys.

For the Grand Secretary, crossed pens.

For the Grand Lodge Education Officer, a lamp of knowledge.

For the Grand Orator, a scroll.

For the Grand Chaplain, a Bible.

For the Senior Grand Deacon, a compass extended upon a square, with a sun in the center.

For the Junior Grand Deacon, a compass extended upon a square, with a moon in the center.

For the Grand Marshal, a sword and baton crossed over a scroll.

For the Grand Standard Bearer, a banner.

For the Grand Sword Bearer, a straight sword.

For the Senior and Junior Grand Stewards, a cornucopia.

For the Grand Pursuivant, a sword and trumpet crossed.

For the Grand Tyler, crossed swords.

These jewels shall be attached to a purple cordon or collar worn around the neck, and the aprons shall be all of one design, of purple velvet trimmed with gold.

The representatives from Lodges will appear wearing the proper jewel and appropriate apron of their respective offices.

A Past Grand Master's Jewel for presentation to the retiring Grand Master immediately upon the installation of his successor shall be provided for by the Grand Secretary, appropriately engraved with his name and service, to be of gold and of the following design: A compass extended upon a quadrant, superimposed upon a square, placed at the apex of the compass, with a blazing sun in the center, surrounded by a wreathed circle, bearing the inscription "Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Minnesota, A.F.& A.M." pendant from a design showing the seal of the State of Minnesota, suspended from a bar with monogram and year of service.

The Committee on Finances shall appropriate a reasonable amount for a Past Grand Master's Jewel each year.

**SECTION G1.06** All voting in the Grand Lodge shall be by the usual sign, except for the election of officers and a roll call vote may be by written ballot.

**SECTION G1.07** All motions, except such as are merely formal, and all resolutions shall be prepared using the following procedure:

**(a)** The resolution shall be signed by the Brother sponsoring and intending to introduce it, together with his Lodge name and number.

**(b)** The resolution is then presented to the Grand Secretary where a number will be assigned to it.

(c) The sponsor will address the Grand Master at his earliest convenience and, when recognized by the Grand Master, will read the resolution to the Grand Lodge. It shall not be necessary, however, to read any resolution which has been on the first day of the Annual Communication distributed in printed form to all who are present and entitled to vote in the Grand Lodge.

(d) The Grand Master will refer all resolutions to the proper committees for action, prior to a vote by Grand Lodge.

(e) The committee or committees to which the resolution has been referred will act upon it and return it to the Grand Secretary.

(f) The Grand Master, at first opportunity, will call the sponsor to the East for a second reading to the Grand Lodge and move its adoption. The Grand Master will notify the Committee on Jurisprudence if such Committee has proposed a modification of the resolution or expressed a desire to be heard.

(g) After the motion for adoption has been seconded, the Grand Master will call for discussion. When the discussion has been finished he will put the motion to a vote.

(h) After the vote the resolution shall be included in the printed proceedings.

**SECTION G1.08** Upon the report of a committee, as to a resolution, motion or amendment, the committeeman submitting the report shall be entitled to open and close the debate. No other member shall be entitled to speak twice upon any subject except by permission of the Grand Master.

#### **SECTION G1.09 Grand Representatives**

(a) The Grand Master shall appoint well informed Master Masons in good standing as Representatives who reside near other Grand Lodges that appoint like Representatives to the Grand Lodge. They are authorized to extend the fellowship and good will of the Grand Lodge and to protect the interests of the Craft of this Jurisdiction, as occasion may require.

(b) Proper diplomas certifying such authority shall be issued to each Representative, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary, under the seal of the Grand Lodge.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to furnish such Representatives with one (1) copy of the annual proceedings and other papers or documents necessary to carry out the spirit of this section.

(d) The Grand Master is empowered to remove any such Representative and to fill any existing vacancy.

### **ARTICLE II. Committees and Duties**

#### **SECTION G2.01 Committee Regulations**

(a) Those members of a Constituent Lodge of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Minnesota who shall have attained the rank of Master shall be eligible to appointment on any committee. The aforementioned requirement shall be waived for Special Committees or Committees handling programs and projects set forth by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. The members of these committees shall be Master Masons of this Jurisdiction.

(b) A majority of the members of each committee of the Grand Lodge shall be appointed from the constituent membership. No elective officer of the Grand Lodge shall be appointed or serve as a member of any one of the following committees while he is an elective officer: Appeals and Grievances.

(c) Grand Lodge District Representatives, Regional Lodge Education Officers and members of the Board of Custodians should not be requested to serve on committees that are active during the Annual Communication.

(d) All committee members shall receive mileage and per diem, as per General Regulations Section G3.12.

(e) Reports of committees, boards and other organizations shall be made at the Annual Communication. Sufficient copies shall be made for distribution. The full committee report shall be printed in the Proceedings.

(f) The Grand Master shall fill all vacancies, by appointment, that may occur on the committees during his term of office, unless otherwise provided, the appointment shall be for the unexpired term of office.

(g) The Grand Master shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and organizations, which have been approved by the Grand Lodge, with the right of vote.

(h) Budget requests for committee expenses for the ensuing year shall be given to the Finance Committee by the chairman of each committee at least 30 days prior to the Annual Communication.

(i) The Grand Master shall appoint, as soon as practicable, members to all committees.

(j) Unless stated otherwise, the Grand Master shall appoint an individual member of the committee as chairman of the respective committee.

(k) All committees shall maintain a general committee file containing all correspondence and reports, this file to be given to the succeeding committee chairman.

(l) For the purpose of instituting changes in the committees of Grand Lodge as called for by amendments to the regulations, when such committees call for "revolving members," the first appointees will be designated to serve for 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 years, agreeable to the number of such "revolving members." Henceforth, each new appointee will serve for the full term as provided for that committee in the regulations.

(m) In case of resignation, death or demission from this Jurisdiction, of a member, a new appointee will fill the unexpired term for the committee member in whose place he has been appointed.

**SECTION G2.02** The Grand Lodge shall have the following standing committees with membership and duties as follows:

**(1) APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES:**

(a) Consisting of five (5) members, four (4) Past Grand Masters and the Grand Pursuivant. The four Past Grand Masters to be revolving and each to hold office for four years. A Past Grand Master shall be chairman.

(b) The committee shall consider all appeals from actions of the Constituent Lodges, all charges preferred in Grand Lodge, and all other grievances formally presented. The committee shall also consider all petitions for restorations to membership and report with such recommendations for the action of the Grand Lodge.

**(2) CODE REVIEW:**

(a) A revolving committee of two (2) Past Grand Masters, the Grand Secretary and one (1) other member, each to hold office for three (3) years except the Grand Secretary who shall be a permanent member. The senior Past Grand Master of the committee shall be chairman.

(b) The committee shall maintain the Masonic Code, used by the Grand Lodge and all Constituent Lodges, complete and correct in every detail. It shall see that the Code embodies the amendments of all Laws pertaining to its Constitution and General Regulations, as well as the Standing Resolutions. It shall contain an adequate Table of Contents and General Index.

**(3) CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION:**

(a) Consisting of the Grand Secretary, who shall serve as chairman, the Grand Treasurer and two (2) other members whose terms of office shall be revolving and who shall serve for a two (2) year term.

(b) The committee shall prepare and report a roll of the members of the Grand Lodge present at any Annual or Special Communication and to include therein the names of the Representatives of foreign Grand Lodges near the Grand Lodge who are in attendance. The Committee on Credentials shall make a preliminary report at the opening of the Communication to determine whether a quorum is present and make its final report just before the noon recess of the second day. It shall be the duty of each officer and member, or proxy, of the Grand Lodge to present himself at the desk of the Registrars at once upon arrival to register his attendance and receive attendance card for the Communication. The Grand Secretary shall provide such cards and check the attendance upon the proper roll, or rolls.

(c) The committee shall report the names of the members and proxies registered, with the name and number of their Lodge, date registered, also the name and title of each person entitled to vote in the Grand Lodge.

(d) The committee shall keep registration open at all times when the Annual Communication is open for business unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Master.

**(4) DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:**

(a) A revolving committee of five (5) Past Grand Masters, each to hold office for five years. The Grand Master shall appoint the chairman.

(b) The committee shall receive and welcome all distinguished guests to the Annual Communication and make their stay as enjoyable as possible. It shall prepare a program and a list of the names, titles and Jurisdictions of the distinguished guests for introduction. A copy of this list shall be given to all whose names appear thereon, and Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Members of the Board of Custodians, Grand Lodge District Representatives, and Regional Lodge Education Officers.

(c) The committee shall propose names of Distinguished Brethren for recognition as Honorary of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

**(5) EXTERNAL RELATIONS:**

(a) A revolving committee of three (3) members, to serve three (3) year terms. Membership to include one (1) Past Grand Master, who shall serve as chairman.

(b) The committee shall review the reports, transactions and requests received from other Grand Lodges which hold fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge and submit a report on the state of the external relations with other Grand Jurisdictions to the Grand Lodge. The committee report shall include such matters which may augment, amend, or otherwise change the external relations of the Grand Lodge with other recognized Grand Lodges. The report need not include matters which are of a routine nature. The Grand Lodge is not responsible for any views or statements expressed in such reports which are those of the committee alone.

**(6) FINANCE:**

(a) A committee of seven (7) to include the immediate Past Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Deacon, and two (2) other members. The Senior Grand Warden shall be the chairman. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be members ex-officio.

(b) The committee shall consider all motions and resolutions involving appropriations of the funds of the Grand Lodge, compile a budget as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Grand Lodge until the next Annual Communication, accompanying the same with an estimate of the probable income to pay said expenses. Any proposal or resolution calling for an appropriation must, before being presented to the Grand Lodge, have received the approval of the Board of Corporate Trustees. Final approval on all items appropriated shall rest with a majority vote of the members at

the Annual Communication. The committee shall also submit their report with such account classification approved by the committee.

(c) The committee shall consider all questions of a monetary nature affecting the Grand Lodge.

(d) The committee shall have referred to it and examine the audit of the books and accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary as made by the Certified Public Accountant (in accordance with General Regulations Section G3.15) and make such recommendations as may be deemed necessary.

(e) The committee shall serve as an advisory committee to the Board of Corporate Trustees pertaining to investments.

**(7) JURISPRUDENCE:**

(a) A committee of five (5) members, one of whom shall be the Junior Grand Steward and two (2) Past Grand Masters. With the exception of the Junior Grand Steward, the committee shall be revolving, each to hold office for four (4) years. The Grand Master shall appoint the chairman.

(b) The committee shall review the dispensations, rulings, edicts and decrees of the Grand Master and such recommendations as he may make, and if the same conform to the Ritual, Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, the same shall be approved by them as so conforming. Should any of said rulings or recommendations be at variance with the Ritual, Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, it shall so report.

(c) No recommendation of this committee shall have the force of law.

(d) Proposed amendments to the Grand Lodge Constitution or Regulations referred to said committee, shall be studied and reviewed by the committee and shall be reported back to the Annual Communication as to their form and conformity with the laws, rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

(e) The committee shall consider and report upon all questions relating to ancient customs, privileges and usage's of the Fraternity.

(f) The committee shall meet at a sufficient time in advance of the Annual Communication to transact the business that may come before it and shall report separately for consideration. The committee shall receive, evaluate and approve as conforming to the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge, the bylaws and amendments of Constituent Lodges (General Regulations Section G13.32(b)).

**(8) OFFICE MANAGEMENT:**

(a) The committee shall consist of five (5) members, to include the Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary, and the Immediate Past Grand Master. The Senior Grand Warden shall serve as chairman.

(b) The committee shall recommend the necessary coverage for adequate insurance of Grand Lodge property and other insurance coverage, as they deem advisable, subject to the approval of the Board of Corporate Trustees.

(c) The committee shall administer the pensions of retired Grand Lodge employees, and make such other recommendations to the Board of Corporate Trustees.

(d) The committee shall have the responsibility of maintaining adequate office personnel, equipment, printing and supplies, and recommend any changes needed in personnel or equipment, to maintain an efficient mode of operation in the Grand Lodge office. The committee shall make such other recommendations, to the Board of Corporate Trustees, pertaining to office management.

(e) The committee shall be the liaison between the Grand Secretary and the Board of Corporate Trustees on office management matters.

**(9) TELLERS:**

(a) A revolving committee consisting of four (4) members and the Grand Master shall appoint the chairman.

(b) The committee shall collect and tabulate the vote. It shall be permissible to count and tabulate the votes in a room adjacent to that in which the Annual Grand Lodge Communication is held. When such tabulation is completed the committee shall make its report.

(c) The Grand Master shall appoint a replacement for the immediate election when a member of the committee is a relative of a member who may be considered for election.

**(10) SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

(a) The Grand Master shall appoint Special Committees as needed to carry out the work of the Grand Lodge. These special committees may include but will not be limited to the Membership Committee, the Education Committee, the Leadership Committee and the Public Relations Committee.

(b) These Special Committees shall carry out their responsibilities according to the duties prescribed for them through resolution or recommendation. The records of any Special Committee shall be deposited as a permanent record in the Grand Secretary's office.

**SECTION G2.03** The Grand Master may convene any committee whenever he may deem it necessary. He shall convene the Committee on Appeals and Grievances and on Jurisprudence at least one (1) day before the Annual Communication, if there is any business for them to consider and report upon at such Communication.

**SECTION G2.04** A Brother's service on Grand Lodge Committees, with membership terms of not less than two (2) nor more than five (5) years shall be limited to two (2) consecutive terms; and no Brother, after having completed a regular elective term of four (4) years on the Board of Corporate Trustees shall be eligible to another consecutive four (4) year term or to a consecutive fractional term.

This latter provision, however, shall have no application to non-elective membership on the Board of Corporate Trustees arising solely by virtue of holding the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Senior Grand Deacon, Junior Grand Deacon, and the two immediate Past Grand Masters.

**ARTICLE III. Grand Lodge Finances**

**SECTION G3.01** The revenues of the Grand Lodge shall be derived from the following sources:

- (a) From every dispensation for a new Lodge, Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00);
- (b) From every charter granted after such dispensation, Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00);
- (c) From fees received by a Lodge from each petitioner for degrees, Eight Dollars (\$8.00) to be paid when the Master Mason's degree is conferred by the Lodge or by another Lodge at its request;
- (d) From every member reported in good standing by a Lodge in its last Annual Return, Twenty-nine Dollars (\$29.00); except, however any member, who, being in the armed forces of the United States, has become a prisoner of war or has been declared missing in action, during said period or any part thereof. Refunds or adjustments of overpayment of per capita shall be permitted, but not to exceed two (2) years prior to the date of request. A refund can be requested by a Lodge, from the Grand Lodge, for per capita payments that were made for members who were stricken for non-payment of dues, but not to exceed two (2) years prior to the date of request.
- (e) From the sale of any supplies required to be purchased from the Grand Lodge and from any other recognized source.
- (f) A payment of Five Dollars (\$5.00) is required from each petitioner for degrees before such petitioner shall become a Master Mason of a Constituent Lodge in Minnesota for the benefit of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.

Such monetary figures shall be included in the financial box on the Grand Lodge annual report form.

The Secretary of each Lodge shall collect and remit to the Grand Secretary all sums so collected, with a report showing the names and addresses of those paying the Five Dollars (\$5.00).

The Grand Secretary shall transmit all such amounts to the Grand Treasurer who, in turn, will annually issue a check or voucher payable to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, delivering said check to the Grand Master that he may present the same to the Association at its annual meeting in February of each year.

Until otherwise changed by the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge, said sums so paid shall be applied in equal amounts to the Building and Maintenance Fund and the Endowment Fund of said Association.

**SECTION G3.02** All receipts of moneys by the Grand Lodge shall be placed in the General Fund of the Grand Lodge and be apportioned or appropriated from that Fund as follows:

(a) All receipts under paragraphs (a), (b) and (e) of Section G3.01 shall belong to the General Fund to meet current appropriations.

(b) All receipts under paragraph (c) of Section G3.01 shall be appropriated at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge as follows:

One-half (1/2) thereof to the Benevolence Fund and  
One-half (1/2) thereof to the Reserve Fund.

(c) All receipts under paragraph (d) of Section G3.01 shall be appropriated at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge and be apportioned as follows:

(c-1) Two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$2.50) of each amount received as per capita shall be apportioned to the Grand Lodge benevolence Fund;

(c-2) Ten cents (\$0.10) of each amount received as per capita shall be apportioned to the Benevolence Fund of the Grand Lodge;

(c-3) Twenty-five cents (\$0.25) of each amount received as per capita shall be apportioned the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association for the Building and Maintenance Fund;

(c-4) The balance of each amount received as per capita shall remain in the General Fund of the Grand Lodge to be used towards the budgeted expenses of that Grand Lodge Fund.

**SECTION G3.03** All moneys from every source due the Grand Lodge shall be paid to the Grand Secretary whose duty it will be to transmit the same to the Grand Treasurer.

**SECTION G3.04** The Grand Treasurer shall deposit all money of the Grand Lodge as he receives it from the Grand Secretary in some bank or other financial institution designated as a depository, either by the Grand Lodge or as agreed by the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary. If any money shall come into the hands of the Grand Treasurer from any source except through the Grand Secretary, with the exception of invested funds, he shall promptly forward the same to the Grand Secretary, who shall make proper accounting of such amounts.

Records and accounts for invested funds may be kept separate from bank deposit accounts used for current purposes. Additions from income, plus realized capital changes in the various investment accounts, shall be reported to the Board of Corporate Trustees at least at quarterly intervals.

**SECTION G3.05** All funds of the Grand Lodge shall be kept in its corporate name, The Grand Lodge of Minnesota. The Benevolence Fund provided for by Section C7.04 of the Constitution and all other funds which may be established by the Grand Lodge shall be kept separate from the General Fund and from each other.

Such principal funds as are not currently needed in any fund maintained by the Grand Lodge shall be invested and kept invested from time to time by the Corporate Trustees of the Grand Lodge in such safe, first class, interest bearing securities and common and preferred stocks as such trustees may from time to time select.

The sum of \$100,000.00 will be earmarked from the Grand Lodge Benevolence Fund for the purpose of making loans to qualified Lodges for major repairs to Masonic Temples. A Lodge may make application for a loan not exceeding \$20,000.00, at an interest rate of 6%, or the prime rate

interest at the time of application, whichever is greater, to be repaid to the Grand Lodge over a period not exceeding ten (10) years, and providing for at least an annual payment of no less than the accrued interest due. These applications to be reviewed by the Corporate Board of Trustees.

**SECTION G3.06** Money shall be withdrawn from the funds of the Grand Lodge only by the combined order-check of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota upon the bank or other depository in which the fund drawn upon is kept. Such check shall be in such form as may be designated from time to time by the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer and if not over \$400.00 (four hundred dollars) shall be signed by any one of the following five individuals: the Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, the Executive Director, or the one member of the Board of Corporate Trustees appointed by the Board of Corporate Trustees at the time of its annual organizational meeting, who shall be designated as a substitute signatory to sign checks in the event of the death or incapacity of an above authorized signatory who would be authorized to sign checks until such authorized signatory is able to resume his duties or his successor is elected or appointed, in the order named, whether so drawn pursuant to an appropriation, or for investment or otherwise.

If such check is over \$400.00 (four hundred dollars), it shall be signed by any three of the above listed five authorized signatories, It shall be preferable that the three authorized signatories on the order-check be the Grand Master, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, or that the one signature if not over \$400.00 (four hundred dollars) be the Grand Treasurer; as it is the duty of the Grand Treasurer to credit the amount thereof upon his account with the particular fund upon which said order-check is drawn and deliver the same to the payee therein named.

**SECTION G3.07** A payment of Twelve Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$12.50) is required from every new member of each Constituent Lodge for the benefit of Grand Lodge Benevolence Fund. The Grand Secretary shall transmit all such payments monthly to the GrandLodge Benevolence Fund.

The Grand Lodge shall not require the payment of the Twelve Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$12.50) from members more than once from any member of this jurisdiction.

**SECTION G3.08** Except to make or change investments, or for relief, as provided by Sections C7.02 and C7.03 of the Constitution, no order-check shall be drawn upon any fund of the Grand Lodge unless expressly authorized by an appropriation therefor, made at an Annual Communication, or by 2/3 vote of the Board of Corporate Trustees in session between Annual Communications.

**SECTION G3.09** The Grand Lodge will annually appropriate and the Committee on Finance shall report such sum or sums as shall be determined sufficient to defray the expenses of the Grand Master for the ensuing year in making such visitations as may be considered necessary and in conducting the business of the Grand Lodge, including his postage and expense of stenographic help that may be required by him.

**SECTION G3.10** On or before March 1 of each year prior to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Deputy Grand Master, who normally becomes the Grand Master, shall report in writing to the Committee on Finance his plans for the year involving expenses to be incurred, this for the use of the Committee on Finances in considering and determining what amount should be appropriated for such purposes and what its recommendations are thereto. The amount appropriated may be paid to the Grand Master in advance, up to two-twelfths (2/12) thereof within ten (10) days after the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge and upon submission of a complete accounting of all prior expenditures of previously advanced funds, up to two twelfths (2/12) thereof each month thereafter during the Grand Master's year, until said appropriation for the Grand Master's expense is exhausted. The Grand Master must submit a monthly account of his expenses to the Grand Treasurer, provided, however, if any portion of said appropriation is not needed, the Grand Master shall so report to the Grand Treasurer and the same shall not be paid to him. Any moneys paid to him not properly expended for the purposes appropriated shall be refunded to the Grand Treasurer. (2009)

**SECTION G3.11** The Grand Lodge will likewise annually appropriate, and the Committee on Finance shall report such sum or sums as may be determined to be sufficient to defray the expenses of the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden and the Grand Secretary, or any other officer or individual designated by the Grand Master for official

business during the ensuing year. The amount to be paid under the provisions above stated shall be paid on order of the Grand Master. Any balance of said appropriation remaining at the end of the year shall revert to the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION G3.12** Each officer, each District Representative, each Regional Lodge Education Officer, each Custodian, all permanent members of the Grand Lodge present, each member of a committee authorized to meet and attend at or before any communication thereof, and the superior officer present, or, if no officer is present, the proxy present of the superior officer of each Lodge, shall be paid at such per diem and travel expense allowance as shall be established by the Corporate Board of Trustees annually for the succeeding year no later than three months prior to the next annual Grand Lodge Communication, provided such per diem shall not be paid except at Annual Communications and Annual Monitor schools unless by reason of distance or time the above mentioned shall be required to stay over night.

Provided he registers his attendance and attends the several sessions of the Communication until its close unless excused sooner by the Grand Master, and provided, further, that no Representative from a Lodge shall be paid per diem and mileage when such Lodge has failed to file its return or pay Grand Lodge per capita, within the time required by law, except that where there is only a shortage of Grand Lodge per capita, the shortage shall be deducted from the amount otherwise payable to the Representative; and provided, further, that no mileage or per diem shall be paid any one who fails to present his card, properly signed, and requests payment, within thirty (30) days after the close of the Communication.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to Educational Lodges.

The Grand Secretary shall make provision for and register the attendance of such Representative at each session of the Communication.

**SECTION G3.13** The Corporate Trustees, in their discretion and upon such conditions as they shall provide, may authorize and direct that the per diem and mileage prescribed in the preceding Section G3.12 shall be paid to members of standing and special Grand Lodge Committees while in attendance at committee meetings. The Corporate Trustees may direct such per diem and mileage to be paid out of the expense funds allocated to the designated committee or from such other funds as are under the control of the Trustees.

**SECTION G3.14** There shall be no duplication of per diem and mileage.

**SECTION G3.15** The Grand Master, not later than February 1 of each year, shall appoint some member of the Fraternity in good standing, who also is a Certified Public Accountant, to audit the books and accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary and report to the Annual Communication.

**SECTION G3.16** The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall each give a surety bond to The Grand Lodge of Minnesota, in the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or such larger amounts as the Grand Lodge may require, conditioned for the faithful discharge of their duties, the cost of such bonds to be paid by the Grand Lodge; and the Committee on Finance shall report such amounts.

**SECTION G3.17 Employees**

(a) The Corporate Trustees shall hire all salaried Grand Lodge employees at such salaries as the Grand Lodge may fix by resolution; and, subject to these General Regulations, shall adopt, and shall from time to time as deemed necessary, amend administration rules to govern the organization and conduct of the Grand Secretary's office, and for the control and guidance of all employed personnel of the Grand Lodge.

(b) All moneys to be appropriated for salaries for members of the paid staff of the Grand Lodge office, inclusive of the salary for the Grand Secretary, shall be appropriated in a lump sum to the Board of Corporate Trustees so that said Board may adjust such salaries as changes in personnel and other conditions occur.

(c) The Corporate Trustees shall meet at least quarterly and shall submit a written report of their activities at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

(d) The Grand Treasurer is authorized to appoint some qualified Past Master, in good standing, to assist in preparing the pay roll and in paying those entitled to mileage and per diem. The Committee on Finance shall report an amount sufficient for such compensation.

**SECTION G3.18** The Grand Secretary shall at all times have the care and custody of the seal of the Grand Lodge, which shall be of the following design:



Said seal shall be used only to attest formal official papers and documents of the Grand Lodge, and such Grand Lodge correspondence as is not merely incidental to the orderly transaction of the business of the office of Grand Secretary.

**SECTION G3.19** The fiscal year of the Grand Lodge shall end with the close of business at five o'clock (5:00) p.m. on the last business day of February preceding the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. It shall be the duty of both the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary to close their books at that time and place them in the hands of the Certified Public Accountant appointed to audit them, together with all vouchers, returns from Lodges and such other papers pertaining to such audit as may be necessary.

**SECTION G3.20** The Grand Lodge authorized the incorporation of Minnesota Masonic Home to meet those claims of charity which cannot be met in the ordinary way, by help in private homes; that charity which Masonry has always inculcated and declared as the great duty of man. It pledges its moral support to those selected to provide a Masonic Home through such corporation and will in the future, as in the past, from time to time, assist by its financial contributions in supporting said Home, and will annually elect such Trustees as shall give to the Grand Lodge control of Minnesota Masonic Home and its management, through the Home Board of Trustees. The Grand Master shall always be an ex-officio member of said Home Board, with the right of vote.

#### **ARTICLE IV. Regulations Governing the Office of the Grand Secretary**

**SECTION G4.01** The Grand Secretary shall keep double entry books of account and include therein ledger accounts with the Grand Lodge and each Constituent Lodge.

**SECTION G4.02** The Grand Secretary shall have printed the annual proceedings and make distribution free of charge each year, as follows:

One (1) copy to each officer and permanent member of the Grand Lodge;

One (1) copy to each Constituent Lodge of this Jurisdiction;

Two (2) copies to each Grand Lodge which includes the Grand Lodges Representative.

One (1) copy to each District Representative;

One (1) copy to each member of the Board of Custodians;

One (1) copy to each Regional Lodge Education Officer;

One (1) copy to each other Grand Masonic body which reciprocates.

He shall also furnish, free of charge, upon request, one (1) copy to each Masonic Library and shall sell at approximate cost and postage individual copies to any Masonic Lodge or Master Mason in good standing of this Jurisdiction upon request.

**SECTION G4.03** The proceedings of the Grand Lodge shall include but not limited to:

- (a) All of the transactions of the last Annual Communication by sessions and intervening communications.
- (b) The addresses of the Grand Master and Grand Orator.
- (c) The annual reports of the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer as well as the annual reports of the President of the Board of Trustees of Minnesota Masonic Home, and the President of the Masonic Cancer Center Fund, Inc. and the President of the Minnesota Masonic Foundation.
- (d) A list of Grand Lodge officers, living Past Grand Masters, Past Grand Treasurers, Past Grand Secretaries, and other permanent members.
- (e) Committee reports from all standing committees.
- (f) Resolutions presented and acted upon.
- (g) As an appendix to these proceedings there shall be printed:
  - 1.) The elective Grand officers since the organization of the Grand Lodge.
  - 2.) Statistical information concerning Constituent Lodges.
  - 3.) Alphabetical list of Lodges.
  - 4.) Alphabetical list of Lodges by location.
  - 5.) List of Grand Secretaries of other Grand Lodges.
  - 6.) List of Representatives to and from Grand Lodges.
  - 7.) Member death roll in numerical order of Lodges.
  - 8.) Distinguished dead from other jurisdictions.
  - 9.) The various Lodges by districts with the names of the District Representatives and their addresses.
  - 10.) The names of the Regional Lodge Education Officers and their addresses together with the Lodges in their region.
  - 11.) The names of the members of the Board of Custodians and their addresses, together with the Lodges in their region.
  - 12.) The names of the Trial Commissioners with the regions they represent.
  - 13.) The report of the Certified Public Accountant and the report of the Committee on External Relations.
  - 14.) Emeritus Custodians, Monitors, and other members.
  - 15.) Honorary Past Grand Officers.

**SECTION G4.04** The Grand Secretary shall furnish to each Lodge, without expense, proper blanks in duplicate for annual returns to the Grand Lodge, such blanks to show a detail of membership, financial condition and list of new officers with date of their installation.

**SECTION G4.05** The Grand Secretary may maintain a record of each Lodge and member, containing all of the pertinent membership information, on computer, together with a proper computer backup procedure.

**SECTION G4.06** The Grand Secretary shall furnish the required form blanks for petitions, demits and others in common use and sell same at approximate cost and postage. The demit blanks shall show name in full, signature space, dates of initiation, passing and raising and in what Lodge and location, together with the highest recognized past office held.

**SECTION G4.07** The Grand Secretary shall furnish to the Lodges, no later than November 1 of each year, dues cards at a nominal expense, bearing in conspicuous block figures the year for which issued, and certifying over his facsimile signature and under Grand Lodge seal that the Lodge issuing the same is a lawfully constituted Lodge with a charter from the Grand Lodge. The dues card shall contain no reference to the amount of dues paid, and its use is made mandatory upon all Constituent Lodges.

**SECTION G4.08** The Grand Secretary is Librarian of the Grand Lodge Library, and as such he will keep a catalogue of all books, pamphlets and documents belonging thereto; provide for the care and preservation of its contents and formulate the rules for its use. One (1) copy of each book, pamphlet or document received by the Grand Secretary shall be the property of the Grand Lodge Library.

**SECTION G4.09** The form blanks of the Grand Lodge, which the Grand Secretary is required to keep on hand for sale, must be used exclusively by the Constituent Lodges.

**SECTION G4.10** The Grand Secretary shall subscribe for sufficient copies of a list of "Regular Lodges," published by the Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co. of Bloomington, Illinois, or any other reputable publisher issuing such list, to supply the Grand Master and himself, each member of the Board of Custodians and each Constituent Lodge of this Jurisdiction, with one (1) copy thereof annually, and he

shall mail such copies to the several Lodges with printed instructions attached, requiring the same to be kept in a convenient place in the Lodge room for use at every communication thereof; and that the Master and every committee to examine a visitor shall ascertain from such list whether the Lodge to which such visitor belongs is a regular Lodge of a recognized Grand Lodge.

The Committee on Finance shall appropriate annually a sufficient amount to cover the cost of such purchase.

#### **ARTICLE V. Recognized Masonry, Laws and Decisions**

**SECTION G5.01** The Grand Lodge recognizes as Ancient Masonry only the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason.

(a) The Grand Lodge having in 1869 formally adopted the work and lectures of the degrees as then exemplified by its District Deputies in its presence, and as then amended, as the work and lectures of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, said work and lectures are confirmed and re-adopted; and all Lodges of this Jurisdiction are required to conform thereto, save as to modifications which were then orally communicated and allowed and as since taught and exemplified by the Custodians of the work, and except as to the modification of the language of any charge or lecture thereof, to correspond with these regulations. The second section of the Second Degree lecture may be given at the discretion of the respective Lodge.

(b) In the exemplification of the ritual, words shall be pronounced in accord with the pronunciation given in the latest edition of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.

(c) In 1952 the Grand Lodge directed the Board of Custodians to revise the authorized Cipher for all degree work into one (1) volume to include the first and one (1) other principal letter of all words containing three (3) or more letters and indicate plurals by a bar under the first letter in the cryptic designation thereof. At the Annual Communication of 1953 the Certified Cipher was adopted, repealing all prior resolutions concerning the Official Cipher.

(d) In 1955, the Grand Lodge approved the printing and use thereof in separate pamphlet form for the convenience of officers, members and candidates, that portion of the work as is required to be committed to memory in all three degrees as it appears in the Official Cipher. The Master of each Lodge is responsible for the pamphlets and is required to account for them to the Board of Custodians when requested.

(e) In 1953 the Grand Lodge directed the Board of Custodians to prepare a Monitorial Instruction Book, to include the following:

- I Opening and closing a Lodge; Manual of the Rod and Method of Balloting.
- II Prerequisites for a Candidate.
- III Entered Apprentice Degree.
- IV Fellow Craft Degree.
- V Master Mason Degree.
- VI Installation of Lodge Officers.
- VII Installation of Grand Officers.
- VIII Breaking Ground for Masonic Temple.

- IX Laying Corner Stones.
- X Dedication of Masonic Halls.
- XI Final Masonic Rites.
- XI Reception of Visitors by a Lodge.
- XIII Presentation of Fifty-Year Emblem.

(f) The Official Cipher, pamphlets containing lectures and Masonic Manual are available at cost to the proper parties through the Grand Secretary's office.

**SECTION G5.02** It is the duty of the Master, when a candidate is initiated or passed, to require that he be instructed immediately in the required proficiency of the Degree, that he pass a satisfactory examination of the same in open Lodge, and that he complete the educational program for each Degree before he proceeds to the next Degree. It is the duty of the Master, when a candidate has been raised that he be instructed in the proficiency of the Degree, that he pass a satisfactory examination of the same in open Lodge, and that he complete the educational program as soon as possible.

**SECTION G5.03** The Grand Lodge, in 1890, in order to preserve the harmony of the Craft, recognized and will continue to recognize as Masonic the following societies or organizations:

The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, together with the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Minnesota, and those Chapters and Bodies existing under and by virtue of its authority: the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States of America, together with the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of Minnesota, and those Councils and Bodies existing under and by virtue of its authority; the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, together with the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Minnesota, and those Commanderies and Bodies existing under and by virtue of its authority; the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, of which Venerable Brother Albert Pike was in 1890 the Sovereign Grand Commander, and its Subordinates, meaning all the Bodies existing under and by virtue of its authority; and as they so long have done in the past, without objections from the Grand Lodge, they may continue to adopt the first three (3) degrees of Masonry, namely, Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, as the base upon which to erect their so-called higher degrees, and may, within their duly organized bodies, with the usual Masonic obligations and precautions to preserve the same, use so much of the esoteric ceremonies of said first three (3) degrees as may be necessary for the purpose.

The Grand Lodge, from time to time, may recognize other societies or organizations as regular Masonic Bodies, and agree to their exercising the rights and benefits of regular Masonry.

**SECTION G5.04** In all cases of doubt as to any Masonic law or usage, application for the proper construction thereof should be made to the Grand Master only.

**SECTION G5.05** A decision should be made by the Grand Master upon controverted matter only, and his decision thereon governs the matter until disapproved by the Grand Lodge, having the force of interpretation of existing law only, and is not a law of itself.

**SECTION G5.06** An opinion given by the Grand Master as to the law upon a question submitted without controversy is not a decision; if given to a Lodge or its Master, it is official to that extent only and should be reported to the Grand Lodge by the Grand Master. If given to anyone else, it is unofficial and should not be reported.

**SECTION G5.07** No ruling of the Grand Master shall remain in force and effect after the expiration of one (1) year after the conclusion of the term of office of the Grand Master making such ruling, unless the Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Lodge shall deem such ruling to be of interpretive value and such committee consequently orders such ruling to be preserved as an annotation under the specific Section or sections of the Grand Lodge Constitution or the General Regulations pursuant to which it was made.

**SECTION G5.08** Brethren who have held the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Warden, Master or Warden to the end of their terms for which installed respectively are recognized as possessing honors in Masonry, according to such past rank.

The taking of a demit by such a Brother possessing honors does not extinguish them, except that the same shall be in abeyance pending his affiliation in this Jurisdiction.

If a permanent member of the Grand Lodge takes a demit, his membership in the Grand Lodge is suspended pending his affiliation with another Lodge in this Jurisdiction.

**SECTION G5.09** The current Book of Constitutions and General Regulations authorized by the Grand Lodge contains the recognized and approved law and decisions of this Jurisdiction to the date of publication and shall be accepted and conformed to by all Constituent Lodges and Masons until modified by action of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Secretary shall make distribution, free of charge, as follows:

- One (1) copy to each officer and permanent member of the Grand Lodge;
- One (1) copy to each Constituent Lodge of this Jurisdiction;
- One (1) copy to each member of the Board of Custodians;
- One (1) copy to each Regional Lodge Education Officer;
- One (1) copy to each District Representative.

He shall sell at approximate cost and postage individual copies to any Masonic Lodge, in addition to the one (1) free copy, when requested, and upon request shall send, free of charge, a copy to any other Grand Lodge which reciprocates.

#### **ARTICLE VI. Unmasonic Conduct**

**SECTION G6.01** A Lodge has the power, and it is its duty, to discipline any member thereof, wherever he may reside, for any unmasonic conduct he may have committed anywhere.

**SECTION G6.02** It also has the power, and it is its duty, to exercise the same power over any other Mason whether affiliated or not, a resident of, or sojourning in its territorial jurisdiction, for unmasonic conduct occurring in that jurisdiction, unless he is a member of another Lodge having concurrent jurisdiction, in which case his own Lodge must discipline him. Between Lodges of concurrent jurisdiction, the Lodge first receiving charges of unmasonic conduct against a Mason of another jurisdiction, resident of, or sojourner, has exclusive right and should see that he is tried thereon.

When such charges are filed against any officer of a Lodge for clearly scandalous conduct, bringing the Fraternity into disrepute, the Grand Master should arrest the jewel of such an officer and suspend him from exercising the duties of his office, pending trial.

**SECTION G6.03** Beside violation of Section C8.01, of the Constitution, the following specific acts shall be deemed unmasonic conduct and shall render the offender subject to discipline.

**(a)** To improperly solicit the petition of a profane for the degrees of Masonry before he shall have clearly indicated some interest in Freemasonry. Proper solicitation shall consist of the following: A man of sterling qualities may be approached and informed, but only once. He must be left to make his own decision. He should not be badgered.

**(b)** To ask or solicit an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft to apply for the degrees of any organization recognized by the Grand Lodge until he is a Master Mason.

**(c)** To talk about or discuss degree work in the presence of a non-mason.

**(d)** To discuss the character or the merits or demerits of a petitioner, either for degrees or membership, in a Lodge convened or, after rejection, to express regret at the action taken, or how he or anyone voted upon the ballot.

A violation of paragraph (d) shall require immediate charges filed with the Master and, if found guilty, the penalty shall be expulsion and no other.

Whenever a petition either for degrees or membership is rejected by a vote of the Lodge, paragraph (d) of Section G6.03 of this Article shall immediately be read to the Lodge, in an audible voice, as a warning.

**(e)** To obtain favorable action by a petitioner, upon his petition, by means of fraud, deceit or false statement, or by intentionally withholding information which might have affected the action of the investigating committee or Lodge, upon his petition.

**(f)** To declare that there shall be no more petitioners accepted, or to blackball a petitioner for spite.

**(g)** To place in the hands of a candidate for the purpose of instruction any cipher or key to the degrees except such as is specifically authorized by the Grand Lodge.

**(h)** To use the word "Mason," "Masonic" or "Freemason," or any emblem of Blue Lodge Masonry as a part of a business name, or in business advertising of any kind; to say or infer in any publication that the same is published or recognized by Masonry as a Masonic publication unless authority to state that: "This publication is issued with the permission of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Minnesota," has been expressly given by the Grand Lodge.

No Master Mason shall solicit, accept, prepare or submit advertising to be placed in any magazine, pamphlet or other publication which is violating the provisions hereof and shall be deemed guilty of unmasonic conduct for so doing.

No Master Mason shall become a policy holder in any insurance company using Masonic words or emblems either in its name, its policies or in its advertising.

**(l)** As to all publications which have been made and issued by any Constituent Lodge, it shall be the duty of, and the responsibility is placed upon, the Master of the Lodge granted such authority, to supervise and control the conduct of such publication and all matters of every kind and nature therein published.

**(j)** No Master Mason who is a candidate for public office shall advertise in any publication or in any other manner that he is a Mason or member of a Masonic Lodge or of any body recognized as Masonic, and no Masonic publication shall accept said advertising whether the Masonic publication has been authorized by the Grand Lodge or not.

**(k)** The word "Lodge" shall not be used in association with the name of any other organization or in a manner which infers or otherwise identifies or attempts to identify the word "Lodge" as referring to a Masonic Lodge or Lodges or a Masonic body or bodies except in and as a part of a Lodge name or the name of a Masonic body, in its official notes of meetings and reports of Lodge or Masonic body activities to its members or in authorized publications.

**(l)** To defame the character of a Mason, by printing or otherwise, and to use insulting, libelous or profane language of, or to, any Brother of the Masonic Fraternity.

**(m)** To introduce into any talk or lecture or communication which a Mason is permitted to make in or to a Lodge, a subject in the nature of business advertising, solicitation or politics, or foreign to the welfare of the Fraternity.

**(n)** To introduce or permit intoxicating liquors or beverages of any kind within the Lodge room, except for ceremonial purposes.

**(o)** To solicit votes for election of Lodge Officers, even outside the Lodge Hall, at any time or place, except that at the time of election of officers, formal nominations are permitted.

**(p)** To introduce gambling of any kind as is prohibited under the Laws of Minnesota (M.S. 349.12) in or about any Lodge hall or building owned or controlled by a Masonic Body. The only exception will be legalized Bingo and raffles. Such gambling must have the permission of the Grand Master.

**(q)** Honest differences of opinion, of themselves, do not constitute unmasonic conduct.

(r)

## **ARTICLE VII. Trial Commission**

**SECTION G7.01** In every case where charges are filed for unmasonic conduct the procedure prescribed in this Article shall be substantially followed; and except for failure to pay dues, contempts and neglect or refusal to obey a Lodge summons, no penalty shall be imposed without formal and specified charges against, notice to, investigation and trial of the Brother accused.

### **SECTION G7.02 Makeup of Trial Commission**

(a) The tribunal for such trial, if the jurisdiction of the charge lies in and is made to a Lodge, shall be a Trial Commission consisting of three (3) Past Masters, of which one (1), whenever possible, shall be an attorney-at-law, who shall all be members in good standing in a district or districts other than that in which such charges are filed.

(b) The Grand Master upon installation shall divide the State into regions and, as soon as practical thereafter, he shall, and with the advice of the Committee on Jurisprudence, appoint Past Masters as Trial Commissioners, one (1) from each region into which the State was divided, to serve as such for one (1) year or until their successors are appointed. A Chief Trial Commissioner shall be designated by the Grand Master from among those appointed, who shall serve as such Chief Trial Commissioner at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master. It shall be his duty to organize the Trial Commissioners, assign cases and instruct them in their duties. In like manner and for like terms the Grand Master may appoint alternate Trial Commissioners for any or all Trial Commissioners. From such Trial Commissioners or alternates the Chief Trial Commissioner shall select three (3) to serve as a Trial Commission in a given case, none of whom shall be a relative of the accuser or accused, nor of any person directly interested in the case, nor shall they be members of the same Lodge as any of the above. A Trial Commission once appointed shall retain jurisdiction until the matter has been adjudicated or until the Grand Master or a subsequent Grand Master shall appoint a new Trial Commission.

(c) The Chief Trial Commissioner shall name one of the Commissioners so appointed as chairman, who shall preside at the trial and hearings; and the Commission shall select its own Secretary. The Commission must keep accurate minutes of all proceedings from the time of appointment until it reports its findings and judgment, including the testimony, when proper to be written, and other evidence offered or filed with it, substantially according to the form provided in these regulations. Any witness having testimony not proper to be written, who cannot be at the trial to give it orally, may testify orally before a member of the Commission, who will then testify at such trial what such omitted testimony disclosed and, in case of appeal, repeat it before the Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

**SECTION G7.03** If unmasonic conduct occurs while the Lodge is at labor, it may be dealt with summarily; or the Master may direct the Senior Warden to prepare and file formal charges against the alleged offender, to be tried in the regular manner.

**SECTION G7.04** If unmasonic conduct occurs during "refreshment" (the interval between communications of a Lodge) any member cognizant thereof may file formal charges or may bring the matter to the attention of the Master, whose duty will be to direct the Junior Warden to investigate and, if proper, to file formal charges against the alleged offender.

**SECTION G7.05** If the alleged unmasonic conduct is against a member of a Lodge other than that of the complainant, the latter should bring it to the attention of the Master of the alleged offender's Lodge; it shall then be the duty of the Master so notified to direct the Junior Warden of his Lodge to investigate and, if proper, to file formal charges against the alleged offender.

**SECTION G7.06** If any Warden who has been directed to prepare and file charges against an alleged offender fails, neglects or refuses to do so promptly, the Master shall appoint some other qualified member to prepare them.

**SECTION G7.07** If the Master of a Lodge of which an alleged offender is a member, or if the Lodge itself, fails, neglects or refuses to act upon a complaint of unmasonic conduct brought to

their attention, the Grand Lodge itself shall act upon such charges, take evidence and try the accused before a Trial Commission appointed in the manner prescribed.

The Grand Lodge has exclusive jurisdiction over charges involving unmasonic or official misconduct of any of its own members, and concurrent jurisdiction with its Constituent Lodges over all charges of unmasonic conduct upon the part of all other Masons.

**SECTION G7.08** All formal charges must be in writing (if Masonically proper to be written) and state for "unmasonic conduct" and particularly specify the conduct, offense or violation complained of, and shall also state the time, place and circumstances thereof, and shall be signed by the member making the charge, who shall be known as the "accuser." The name of the member against whom the charge is made shall also be given, and he shall be known as the "accused."

Such charges must be filed with the Secretary of the Lodge of which the accuser is a member, the original to be retained in his office and the Master notified at once of the fact. The Secretary shall forthwith send one (1) copy to the Grand Master, who shall decide as to form and content and, if proved, would constitute unmasonic conduct, he shall so notify the Secretary who shall at the next Stated Communication read such charges to the Lodge, enter them upon the minutes of that communication and notify the Grand Master that he has done so, as well as any Lodge which might have had jurisdiction, that charges have been filed against the accused.

Should the Grand Master decide that the charges are not in proper form, he shall return them to the Secretary for correction as he may indicate, and when so made they shall again be sent to the Grand Master.

Should the Grand Master decide that the charges do not constitute unmasonic conduct, he shall dismiss them, notify the Secretary of such dismissal, who in turn shall notify the accuser that the charges have been dismissed by the Grand Master and his grounds therefor, and enter in the minutes of the next Stated Communication such dismissal.

**SECTION G7.09** The accuser may withdraw his charges only with the consent of the Lodge, and then before the taking of evidence begins. In such case, the Secretary's record should show that the accused is hence free of such charges, because withdrawn. A withdrawal of charges does not preclude a re-filing of another charge for the same offense, when the accused has never been actually tried.

**SECTION G7.10** Upon the appointment of a Trial Commission, the Grand Master shall promptly notify the Secretary of the Lodge in which charges are filed, the names of the members thereof, who in turn will promptly notify the accused in writing, who will be allowed ten (10) days in which to file an objection of prejudice with the Grand Master; and if none is filed, the Commission shall proceed, the Grand Master giving his copy of the charges to the Chairman of the Commission, and the Secretary of the Lodge in question mailing his second copy to the accused.

**SECTION G7.11** The Trial Commission acquires jurisdiction immediately upon its appointment by the Chief Trial Commissioner, and its first duty shall be the sending of a summons to the accuser, the accused and all witnesses at least ten (10) days before the date set for trial, if the accused resides locally; twenty (20) days if the accused is within the State of Minnesota, but in a different town from where the trial is set; thirty (30) days if the accused is outside the State of Minnesota, but within the United States; and ninety (90) days if the accused is in a foreign country. Such notices shall be by registered mail and a receipt card shall constitute proof of service.

The Trial Commission has full power and authority to hear, try and determine the guilt or innocence of the accused upon the charges filed against him and, if found guilty, to fix the penalty. Said Commission shall be the sole judge as to evidence or objection to evidence offered. The accuser and accused may appear with or without counsel, such counsel being Master Masons, in good standing, belonging to this Grand Jurisdiction.

Strict and technical rules shall not be insisted upon in such trials, the aim and purpose being to ascertain the true and relevant facts concerning the charges. The testimony of a witness shall not be impeached by that of another witness to the effect that he would not believe that of an earlier witness given under oath, but any witness may give testimony contradictory to that of another. All

witnesses who are Masons shall affirm that their testimony is given on their honor as Masons. Witnesses who are not Masons shall be sworn to tell the truth before an official qualified to administer an oath. All witnesses shall sign their names to their testimony, which shall be recorded and transcribed.

The Grand Master, the accuser and the accused with their respective counsel, the witness being examined and a reporter, if necessary, shall be the only ones present during the taking of evidence by the Commission.

If the reporter is not a Mason, care should be taken when testimony touching esoteric matters is offered and be excluded if necessary.

A Masonic summons is a call of authority, and failure to obey is cause for punishment, unless excused for a reason, such as a critical illness of one's self or family; such business necessity as shall appear reasonable; or absence from the Jurisdiction.

The testimony of a witness may be given in the form of a deposition, upon order from the Trial Commission to some Master or Warden of a Lodge near such witness, authorizing him to take and certify to the testimony given. For such purpose interrogatories and cross-interrogatories shall be prepared on behalf of the accuser and accused and sent to such Master or Warden, who shall secure the answers, have them signed in his presence and returned to the Commission with a certification that they are true answers made by such witness.

**SECTION G7.12** Whenever charges are based upon a conviction of the accused by a State or Federal Court of competent jurisdiction for a crime which is a felony, a court certified copy of the final judgment of conviction entered therein and the sentence imposed thereon shall be supplied by the accuser and shall be conclusive evidence of the crime of which the accused was convicted and the accused shall be notified in writing accordingly. Such cases will be heard by a single Trial Commissioner. The accused shall be given twenty (20) days after the mailing of said notice to forward to the Trial Commissioner any written statement or evidence in explanation of or in mitigation of the offense of which he stands convicted. The Trial Commissioner or one of the Trial Commissioners appointed by him, on the certified record of conviction and the accused's response thereto, shall determine with the approval of the Grand Master the penalty which shall be imposed on the accused under the provisions of Section G7.13 of the General Regulations.

On other charges, including misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor, involving moral turpitude, on a conviction of the accused by a State or Federal Court as defined above, however, a Masonic trial shall be held in the hall of the Lodge in which the charges are filed, and behind tiled doors at a time fixed in the notice, and the Trial Commission shall ask the accused if he is willing to admit his guilt and, if he does so, may upon such confession and admission fix the penalty as hereinafter provided. If the accused does not admit his guilt the Commission will then proceed to take the evidence produced by the accuser to substantiate his charges, and thereafter the evidence of the accused in defense of, or in mitigation of the offense charged. Witnesses need not be Masons to give testimony material to the charges, but it is the duty of any Mason having knowledge of any fact pertinent to the charges to be a witness.

When the charges of unmasonic conduct are filed as a result of a conviction of the accused by a State or Federal Court of competent jurisdiction for a crime which is a felony or involves moral turpitude, the accused shall be suspended from all of the rights and privileges of Masonry, subject to a decision of an appeal, if an appeal be taken. If the accused is acquitted of the charges by a Masonic trial, he will

immediately be reinstated to the full rights and privileges of Masonry, and it will be so noted in the minutes of the next Stated Communication by the Secretary of his Lodge. If the accused is found guilty of the charges, he will have the right of an appeal to the Grand Lodge, but will remain suspended from all Masonic rights until the Grand Lodge has affirmed the conviction, or either affirmed or modified the penalty, and it will be noted in the minutes of the next stated Communication by the Secretary of his Lodge.

Neither the Chairman of the Trial commission, the trial Commissioners, or the appointed reporter shall have any direct interest in the matter before them.

**SECTION G7.13** All persons not members of the Commission must be excluded when the question of guilt and punishment is being considered and determined; if less than a majority of the Commission vote guilty, the accused shall be acquitted of the charge. Where the penalty is not fixed by law, the Commission shall vote upon the penalty in the following order:

First: Expulsion.

Second: Indefinite suspension.

Third: Suspension for a definite time, and naming such time.

Fourth: If no penalty receives a majority vote, as above, the Commission shall return a vote that the accused be reprimanded in open Lodge, whether present or not; and the Secretary shall so record the fact in the minutes of the Stated Communication next held that such reprimand was read.

When a Trial Commission has arrived at its conclusions, a transcript of all testimony taken and all exhibits and documentary evidence received and considered in connection with the case will be transmitted to the Chief Trial Commissioner, who will notify the Grand Master of the findings. The accused, if convicted, shall be notified by the Chief Trial Commissioner of said conviction and penalty and his rights of appeal. The Grand Master will notify the Secretary of the Lodge of the accused of the findings. A judgment of conviction and the penalty described shall be stayed for a period of sixty (60) days from and after written notice is given to the accused.

The accused shall have sixty (60) days time from and after receiving written notice of conviction within which to appeal to the Grand Lodge. If the accused appeals to the Grand Lodge from said conviction within the said sixty (60) days period, the aforementioned stay shall continue until the Grand Lodge has arrived at its decision on the appeal. When such an appeal is taken, the judgment of a conviction and the penalty prescribed shall not become final until the Grand Lodge has affirmed the conviction and either affirmed or modified the penalty.

**SECTION G7.14** The Secretary of the Lodge, when notified by the Grand Master, shall promptly enter the same in the minutes of the next Stated Communication. If the judgment is expulsion or suspension, he shall promptly certify such penalty to the Grand Secretary, whose duty it shall then be to issue and mail, in a sealed envelope a notice of such expulsion or suspension to all Lodges in this Jurisdiction, and to the secretary/recorder of those recognized Masonic bodies as listed under Section G5.03 of these General Regulations; and to the secretary/recorder of those other organizations whose membership is based on those recognized Masonic bodies as a prerequisite to membership.

**SECTION G7.15** The compensation of Trial Commissioners shall be at such per diem and travel expense allowance as shall be established by the Corporate Board of Trustees annually for the succeeding year no later than three months prior to the next annual Grand Lodge Communication.

### **ARTICLE VIII. Penalties by the Lodge or Grand Lodge**

**SECTION G8.01** To act in a disorderly or disobedient manner in open Lodge is a contempt and may be the subject of charges and trial, as provided for in General Regulations Section G7.03 or dealt with

immediately and summarily if it occurs at a Stated Communication and not later than the next Stated Communication if it occurs at any Special Communication, as prescribed in the following section.

**SECTION G8.02** At such Stated Communication the Master of the Lodge shall order the offending Brother to show cause why he should not be punished for such contempt, by vote of the Lodge then assembled. Such order of the Master shall constitute the charge against him and shall be entered in the minutes by the Secretary, together with the offender's oral answer, if any. The offending Brother shall be allowed to make such explanation as he desires and shall then be required to retire from the Lodge hall and await the action of the Lodge, by vote. If found guilty, the Lodge shall fix the penalty-not exceeding suspension for a limited time. Lodge voting shall be by the voting sign of a Mason.

**SECTION G8.03** If any member of a Lodge fails or refuses to obey a summons, the Master shall order the offending Brother to show cause why he should not be punished for such disobedience, as for a contempt, except for such excuse as is provided in General Regulations Section G7.11; and Section G8.02 shall govern the procedure.

**SECTION G8.04** If more than one (1) Brother has been ordered by the Master of his Lodge to show cause why they should not be punished for charges of disorderly acts or failure to obey a summons as named in General Regulations Sections G8.01 and G8.03, they may all be tried at the same Stated Communication in the discretion of the Master, but individually so far as the hearing before the Lodge, as provided by General Regulations Section G8.02.

Failure to be present or to file an answer is sufficient to justify action by the Lodge in finding him guilty and fixing the penalty.

The accused shall be notified promptly by the Secretary, under the seal of the Lodge, of such Lodge action.

**SECTION G8.05** Any member whose dues are not paid within one (1) year after they are due and payable shall be deemed delinquent, and his name shall be stricken from the roll of the Lodge, unless there is a good reason, in the following manner:

(a) At the first Stated Communication of the Lodge held four (4) months after any member becomes delinquent, notice shall be given that at a subsequent Stated Communication named in the notice, a motion will be made to strike from the roll the delinquent member or members, naming him or them, for failure to pay the dues therein stated.

(b) On the day following the communication at which such notice is given, the Secretary shall notify the member by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, at his last known address, of the amount of his delinquent dues and that at the communication named in the notice a motion will be made to strike his name from the roll. Such registered or certified letter shall constitute proof of service. If a member's address is unknown, no notice need be sent.

(c) At the communication named in the notice, the Lodge shall strike the name, or names, from the roll, unless payment of delinquent dues has been made; and such member shall thereafter be known as an Unaffiliated Mason, with no further Masonic rights or privileges, except to pay everything necessary to make him clear on the books of the Lodge. Upon such payment he becomes a Nonaffiliated Mason and may petition his old Lodge for restoration or any other Lodge for affiliation.

(d) Any action striking a member from the rolls, without notice, is void; and when such fact is discovered, upon payment by the member of the amount for which he was illegally stricken, the Master shall order his name restored to the rolls without formal petition to, or vote by, the Lodge. Such restoration shall be noted in the next annual return to the Grand Lodge, if previously reported stricken.

(e) It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to make available as of May 1st of each year, a list of those members suspended for non-payment of dues, to the secretary/recorder of those recognized Masonic bodies as listed under General Regulations Section G5.03; and to the secretary/recorder of those other organizations whose membership is based on those recognized Masonic bodies as a prerequisite to membership.

**SECTION G8.06** No demit, withdrawal from membership, certificate of good standing or non-affiliation shall be granted or issued by a Lodge to any of its members, unless he is clear on the books of his Lodge.

**SECTION G8.07** A Lodge may conclusively presume that any member is dead whose whereabouts, after diligent search, is unknown to it for a space of seven (7) years, and may drop such member from its roll and report him as "dead" on its annual return, with the notation "Whereabouts unknown, after a seven (7) year search."

**SECTION G8.08** When and if such member subsequently appears he must, upon his application, be restored to the roll with all Masonic rights and benefits, without action by the Lodge, and reported to the Grand Lodge in its next annual return, together with all arrearages of Grand Lodge dues paid for by his Lodge, with proper explanation.

**SECTION G8.09** Any Master Mason may prefer charges against a Master of a Lodge or any Grand Lodge officer, except the Grand Master, for a violation of his official obligation, during the term or within three (3) months thereafter. Such charges will be sent to the Grand Master only. If he finds them to be in proper form and to state facts which, if true, would constitute a violation of official obligation, he shall send one (1) copy to the Grand Secretary, and shall have appointed three (3) Trial Commissioners to take and hear evidence, one (1) of whom shall be the chairman.

The Grand Secretary will retain a copy of the charge, notify the Commissioners and send a copy to the accused, the Grand Master sending his copy to the chairman. The Commissioners shall then follow the procedure outlined in Article VI of these General Regulations.

**SECTION G8.10** Pending any such charges made against a Master or Grand Lodge officer, while in office, and subsequent trial, the Grand Master in his discretion may arrest the jewel of and suspend such accused officer and, in case of a Master, place the Senior Warden in charge of the Lodge and report the matter to the Committee on Jurisprudence.

The Master of a Lodge may arrest the jewel of any officer of his Lodge when charges are of such nature as to bring disgrace to the Fraternity, but must notify the Grand Master that he has done so. The Master must arrest such jewel upon an order from the Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge may punish summarily for a contempt, any offense committed in its presence by any member in attendance.

The effect of arresting a jewel of an officer is to suspend him from exercising the functions of his office until the jewel is restored, but does not otherwise affect his rights as a Mason.

**SECTION G8.11** An officer whose jewel is arrested is entitled to have the matter reviewed on appeal to the Grand Lodge, whether or not the term of office of the officer affected expires in the meantime. The matter will be heard before the Committee on Appeals and Grievances, and final action taken by the Grand Lodge upon the Committee's report thereon.

The officer by whose authority a jewel is arrested may restore the same at any time before his own term of office expires.

#### **SECTION G8.12 Charter Revocation**

**(a)** The Charter of a Lodge may be revoked, forfeited or arrested for insubordination of the authority of the Grand Master or of the Grand Lodge, or for any departure from the original plan of Masonry, or from the Ancient Landmarks, or for disobedience of the Constitution or General Regulations of the Grand Lodge, or for failure to meet for one (1) year, or to make returns or pay dues for two (2) years, or whenever, in the judgment of the Grand Lodge, its further existence is detrimental to the Fraternity.

**(b)** If the charter is arrested, its right to function as a Lodge shall be suspended until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and the Master shall forward at once its charter and records to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Lodge may continue the arrest of such charter if the Committee on Appeals and Grievances has not reported at such Annual Communication.

**(c)** No charter shall be revoked or forfeited without notice to the Lodge from the Grand Secretary and upon charges formally made to the Grand Master at least thirty (30) days before the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, at which action is to be taken. Opportunity must be given the Lodge to be heard in its defense before the Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

**(d)** When a Lodge charter is revoked or forfeited, care must be taken to protect the rights of any and all members thereof who have not been at fault; and it will be the duty of the Grand

Master to ascertain and file a statement with the Grand Secretary of those not at fault and, upon such statement, the Grand Secretary shall, upon request of such member in good standing who is clear on the books and if no charges have been filed against him, issue a certificate of non-affiliation. The Grand Secretary shall promptly notify, in writing, each member whose name appears on the statement of the Grand Master as above provided, at his last known address, of his right to receive the certificate of non-affiliation and shall advise any member who is not clear on the books of his Lodge as to the amount he must pay to the Grand Lodge to become clear on the books. And upon making such payment, the certificate may then be issued.

**SECTION G8.13** A suspended Mason is still amenable to Masonic discipline, and charges may be preferred against him and trial held thereon. Likewise, one who is subject to suspension for non-payment of dues can be suspended, becoming an unaffiliate, and may be tried for unmasonic conduct the same as an affiliate.

**SECTION G8.14** Lodges shall not take cognizance of charges involving a breach of contract or claim at law between Masons, nor between a Mason and a profane, unless the act complained of involves moral turpitude.

**SECTION G8.15** There is no stay or suspension of Masonic rights and privileges of a member against whom charges are preferred until after verdict and judgment of conviction is recorded, except that the accused may not vote upon any matter in which he is involved, nor assume an office to which he has been elected, pending the trial.

**SECTION G8.16** The Grand Lodge will vote, by the voting sign of a Mason, unless a written ballot is demanded in the regular manner, upon the question of guilt and penalty; a majority vote deciding.

#### **ARTICLE IX. Appeals and Restorations**

**SECTION G9.01** An appeal, to be effective, shall be in writing and state the particular act, decision or judgment appealed from, whether it be from that of a Trial Commission or that of a Lodge. It must be signed by the Brother appealing and filed with the Secretary of his Lodge within sixty (60) days after notice of the sentence, as provided in Section C8.04 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION G9.02** Upon notice of appeal being filed, the Secretary shall promptly certify and transmit the same, together with all papers pertaining thereto, to the Grand Secretary who, in turn, will give notice of such filing to the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

At any time thereafter, upon request from the said chairman, the Grand Secretary shall forward all such appeal papers to him at least thirty (30) days before the next Annual Communication.

**SECTION G9.03** The Committee on Appeals and Grievances shall be prepared to hear the appellant and his counsel, the Lodge by its representative and the opposite party in interest, and after consideration shall make its report and recommendation to the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION G9.04** The Grand Lodge, upon consideration of the Committee report, may affirm or modify their recommendation, whether it be from a Trial Commission or of a Lodge, and such action by the Grand Lodge shall be conclusive upon all parties.

The Grand Master has no power to set aside a verdict by a Trial Commission. It must be done by an appeal to the Grand Lodge and through the Committee on Appeals and Grievances.

**SECTION G9.05** The Grand Secretary shall notify the appellant, the Lodge and the opposite party in interest of the action taken by the Grand Lodge, promptly after the close of the communication, and the status of the appellant will be as directed by the Grand Lodge action.

**SECTION G9.06** The Grand Lodge is vested with the power, to the exclusion of its Constituent Lodges, after one (1) year from a judgment of suspension or expulsion, to restore a Brother to the rights and privileges of Masonry, by a majority vote, but not to membership in his former Lodge. Such petitioner will thereafter be known as a non-affiliated Mason and entitled to a certificate from the Grand Secretary as such. Upon such a certificate he may petition any Lodge and, if elected, become a member of such Lodge.

**SECTION G9.07** The procedure for restoration shall be by personal request to the Grand Lodge, at least thirty (30) days previous to the Annual Communication, by letter to the Grand Secretary, unless an appeal is before the Committee on Appeals and Grievances. The request for restoration shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals and Grievances, which shall hear all parties of interest and report with recommendation to the Grand Lodge, after which the provision of General Regulations Section G9.06 will apply.

**SECTION G9.08** A Brother stricken by his Lodge for non-payment of dues may be restored to membership by majority vote of the Lodge, without re-petitioning or investigation if within a year of being stricken he pays everything necessary to make him clear on the books of his Lodge. If after one year he wishes to be restored to membership it will be necessary that he petition the Lodge for restoration, after having paid everything necessary to make him clear on the books of the Lodge. The petition must then proceed in the same manner as a petition for degrees or affiliation.

(a) A Lodge has the right to receive the delinquent dues from a member who has been stricken for non-payment of dues before its consolidation with another Lodge and can also act upon his petition for reinstatement.

(b) If an unaffiliated Mason, previously dropped from his Lodge for non-payment of dues and/or is delinquent for the payment of the Minnesota Home assessments in whole or in part, applies for restoration after paying all indebtedness and is rejected, the delinquent dues paid belong to the Lodge and the Home assessment paid shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary for the benefit of the Minnesota Masonic Home.

(c) A member of a Lodge stricken from the rolls in error for non-payment of dues should be restored to the rolls without formal action of the Lodge by vote on his petition; but a proper entry should be made in the minutes of the Lodge.

(d) A deceased Brother, who has been dropped for non-payment of dues, cannot be restored on the books of the Lodge posthumously.

(e) The restoration of a charter restores to membership all those who were without fault in the matter of the surrender, revocation or forfeiture thereof, and who file certificates of non-affiliation within one (1) year after such restoration of charter.

#### **ARTICLE X. Visitation**

**SECTION G10.01** The right of a Master Mason in good standing to visit another Lodge is subject to objection by a member thereof, made either to the Lodge or privately to the Master. In either case the minutes of the Lodge should show that the refusal was upon objection of a member, whose name must not appear. No objection shall ever prevent an official visit from a Grand Officer.

**SECTION G10.02** No visitor shall be admitted unless vouched for, either by lawful information furnished to the Lodge or by examination, nor shall he be examined until he first shows a dues card or other document not more than one (1) year old from a Lodge listed in the "List of Lodges - Masonic" book furnished by the Grand Lodge for the purpose. An Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Mason can visit only those degrees and then in company with one who actually saw him take them.

He cannot visit otherwise, as the right of visitation belongs only to Master Masons in good standing.

**SECTION G10.03** A Brother, having been elected to membership by affiliation, does not need to be vouched for or examined to sit in the Lodge which elected him.

**SECTION G10.04** A Mason receiving his Entered Apprentice degree in the Lodge which he petitioned, but the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degree in another Lodge by request and as a courtesy, cannot be vouched for by one who saw him receive his Entered Apprentice degree. He must be examined if he is without lawful information from the Lodge which conferred the degrees as a courtesy.

**SECTION G10.05** The use of a certificate of good standing or a demit is not legal if the non-affiliated Brother has been a resident of the jurisdiction of the Lodge for one (1) year or more, nor is he entitled to Masonic relief or burial.

#### **ARTICLE XI. Aid and Relief**

**SECTION G11.01** No Constituent Lodge shall solicit aid or relief outside of its local jurisdiction, except in cases of public calamity, and then only with the approval of, and as certified by, the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION G11.02** No Lodge or individual Mason extending relief or aid to a sojourning Brother shall render a bill or make any request for reimbursement to the Lodge of which the Brother aided or relieved was a member, unless such Lodge should ask for it. The Lodge should, however, be notified of such Brother's need of aid or relief.

**SECTION G11.03** No Lodge shall recognize any application for aid or relief, or for contributions of money, coming from outside its local jurisdiction, until after approval from the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

**SECTION G11.04** The same care and precaution used to safeguard the Craft from unlawful visitation must be observed in granting aid or relief to an unknown applicant.

**SECTION G11.05** The widow of a Mason who subsequently marries a profane ceases to have any claim upon the Fraternity as such widow, nor is the claim revived if she again becomes a widow or is divorced from the last husband.

**SECTION G11.06** The law of the Grand Lodge as to giving aid or relief is not construed as modifying or curtailing in any way or to any extent the Masonic obligation upon all Masons, to render aid or relief to any fellow being who may be in want or affliction, when known to him.

**SECTION G11.07** A Lodge may establish a "Benevolence Fund" to be used for any charitable purpose. The funds of a "Benevolence Fund" shall be kept separate from all other funds of the Lodge. A "Benevolence Fund" shall be used to provide aid or relief to those in need and shall not be used to provide honoraria, awards, or financial gain to members of the Lodge. In particular, a "Benevolence Fund" cannot be used for the purpose of dividing or distributing the funds of a Lodge among some or all of its members.

#### **ARTICLE XII. Lodges Under Dispensation**

**SECTION G12.01** When the Grand Master issues a Dispensation to form a Lodge in accordance with Section C9.02, of the Grand Lodge Constitution, such Lodge shall be known as a Lodge "U.D." with the same territorial jurisdiction as a chartered lodge.

**SECTION G12.02** The petitioners for said dispensation do not forfeit their membership in their former Lodge by the act of petitioning, and they will still owe dues to such Lodge; but when a charter is granted by the Grand Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall immediately notify the Lodges of the Grand Jurisdiction to which said petitioners belong, of such fact, and such Lodges shall at once issue their demits, without charge. The new Lodge shall pay Grand Lodge per capita upon such members in addition to those raised under dispensation in making its next annual return. Provided, however, that where plural membership is permitted and a petitioner requests it and a request or petition therefor is duly made and forwarded to the Grand Secretary, he shall adjust his records accordingly to show such plural membership; and in the case of two (2) or more Grand Jurisdictions the Grand Secretaries thereof shall be advised and shall adjust their respective records to show such plural membership. This section shall not apply to petitioners for an Educational Lodge. The petitions for new Lodges shall be filed with the Grand Secretary and by him promptly presented to the Grand Master.

**SECTION G12.03** No dispensation shall be granted by the Grand Master within thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION G12.04** If the Grand Master or Grand Lodge decides adversely to a petition for a new Lodge, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to return all receipts for dues and demits which

accompanied the petition, or which may have been filed with him, to the Brother from whom they were received, with notification of such adverse action.

**SECTION G12.05** Before the dispensation is issued the Grand Master shall require a certificate from a member of the Board of Custodians that the Brother selected as Master is qualified to open a Lodge and work the degrees; and when issued, the Master and Wardens shall be named therein, and the Master notified to make the necessary preparations for opening the Lodge and beginning to work, including the proper books and supplies, furniture and paraphernalia to be used in the Lodge Room. A copy of the current Minnesota Masonic Code will be furnished by the Grand Secretary.

The first Communication of the new Lodge shall be on their designated Stated Communication night and shall be recorded by the Secretary as their "First Stated Communication" at which the dispensation shall be read and recorded, appointive officers announced and all preliminary actions taken prior to the receipt of the dispensation, ratified by a majority vote of those present. On and after this first Communication it shall keep full and correct minutes of its transactions and shall have the authority of a chartered Lodge incidental to receiving petitions, fixing the fees for degrees, conferring degrees, meeting the expenses of the Lodge, but while under dispensation it cannot receive a member by affiliation or restoration.

**SECTION G12.06** At least ten (10) days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, it shall send to the Grand Secretary a return of its work, together with its dispensation, books of record, Grand Lodge dues for work done and the additional fee for a charter. The Lodge will have no further authority until after action is taken by the Grand Lodge, upon the report of its Constituent Lodges and Reports Committee, to whom all records, papers and documents pertaining to its activity shall be referred. Should the report of the Constituent Lodges and Reports Committee be favorable, a charter shall be issued; if the report is not favorable, the Grand Lodge may continue the dispensation for one (1) more year or vote that the charter be not granted. If the dispensation is continued, there is no change in the Master or Wardens unless so made by the Grand Lodge.

If the charter is not granted nor the dispensation continued, all Brethren who may have received degrees shall be provided by the Grand Secretary with a certificate as non-affiliated Masons, and upon such certificate petition any Lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides for the remaining degrees (if any) and upon election becomes a member of such Lodge.

### **ARTICLE XIII. Chartered Lodges Composition - Degrees - Demits - Membership**

**SECTION G13.01** A Lodge shall be composed of its charter members who shall be petitioners for dispensation whose demits are filed with the Grand Secretary prior to the issuance of the charter and all Master Masons raised while under dispensation. The Grand Secretary shall keep a roll of such charter members. No demits need be filed for dispensation for an Educational Lodge. After receiving a charter, all Master Masons receiving degrees conferred, and all petitioners accepted for affiliation, reinstatement or restoration, by ballot, shall be members thereof. No Lodge shall be named for any living person and shall be numbered according to the dates of their respective charters.

**SECTION G13.02** All charters shall be signed by the retiring Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden and the Grand Secretary and be under the seal of the Grand Lodge. References must be had to the proceedings of the Annual Communication at which the charter is granted for the names of the charter members.

**SECTION G13.03** When the charter is granted it shall be the duty of the Grand Master to arrange for, and cause, the new Lodge to be duly constituted and its officers installed as defined in Sections C9.01, C9.02 and C9.03 of the Grand Lodge Constitution.

The Master will give due notice to each charter member of the date set for such constitution. If the Lodge is constituted by one acting as the Deputy of the Grand Master, he shall file a formal report with both the Grand Master and Grand Secretary. If the Grand Master constitutes the Lodge, he, too, will file a report with the Grand Secretary. No Master or Warden named in the charter, if other

than those named in the dispensation, shall assume his station until certified by a member of the Board of Custodians as to his qualifications to open and govern a Lodge.

**SECTION G13.04** The powers and privileges of a chartered Lodge are defined in Sections C9.01, C9.02 and C9.03 of the Grand Lodge Constitution, and are:

- (a) Executive - in the direction and performance of its work under the control of its Master.
- (b) Legislative - embracing all matters relating to its internal concerns, not in derogation of the Ancient Landmarks, Constitution, General Regulations and Laws of the Grand Lodge and its own By-Laws.
- (c) Judicial - embracing the exercise of discipline and the settlement of controversies between and over its members, except the Grand Master, if a member thereof, and the Master, and over all other Masons within its Jurisdiction.

(ci)

**SECTION G13.05** The Master has the power to congregate the Brethren upon any occasion; to preside at all communications; to terminate debate, whenever in his judgment the good of Masonry requires, by simply rising from his chair without calling up the Lodge; to issue summonses when required, to remove an appointive officer and to discharge all functions of the Lodge as it may direct.

The Master controls the work of his Lodge, and it is his duty to declare out of order and refuse to put any motion which, if carried, would violate the Constitution or General Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

He must decide whether or not a candidate has passed a satisfactory examination in open Lodge; but it is his duty to hear and consider any criticism of, or objection to, the proficiency of the candidate made by any member present. Not more than ten (10) shall be examined at one (1) time, nor on the same day, unless the Grand Master, by dispensation, shall provide otherwise.

**SECTION G13.06** In the event of the death or the absence from the Jurisdiction, either temporarily or permanently, of the Master, or of his inability for any reason to serve his Lodge, the Senior Warden and Junior Warden, in order, will succeed in his duties and prerogatives, except to install officers.

A vacancy in a Lodge office occurs by (1) death; (2) election and installation into another office of an officer other than the Master or a Warden; (3) removal of any officer from office, upon trial and expulsion; (4) or by suspension beyond the end of his term.

In the absence of the Master and Wardens from a Stated Communication the Lodge may be opened by any Past Master thereof for the transaction of regular business, but no work shall be done except by dispensation of the Grand Master.

Any officer entitled to preside may call any well informed Master Mason to the chair and allow him to preside and confer the degrees in his presence and shall likewise have the power and authority if any elective or appointive officer of a Lodge is absent at any communication thereof, to name any well informed Master Mason to act in place of such absent officer until his return, and perform all his duties with the same force and effect as the absent officer could have done if present at such communication.

Any officer so appointed to act shall be an officer pro tem and shall subscribe himself by the proper official title of the office, adding the word "Acting."

**SECTION G13.07** Every chartered Lodge shall have a seal and file a certified impression or facsimile thereof with the Grand Secretary. All Lodge documents and business should be under its seal, but not its ordinary correspondence. The Secretary of the Lodge is the custodian of the Lodge seal.

Every Lodge must keep:

- (A) a minute book substantially according to the form prescribed by the Grand Lodge and found in the current Masonic Code, in which its proceedings shall be entered;
- (B) a book containing its by-laws, which it is the duty of all members to sign in the order of their election to membership or on taking the Master Mason's degree,

(C) a card or computer index or register of members, kept alphabetically, with Lodge number and dates of petitioning, election, initiation, passing, raising, affiliation, restoration, reinstatement, termination of membership by death or demit, and  
 (D) such other data as may occur in the future status of a member.

After the minutes have been entered, they must not be changed by interlineation, delineation or otherwise when read for approval at a subsequent communication, but corrections should be shown in the minutes of the subsequent communication. The records of any proceedings shall never be expunged by Lodge action.

All records and documents pertaining to the business of the Lodge shall be kept in a suitable and safe place in or adjacent to the Lodge hall.

If a Brother has his name changed in a legal manner, the Secretary should change the Lodge records to correspond, with proper notation explaining the action, and show such change on his annual return to the Grand Secretary.

**SECTION G13.08** Lodge officers must be installed as often as elected or appointed, and no officer can be installed by proxy. The installing officer must be an actual Past Master who is at the time a member in good standing. A Brother who has received the degree of Past Master in a Royal Arch Chapter, but has not been elected and installed as the Master of a Blue Lodge is not qualified to install the officers of any Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION G13.09** The jewels of the Lodge officers shall be of silver or white metal and may be an appendant, either to a collar, cord or ribbon, or embroidered upon the aprons, and of the following design:

- For the Master, a square;
- For the Senior Warden, a level;
- For the Junior Warden, a plumb;
- For the Treasurer, crossed keys;
- For the Secretary, crossed pens;
- For the Lodge Education Officer, a lamp of knowledge;
- For the Senior Deacon, a square and compass, with a sun in the center;
- For the Junior Deacon, a square and a compass, with a moon in the center;
- For the Chaplain, a Bible;
- For the Senior and Junior Stewards, a cornucopia;
- For the Marshal, a sword and baton crossed;
- For the Tyler, crossed swords.

A Past Master's jewel or apron shall be a compass extended upon a quadrant superimposed upon a square with a blazing sun in the center.

**SECTION G13.10** The Communications of a Lodge shall be Stated and Special.

A Stated Communication may be opened on any degree at the discretion of the Master of the Lodge and seven Master Masons must be present. All Masons who have attained the degree upon which the lodge was opened may be present, including Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts, and shall have voice, but only those who have attained the degree of Master Mason shall be considered members and have a vote in the business of the Lodge. (4/99)

Special Communications are called by the Master for conferring degrees, attending Masonic funerals, examining candidates as to proficiency in the work or participating in Masonic ceremonies only.

Every Lodge, except Educational Lodges, shall provide in its By-Laws for at least one (1) Stated Communication, but no more than two (2), in each of at least nine (9) calendar months of each calendar year, but shall not call off from one communication to another. Educational Lodges shall hold at least three (3) communications in each calendar year, one (1) of which shall be its Annual Meeting.

**SECTION G13.11** That each Master of a Lodge, as soon as convenient after his installation, may open a "Lodge of Sorrow," which shall remain open throughout the remainder of his term of office and shall be closed by him just prior to the installation of his successor.

The Minutes of the "Lodge of Sorrow" shall have added to them throughout the year brief paragraphs of a biographical nature of each deceased Brother, with indications as to whether or not a Masonic funeral service was conducted, and also reference to any services conducted for Brethren of other Lodges; that in closing such a "Lodge of Sorrow," if desired, a memorial service could be used, followed by the formal closing of the Lodge.

**SECTION G13.12** The Master of each Lodge is required to cause the decisions of the Grand Lodge Committee on Jurisprudence to be read in open Lodge within thirty (30) days following the receipt of the annual proceedings.

He may also ask to have such other portions read as he deems for the good of the Lodge, such as the Grand Master's address, the new Grand Lodge officers or the reports of certain committees at any later date.

**SECTION G13.13** A lodge cannot exempt any member from the payment of annual dues provided for in its by-laws, but it may from time to time, by a majority vote, remit the dues of a member either before or after such member shall have been stricken from the rolls for nonpayment of such dues. The Lodge, however, shall be liable for, and must pay, the Grand Lodge dues for all members on its rolls; except such member who, being in the armed forces of the United States, has heretofore or may hereafter become a prisoner of war or declared missing in action, during the period thereof, or any part thereof.

Lodge by-laws shall prescribe dues of not less than Two Dollars (\$2.00), plus the Grand Lodge per capita amount as specified in Section G3.01(d) of the General Regulations per member per year or a set amount equal to such figure, payable in advance, and a proportional amount for an unexpired part of the Lodge year.

A Lodge may have a by-law allowing a member to pay Lodge dues in advance by installments.

No Lodge can make an assessment upon its members for any purpose.

**SECTION G13.14** A Lodge shall be permitted to occupy a hall jointly with, or sublet to, another organization with the approval of the Grand Master. A Lodge shall be permitted to unite with a suitable non-Masonic organization in a joint lease or ownership of property with such non-Masonic organization subject to the approval of the Grand Master. Under such circumstances, the Lodge shall maintain exclusive control of that portion of such jointly owned or leased property to be used for Lodge purposes.

**SECTION G13.15** Smoking in the hall where the Lodge meets is prohibited, and the Master should not permit a violation of this regulation.

**SECTION G13.16** The three (3) recognized methods of voting are:

- (a) The secret ballot - upon all petitions for degrees, affiliation, reinstatement or restoration.
- (b) The written ballot - for election of officers.
- (c) The ancient sign - used generally in transacting business.

**SECTION G13.17** Meeting Locations

- (a) A Lodge may permanently move its meeting place by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present after giving ten (10) days notice of such proposed change to all members within the Jurisdiction and subsequently obtaining approval from the Grand Master.
- (b) A Lodge must obtain permission from the Grand Master to temporarily move its meeting place.

**SECTION G13.18** A Lodge may change its name by amendment to the By-Laws of the Lodge as prescribed in Section G13.32 of the General Regulations. The name cannot be that of a living person.

**SECTION G13.19** Where property is jointly owned or leased with non-Masonic organizations, the space used for Lodge purposes shall not be connected with any other area where intoxicating liquors or beverages are consumed on the premises, unless sufficient segregation of Masonic and non-Masonic activities can be maintained. Such use shall be subject to the approval of the Grand Master.

**SECTION G13.20 Lodge Organization**

(a) The Master and Wardens of each Lodge shall be the Trustees thereof, unless provision is made in the by-laws to the contrary. The duties of the Trustees shall be to act as legal representative of the Lodge in the purchase and ownership of property, or in leasing and insuring same, and all such other matters as the Lodge may direct; provided that a Lodge cannot divert from the Master his constitutional and traditional responsibility for the control of the Lodge hall and the property thereof, as it relates to the work of the Lodge.

(b) The Master and Wardens of each Lodge shall constitute its Committee on Charity, unless provision is made in the by-laws to the contrary, and as such committee it is authorized to spend, between Stated Communications in any emergency requiring it, an amount not exceeding two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollars.

(c) There shall be a standing Committee on Programs in each Constituent Lodge, and it shall be the duty of the Master, immediately after his installation, to appoint a Committee on Program, consisting of four (4) members - the Junior Warden, a Past Master, the Lodge Education Officer, and one (1) Brother. They shall prepare, submit to the Lodge for approval and promote a suitable program of social and educational events in harmony with the teachings and principles of the Fraternity.

**SECTION G13.21** No Lodge shall participate, as such, in any public procession or ceremony, nor hold a public installation of its officers, without formal opening and closing, in such place as is convenient for the occasion; and the Secretary shall record the facts.

**SECTION G13.22 Opening Stated Communications**

(a) No stated communication can be opened at an earlier hour than that given in the by-laws of the Lodge, except for the purpose of conferring Degrees, or examining candidates as to proficiency in the work; but in no event shall the regular business of the Lodge be transacted at an earlier hour than that given in the by-laws unless due notice has been given the membership and the Grand Master has granted permission.

(b) No Stated Communication may be delayed or postponed for any reason except that due notice has been given the membership and the Grand Master has granted a dispensation.

**SECTION G13.23** Work of a Lodge must be completed at the same communication at which commenced, except that where a dispensation has been obtained to hold more than one (1) communication upon the same calendar day, the giving of the charge and the rehearsing of the several sections of the lecture may be postponed to, and be given at, the final communication authorized upon such calendar day.

**SECTION G13.24** No fee shall be charged by any Lodge for affiliation, nor shall dues be charged for more than the unexpired part of the Lodge year following his becoming a member.

**SECTION G13.25** No Lodge shall make an honorary member, nor a life member, with exemption from dues.

**SECTION G13.26** All Lodges are required to use exclusively the blank receipts for dues, forms of petitions, investigation reports and other blanks directed to be provided by the Grand Secretary.

**SECTION G13.27** No Lodge shall make any commitment for the purchase or lease of land on which to construct its Lodge Building or for the construction of any other building thereon, or the furnishing of the same, until the plans and specifications and the cost of erection thereof in detail, together with a copy of the lease, if acquisition is by lease, and a definite plan for the financing of such purchase, lease and construction has been approved in writing by the Grand Master; provided however, that the above shall not prohibit a Lodge which owns its own building from making repairs to the same where the cost thereof does not exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00).

The Grand Master may, in his discretion, appoint a committee of such number as he may desire to advise with him and with Constituent Lodges when so desired by the Grand Master, with reference to the purchase of land by Constituent Lodges for building purposes, construction of buildings thereon or repairs thereto, and the proper and necessary financing of any part of the same.

**SECTION G13.28** Blank ballots and those cast for other than eligible members of the Lodge in good standing are void and must not be considered or counted in announcing the result either of an election or otherwise.

**SECTION G13.29** Installation is necessary to consummate an election, but Masonry does not require a Brother to accept an office.

Objection can be made by a member of a Lodge to the installation of any officer of that Lodge, if against the Master elect, and the installing officer deems the objection sufficient, he postpones the entire services until the Grand Master decides what to do. If against any other officer, the installation may proceed, except as to his office.

Public installations are permitted, but the knocks of the gavel are never to be used in public.

No installation of officers is held by a Lodge under dispensation, nor do they acquire any rank until installed.

**SECTION G13.30** A clandestine Lodge is one without a dispensation or charter from the Grand Lodge, or from a Grand Lodge recognized by it. A clandestine Mason is one who is a member of a clandestine Lodge. A profane is any person not a Mason.

**SECTION G13.31** A Master Mason is in good standing if he is not stricken from the roll for nonpayment of dues, not found guilty by trial or is no longer under sentence of penalty imposed thereby; nor under charges of unmasonic conduct; nor a voluntary non-affiliate.

**SECTION G13.32** Neither by-laws of Constituent Lodges nor amendments thereto shall be effective unless approved by the Grand Master and should follow the suggested form in the Masonic Handbook for "Forms and Petitions." They, or any part of them, may be amended at any Stated Communication, but only in the following manner:

**(a)** Any proposed change must be in writing, by Article and Section, and read to the Lodge a first time. If the Lodge favors the change, it must be by a majority vote of those present.

**(b)** After it has been read and a majority vote favors the change, the Lodge Secretary will send it to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge for transmission to the Grand Master and one of the members of the Committee on Jurisprudence for approval as to form only, or correction. The Grand Secretary shall divide the submissions between the members of the Committee on Jurisprudence.

**(c)** Upon its return by the Grand Secretary with the Grand Master's approval, it shall be read to the Lodge a second time at the next Stated Communication, but no action should be taken at this communication other than to lay it over until a subsequent Stated Communication.

**(d)** At least five (5) days before the subsequent Stated Communication when action is to be taken, notice by mail to every member at his last known address shall be given, with a sufficient summary of the change to enable him to understand the proposed action.

(e) At the Stated Communication when action is to be taken, the proposed change is to be read a third time; and upon receiving a two-thirds (2/3) vote in favor by those members present, the change shall be declared adopted.

(f) The Lodge Secretary will attach one (1) copy each of the original and the amended Article(s) and one (1) copy of the notice of proposed action sent to the members of the Lodge, and mail these to the Grand Secretary, together with a copy of Certifying By-Laws For Approval, as found in the Handbook For Forms And Petitions.

(g) If a member of the Jurisprudence Committee, when requested, finds the proposed amendment(s) to be correct and proper for final approval, he shall so certify to the Grand Master. A quarterly report shall be made to the Grand Master by a member of the Jurisprudence Committee of all proposed by-law amendments which have been found incorrect and improper for final approval.

(h) When a new set of by-laws is proposed for adoption, the foregoing procedure as to amendments shall apply.

(i) This section may be suspended by any constituent Lodge for the purpose of amending their by-laws for:

- 1) changing the annual dues to pay increased per capita to the Grand Lodge for its operations and its assessment to the Minnesota Masonic Foundation, Inc. or
- 2) amending the Lodge by-laws to change isolated single words or numbers, or
- 3) to act upon a motion made from the floor to change isolated single words or numbers following the third reading of an amendment insofar as receiving approval as to form only from the Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master.

All other provisions of this section must be strictly complied with regarding notice and voting, and upon completion of the amendment, a certified copy thereof shall be filed with the Grand Secretary to become effective.

**SECTION G13.33** The whole or any part of a building, whether owned or leased, which has heretofore been or is hereafter to be used principally by the Lodge, or by the Lodge and other bodies recognized as Masonic, or by the Lodge, Masonic bodies and the chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star of Minnesota, may be dedicated with Masonic ceremonies.

**SECTION G13.34** It shall be the duty of each Lodge through its Secretary to report the name and address of each candidate raised, within one (1) week from the date thereof. Forms for this purpose will be supplied by the Grand Secretary and the report returned to him.

**SECTION G13.35** It shall also be the duty of each Lodge to make and forward an annual return of its membership and financial condition, signed by the Master and Secretary, accompanied with the fees for work done, and the annual dues upon its membership in good standing at the beginning of the preceding calendar year; except, however, the dues for such member who, being in the armed forces of the United States, has become a prisoner of war, or has been declared missing in action, during said period or any part thereof. Said returns must be in the office of the Grand Secretary by January fifteenth (15th) following the close of the Lodge year, December thirty-first (31st), or the Lodge will not be paid mileage or per diem to its Representative for attendance at the Grand Lodge Communication in March or April. Only the Grand Master may grant additional time, and then only because of an existing emergency condition.

#### **ARTICLE XIV. Petitions**

**SECTION G14.01** A Lodge is authorized to receive five (5) types of petitions: For degrees; for affiliation; for plural membership; for reinstatement; for restoration.

A petition for degrees must be accompanied by an amount not less than one-third (1/3) of the whole fee for degrees, at the time of election, and must be the free and voluntary act of the

petitioner, without improper solicitation. It shall clearly express a belief and trust in God, a favorable opinion of Masonry, a promise, if accepted, to conform to the usages and customs of the Fraternity and the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota.

It shall state the place of his birth, the present residence, with street and number, if there is one, his present occupation and, if not self-employed, the name and business address of his employer and the specific nature of their business.

It shall further state the length of his consecutive residence in this State and in the Jurisdiction of the Lodge to which the petition is addressed; whether ever rejected by any other Masonic Lodge anywhere and, if so, when and by what Lodge or Lodges, and the post office address thereof.

It shall show the petitioner's age to be no less than eighteen (18) years.

It shall be signed with the full name of the petitioner and must be recommended by two Master Masons in good standing, at least one of which must be a member of the of the Lodge petitioned and the other may be a member in good standing of a Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge. (4/99)

No petition can be legally received which does not contain all of the foregoing data.

In accordance with the basic principles and the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, every petition for membership in a constituent Lodge of the Grand Lodge shall be received and acted on without regard to the race, color, creed or national origin of the petitioner.

**SECTION G14.02** A petition for plural membership or for affiliation shall show the petitioner to be a Master Mason, and be accompanied by either a demit, a certificate of non-affiliation or a certificate of good standing as defined by these General Regulations, that he is not then under any sentence of suspension or expulsion and knows of no reason why he should be; that, with a full recognition of the duties and responsibility of membership, he desires affiliation with the Lodge petitioned and promises, if accepted, to conform to the requirements of its by-laws and all usages and customs of the Fraternity.

It shall also show the date and place of his birth, his present address and, if a non-affiliate, his consecutive residence since he became a non-affiliate, his present occupation and, if not self-employed, the name and address of his employer and the specific nature of their business.

It shall further show when and by what Lodge he was initiated, passed and raised, with the post office address thereof.

It shall be signed with the full name of the petitioner and must be recommended by two (2) members of the Lodge petitioned.

The demit or certificate which accompanies the petition will be returned to the petitioner if he is rejected.

A petitioner for affiliation or plural membership need not be a resident of the State of Minnesota.

**SECTION G14.03** A petition for reinstatement or restoration shall require the same information as for affiliation, with such additional facts as will show the present status of the petitioner.

**SECTION G14.04** All petitions, whether for degrees, affiliation, reinstatement or restoration, if in proper form, shall be read at a Stated Communication and referred by the Master to a committee of three (3) members of the Lodge, whose names shall not be made known nor recorded in the minutes, nor read with the report. Except the Lodge may, by majority vote, on an individual basis, waive the requirement of referring a Petition to a committee of three (3) members for investigation. However, if the requirement for such an investigation is waived, the petition may not be voted upon until the first Stated Communication after its initial reading.

This committee must not be a standing committee of the Lodge nor referred to as the usual committee for investigation; their duty is to make a careful investigation of the statements in the

petition, particularly to determine whether the Lodge has jurisdiction over the petitioner, and ascertain as to his moral, intellectual, social and physical qualifications, and to report in writing in accordance with the form provided in the Code, on the blanks sold by the Grand Secretary, at the next Stated Communication, unless further time is granted.

The Master, in his discretion, may discharge an investigating committee or any member thereof for failure to report and appoint a new committee or another member thereof.

No member of the committee can withdraw his report after filing the same with the Secretary. The original petition shall always remain in possession of the Secretary.

Petitions for degrees or affiliation received by a Lodge having concurrent jurisdiction with another Lodge and holding more than one (1) Stated Communication in each month shall not be balloted upon until after one (1) Stated Communication of the Lodge has been held; and in such cases the report of the investigating committee cannot be read until such second Stated Communication.

When Lodges hold but one (1) Stated Communication during the summer months, the ballot must be postponed until the second Stated Communication after such petition has been received.

**SECTION G14.05** While each Lodge subject to the limitations imposed by Masonic law and usage is the judge of the character and qualifications of those who apply to it for degrees or membership, yet it is the privilege of any other Lodge, upon request of a member thereof, to file an objection, stating the reasons therefor, to the acceptance of, or conferring the degrees on, a petitioner. Such objection shall be mailed to the Master of the Lodge petitioned by the Master of the Lodge to which the Brother objecting belongs. The Master of the Lodge petitioned shall in turn make known the objection to the Committee on Investigation, if not already reported. If the committee has reported and the petitioner accepted, the same course shall be followed in all respects as if a similar objection had been filed by a member of the electing Lodge, and the petitioner stopped "by objection," or his advancement stopped "by charges."

**SECTION G14.06** A Lodge may receive the report of a majority of the investigating committee, by a vote by the usual sign, but it may also vote to insist upon a report of the full committee, and grant further time.

When the report is received the committee is discharged and no record of the character of its report shall be made in the minutes.

The petitioner must be given the benefit of the ballot, without discussion, immediately following the committee report, whereupon the report is destroyed. Ballots elect to all degrees; every member present must vote, and each petition must be balloted upon individually or collectively. If a black ball is cast in a collective ballot, the ballot must be split with each petition balloted upon separately. When the Master has examined the ballot box, he shall empty it of the ballots before announcing the result.

**SECTION G14.07** After a petitioner for degrees has been elected by unanimous ballot of the Lodge, he is entitled to receive them at the reasonable will and pleasure of the Master, and as early as permissible. He becomes subject to Masonic law and discipline when elected, but not a member of the Lodge until he is made a Master Mason.

**SECTION G14.08** A petitioner can be initiated in the regular way as an Entered Apprentice, the same night he is elected.

A non-affiliate holding a demit from a Lodge in this Jurisdiction, who is again elected to membership, whether in the Lodge from which he demitted or another, receives a new Lodge number, but not a new Grand Lodge number. If he comes from another Grand Jurisdiction, he takes both a new Lodge and Grand Lodge number.

No ballot upon a petition can be reconsidered or reopened, except that one (1) additional ballot is allowed at the discretion of the Master in accordance with Section C9.11 of the Grand Lodge Constitution.

An elected petitioner for degrees must present himself within one (1) year after his notification of election, or he must file a new petition which must take the same course as the original. The

Lodge may, for good cause, grant the petitioner additional time; and the minutes shall show such extension, otherwise he cannot have the Entered Apprentice degree conferred upon him by courtesy.

An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Brother who has been duly notified to present himself to receive the succeeding degree and who fails so to present himself within one (1) year after such due notice shall be notified by certified or registered mail that if he does not appear within three (3) months from the date of notice his rights to receive the succeeding degree or degrees will be terminated, unless he can show just cause why he is unable to appear for such degree. The Lodge may grant him additional time for cause shown, which shall be recorded in the minutes of the Lodge. An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft Brother thus dropped may petition to continue on with the degrees by petitioning the Lodge which terminated his degree work. The Fellow Craft or Master Mason degree fee must accompany such said petition, which shall be investigated and balloted upon as required in Section C9.11 of the Grand Lodge Constitution. If such petition be rejected, the Fellow Craft fee or the Master Mason fee shall be returned to the petitioner, along with notice of the rejection. Any petitioner whose petition is rejected must wait not less than six (6) months before he may petition again.

**SECTION G14.09** Any form of petition, legally received, may be withdrawn by written request of the petitioner, signed by him. It is not necessary that he state his reason for asking that it be withdrawn. Masonry is a voluntary institution.

**SECTION G14.10** At any time after six (6) months from rejection, a petitioner for degrees may file a new petition with any Lodge having Jurisdiction.

A rejected petitioner for plural membership, affiliation, reinstatement or restoration may petition again at any time, and for affiliation, he may present it to any Lodge anywhere.

When a petitioner is rejected, he shall be informed thereof in writing by the Secretary, and any money paid for degrees shall be returned, and his demit or certificate which accompanied his petition likewise returned. The Secretary shall also notify all Lodges which were entitled to receive notice of the receipt of the petition, as per Section C9.07(a) of the Constitution, of the petitioner's rejection.

Wherever the word petition or petitioner is used in this article the same shall mean for the degrees or affiliation.

Any and all Regulations of the Grand Lodge, if any, inconsistent with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge governing the receipt of petitions for the degrees or affiliation are not effective.

**SECTION G14.11** When a petition is received from one who has been rejected by another Lodge, the rejecting Lodge or Lodges must be notified thereof by the Secretary of the Lodge receiving the petition.

Such notice shall be sent in time to reach the rejecting Lodge or Lodges before their next Stated Communication, and sufficient time given thereafter for a reply. No report from the investigating committee shall be received and no action taken by the Lodge petitioned until after sufficient time for the rejecting Lodge or Lodges to make reply has elapsed.

**SECTION G14.12** When it is discovered that a petition has been illegally received, all unfinished work must be stopped at once. The Lodge shall notify the petitioner and return all fees collected. It shall also notify all Lodges having concurrent jurisdiction of its action and furnish a certificate to the petitioner, under the seal of the Lodge, with which he makes a new petition to the Lodge having jurisdiction.

Upon election by such Lodge he may be "healed" as to degrees received, and upon receiving the Master Mason's degree become a member of such Lodge.

**SECTION G14.13** Residence, as applied to the question of eligibility to petition for degrees, means the permanent fixed abode of the petitioner which, named from choice, he calls his home. It may be with his family, where he votes or with his parents. A person not having such fixed and sufficient residence, either because of length of time or because his movements are too unsettled

and uncertain, is not eligible to petition. An unmarried man cannot claim residence with his parents if he has voted elsewhere, unless he returns to them for a year.

**SECTION G14.14** A petitioner who is eligible as to residence when he files his petition does not lose such eligibility by subsequently changing his address.

One who accepts an appointment under the United States government, which necessitates his removal for an indefinite period from his old place of residence to another, loses such former residence; he must become eligible in his new residence or, if he subsequently moves back to his old residence, must wait ninety (90) days before he petitions.

**SECTION G14.15** The degrees of Symbolic Masonry, or Blue Lodge degrees, can never be communicated nor abbreviated; provided that the dramatic portion of the Master Mason's degree may be shortened upon all but the last candidate. In all degrees the lectures must be given in full.

**SECTION G14.16** A petitioner for the degrees, elected in a foreign Jurisdiction, who removes to this Jurisdiction before receiving any or all the degrees may, after ninety (90) days residence in this Jurisdiction and upon presenting the consent and waiver of the Lodge which first elected him, under the seal and over the signature of the Master and Secretary, petition a Lodge in the Jurisdiction in which he now resides for the degree or degrees not yet received; and if elected, shall upon receiving the Master Mason degree become a member thereof.

**SECTION G14.17** All fees received by a Lodge conferring any of the degrees, at the request of another Lodge, must be forwarded to the requesting Lodge unless it directs otherwise.

**SECTION G14.18** The posting or coaching of a candidate of one Lodge by a Master Mason of another Lodge is permitted with the consent of the Masters of both Lodges.

**SECTION G14.19** A Master Mason, who is a member of a Lodge in a Jurisdiction which does not allow demission, nor issue certificates of good standing, until after such member has petitioned and been elected to membership in another Lodge, may petition for affiliation in this Jurisdiction, accompanied by a receipt for current dues and stating in his petition the law as to demits and certificates of good standing existing in the Jurisdiction to which he belongs. Upon election, the Secretary of the Lodge electing shall certify the facts to the Lodge in which he holds membership, accompanied with a request for a demit; and, when received, the Secretary shall announce that such Brother is now a member upon previous election and the receipt of his demit.

#### **ARTICLE XV. Merger/Consolidation and Surrender of Charters**

**SECTION G15.01** Whenever two (2) or more Lodges, whose jurisdictions are concurrent or adjacent, desire to consolidate by surrendering their separate charters and form one (1) Lodge under a new name and number, or desire to merge and form one (1) Lodge under the name and charter of one of such Lodges, with the prior approval of the Grand Master, they shall proceed as follows :

**(a)** Either through a joint committee of the Lodges, or separate committees, a form of resolution stating in detail how it is proposed to carry out the suggested merger or consolidation, as to by-laws, charter, Lodge name and number, place of meeting and other information pertinent to the proposed merger or consolidation, should be agreed upon and presented in identical form to each of such Lodges.

**(b)** Such resolution should lay over until the subsequent Stated Communication fixed by agreement, and ten (10) days notice given all resident members of the proposed action.

**(c)** At the appointed time for action, each Master shall cause the resolution to be read and permit full discussion, after which he shall put this question:

"Shall the Lodge be merged (or consolidated) as proposed?"

If two-thirds (2/3) of the votes are in favor, the Lodge shall be recorded as in favor, but if less than two-thirds (2/3), the Lodge shall be recorded as against the merger or consolidation. The Secretary of each Lodge shall notify the other Lodges of its action, and when all Lodges are favorable to the merger or consolidation, each Secretary shall so notify the Grand Master. (4/99)

**SECTION G15.02** If the Grand Master, or the Grand Lodge, finds that the preliminary requirements have been fulfilled, he may direct that a new number be assigned to the newly consolidated Lodge, or direct the merger, causing the necessary legal action transferring the real estate and personal property to the newly consolidated Lodge, or the continuing Lodge; and when this is done, the Grand Master shall notify the Grand Secretary that he has approved the merger or consolidation. The Grand Secretary shall notify the Lodges concerned of the Grand Master's approval and the date thereof, after which the members, as well as all unfinished work, if any, shall belong to the newly consolidated Lodge or to the Lodge whose charter is continued. Members in good standing in the lodges being consolidated will become charter members of the newly chartered lodge. (4/99)

**SECTION G15.03** At the first meeting of the consolidated Lodge the Grand Master shall preside, and the newly consolidated Lodge shall elect, and the Grand Master shall install, the officers of the new Lodge. The officers of the Lodge or Lodges surrendering its charter shall promptly and without hesitation or evasion surrender all records and other property in their possession or under their control to the newly consolidated Lodge or continuing Lodge, receiving a receipt therefor, signed by the Master and Secretary, and under the seal of the newly consolidated Lodge or continuing Lodge, which shall be liable for all debts of the consolidating Lodges, Lodge or Lodges merging with it, without further act or vote. (4/99)

**SECTION G15.04** The Master of a Lodge whose charter is given up in such merger or consolidation shall at once forward the same to the Grand Secretary, who shall promptly issue a receipt therefor.

**SECTION G15.05** If the charter of a Lodge is lost or destroyed, the Lodge is no longer authorized to work except upon application to, and a dispensation from the Grand Master, until a duplicate charter is issued by the Grand Lodge. The Master should immediately report such loss and ask for a dispensation until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, when the Jurisprudence Committee shall hear the facts and report to the Grand Lodge. If a duplicate charter is granted, it shall be without charge.

**SECTION G15.06** Before any Lodge shall surrender its charter for any reason other than a merger or consolidation, a resolution proposing such surrender shall be offered at a Stated Communication of the Lodge and laid over for action at a subsequent Stated Communication then fixed.

Ten (10) days notice of such action shall be given all resident members by the Secretary. At the communication of the date set in the notice the Master shall permit full discussion and then put the question: "Shall the charter be surrendered?"

If two-thirds (2/3) vote "yes," the resolution shall be declared adopted, and the charter surrendered; otherwise the resolution shall fail, subject, however, to Section C9.19 of the Grand Lodge Constitution.

If the Lodge surrenders its charter, as provided herein, or if it is revoked or forfeited by action of the Grand Lodge, the Master shall at once forward it to the Grand Secretary, together with all books, papers and records and personal property of the Lodge; if it owns or has an interest in any real estate, the same becomes the property of the Grand Lodge, through such surrender, revocation or forfeiture.

The officers, trustees or others, who may hold legal title thereto must at once transfer and convey such real estate to the Grand Lodge by proper conveyances.

**SECTION G15.07** Whenever a Lodge surrenders its charter, its members shall be given certificates of non-affiliation by the Grand Secretary, if they are in good standing and clear on the books and no charges have been filed against them; and each member shall be notified at his last known address as to his indebtedness, if any. Upon payment of said indebtedness, said certificate of non-affiliation may then be issued.

**SECTION G15.08** The Grand Lodge is not responsible for the debts or other obligations of any of its Constituent Lodges; but if, upon surrender, revocation or forfeiture, the Grand Lodge comes

into possession or ownership of real estate, it will apply such property or the proceeds thereof towards the liquidation of such claims.

**SECTION G15.09** Restoration of a charter must be on the written petition of twenty-five (25) members who hold certificates of non-affiliation, and upon the favorable report of the Grand Lodge Committee on Constituent Lodges and Reports.

When the Grand Lodge restores a charter, the same shall be issued when the Grand Master is satisfied that the petitioners are qualified to conduct a Lodge, and without charge. Any property belonging to such Lodge and held by the Grand Lodge shall be returned.

#### **ARTICLE XVI. Demission and Withdrawal**

**SECTION G16.01** Any Master Mason in good standing - as defined by Section G13.31 of these General Regulations - and clear on the books, except the Master or the Wardens of a Lodge, may apply either to the Secretary, in writing, or orally to the Lodge, at a Stated Communication, for, and shall be granted, a demit, upon such request. He then becomes a non-affiliate. There is no refund of dues when demitting during the year.

If he desires to transfer his membership to another Lodge in this Jurisdiction, he may do so, without first terminating his membership in his own Lodge, by giving written notice to his Lodge of his intention to affiliate elsewhere in the Jurisdiction and giving the name and location of the Lodge with which he desires to affiliate. Being clear on the books, the Lodge shall grant him a Certificate of Good Standing, or Certificate of Intention to Transfer, addressed to the Lodge selected by him for affiliation, which shall be attached to his petition for affiliation. Such petition shall be read and voted upon and the result certified to the Lodge issuing the certificate within ten (10) days after the ballot. If elected, his own Lodge shall forward a demit, when requested by the electing Lodge; but if the petitioner is rejected, such rejection must be endorsed on the margin of the Certificate of Good Standing, or Certificate of Intention to Transfer, and returned to the issuing Lodge where his membership shall continue and after a recording thereof in the minutes, such certificate shall be returned to the petitioner.

Certificates of Good Standing and Certificates of Intention to Transfer may be granted and acted upon at any time providing the member is still in good standing at the actual time the vote on the petition in the new lodge is taken. (2011)

A Certificate of Good Standing or a Certificate of Intention to Transfer issued by a Constituent Lodge of other Grand Jurisdictions in fraternal relations with our own shall be accepted by Constituent Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction.

**SECTION G16.02** Certificates of Good Standing and Intention to Transfer are null and void after three (3) months from the date thereof, or December 31st of the same year, whichever comes first.

**SECTION G16.03** If the application for a demit is in the hands of the Secretary on or before December thirty-first (31st), the applicant is entitled to his demit, if clear on the books, even though it cannot be acted upon until after January first (1st), when Lodge dues are due and payable.

**SECTION G16.04** Any Brother present when application is made for a demit may give notice of charges against the applicant, in which case the application must lay over until the next Stated Communication. If charges have then been filed, they shall take the prescribed course, and the application held until the charges are finally disposed of. No right of appeal remains for either the accuser or accused.

If no charges were filed, even after notice was given, the demit shall be granted without vote of the Lodge, by order of the Master, entered in the minutes and effective as to any dues accrued since the application was filed, as if the same had been granted when first presented.

**SECTION G16.05** A petitioner for a new Lodge, if in good standing and clear on the books at the close of the year preceding the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which the charter was granted, must be given a demit without application as soon as his Lodge is informed that the new charter has been issued, and such demit must be forwarded by the Secretary to the Grand

Secretary not later than one (1) week following the Stated Communication after being so informed, except as hereinbefore provided with reference to plural memberships.

**SECTION G16.06** Any member of a Lodge, except the Master or a Warden, if in good standing and clear on the books, may withdraw from membership therein, by written notice filed with the Secretary and read in Lodge.

Such notice shall be disposed of in the same manner as an application for demit and show that the Brother was dropped from the roll at his own request. He will then be an unaffiliated Mason, with no rights except to petition the Grand Lodge for restoration, and to defend himself against any charges of unmasonic conduct subsequently made against him, for which he will be as subject to discipline after, as he was before withdrawal.

#### **SECTION G16.07 Membership**

(a) The law of Masonry is "Once a Mason, always a Mason." This law means that our obligations, when once taken, can never thereafter be laid aside, but does not mean that a Mason may not by his subsequent conduct deprive himself of the rights and benefits which other Masons enjoy.

(b) A Mason whose membership is ended by suspension or expulsion after trial, or who is stricken from the roll for nonpayment of dues, or who voluntarily withdraws, becomes an unaffiliate.

(c) A Mason who pays up his dues, for which he was stricken, and takes a demit or certificate after being restored, or when restored to membership after suspension and then demits, or whose membership is ended because of the revocation or forfeiture of the charter of his Lodge, or when the Grand Lodge refuses a charter to a Lodge under dispensation, becomes a non-affiliate, with the right to apply to any Lodge for affiliation.

**SECTION G16.08** A non-affiliate who has lost his demit or certificate, if otherwise in good standing and clear on the books, may request another from the Secretary, who shall write the word "Duplicate" across the face. If the Lodge which granted the demit is then extinct, the request should be made to the Grand Secretary.

**SECTION G16.09** A Lodge may conclusively presume that any member is dead whose whereabouts, after diligent search, is unknown to it for a space of seven (7) years, and may drop such member from its roll and report him as "dead" on its annual return, with the notation "Whereabouts unknown, after a seven (7) year search."

**SECTION G16.10** When and if such member subsequently appears he must, upon his application, be restored to the roll with all Masonic rights and benefits, without action by the Lodge, and reported to the Grand Lodge in its next annual return, together with all arrearages of Grand Lodge dues paid for by his Lodge, with proper explanation.

### **ARTICLE XVII. District Representative**

**SECTION G17.01** The Grand Master, upon installation, is authorized to divide this Grand Jurisdiction into six (6) Areas and not less than twenty (20) nor more than forty (40) districts, which shall be composed of not more than ten (10) Lodges each.

**SECTION G17.02** The Grand Master as soon as practicable after installation, shall appoint or reappoint a Brother member with the rank of Master or Past Master who shall be known as an Area Deputy of the area for which appointed, and shall appoint or reappoint a Brother member with the rank of Master or Past Master who shall be known as District Representative of the district for which appointed. The Masters and Wardens of the district may recommend a Brother by March 1st of each year. If no recommendation is so made by then, the Grand Master shall make the appointment without the aid of the recommendation from the district. An appointment shall be for a one (1) year period.

Should a vacancy exist in a district, at any time, for any reason, the Area Deputy shall be notified at once. Said Area Deputy shall then call a meeting of the Masters and Wardens of that district within thirty (30) days for the purpose of recommending a suitable and acceptable replacement to the Grand Master, who shall make the final appointment.

### **SECTION G17.03 Area Deputy Duties**

- (a) The Area Deputy shall be the liaison between the Grand Master and the District Representatives within his Area in all matters concerning the Lodges within his assigned Area.
- (b) The Area Deputy shall work with and coordinate with the District Representatives in his Area.
- (c) The Area Deputy shall serve as the back-up for the District Representative as needed.

### **SECTION G17.04 District Representative Visitations**

- (a) It shall be the duty of the District Representative to visit each Lodge in his district at least once each year and at such visitation examine all the books and records of the Lodge and of the officers thereof, the finances of the Lodge and to ascertain the facts as to the growth of the membership of the Lodge, or lack of such growth and the reasons therefor, to inquire into and get the facts as to attendance by the officers and members of the Lodge at the communications thereof, to inspect the Lodge hall and properties of the Lodge to ascertain whether suitable, and to perform such other and additional duties as the Grand Master may from time to time impose.
- (b) Within two (2) weeks after the visitation of a Lodge, the District Representative shall report in writing as to such visitation, in such form as the Grand Master shall prescribe. The District Representative shall retain the copy for his file and mail, the original to the Office of the Grand Secretary, for duplication to the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and Junior Grand Warden. The District Representative shall include comments and recommendations relative to the condition and in the best interest of the Lodge visited.

**SECTION G17.05** The Grand Master, or at his direction, the Area Deputy, may call the District Representatives, or any thereof, together at such time and place as he may designate for the purpose of consultation and instructions as to their duties.

**SECTION G17.06** The Area Deputy and District Representatives shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties, such reimbursements to be made out of such funds as may be appropriated for the purpose from time to time by the Grand Lodge.

Mileage for official visitations to Lodges and Schools of Instructions, shall be at the rate established by the Corporate Board of Trustees annually for the succeeding year no later than three months prior to the next annual Grand Lodge Communication.

**SECTION G17.07** It is not intended that the said Area Deputy or District Representatives shall have authority to render decisions as to Masonic jurisprudence, which, if they should arise, must be referred to the Grand Master, nor as to esoteric work, the same being under the control of the Board of Custodians.

### **SECTION G17.08 Area Deputy and District Representative Apron**

- (a) The Area Deputy or District Representative shall at the end of his term of office return to the Grand Secretary his Grand Lodge apron and case.
- (b) An Area Deputy or District Representative who has served three (3) or more years shall be entitled to the return of his apron and case by the Grand Secretary with the wording "Past Area Deputy" or "Past District Representative" embroidered or sewed thereon, provided, the Grand Master deems the award and distinction earned.
- (c) The return of the Past Area Deputy or District Representative apron by the Grand Secretary to the Past Area Deputy or District Representative shall not entitle him to any voting privileges as provided by Section C3.01, Constitution of Grand Lodge.

(d) The return of a deceased Area Deputy or District Representative's apron shall not be requested.

### **ARTICLE XVIII. Board of Custodians and Monitors**

**SECTION G18.01** There shall be a Board of Custodians of the work consisting of eleven (11) members who shall be appointed by the Grand Master for such terms and as he may direct; said appointment to be for a term of not less than one (1) year, nor more than five (5) years. All appointees to said Board shall be Past Masters, in good standing, of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. The Chairman of the Board shall be designated by the Grand Master from among those appointed, who shall serve as such chairman during the will and pleasure of the Grand Master.

**SECTION G18.02** Each newly appointed Custodian or Monitor must pass a satisfactory examination before the Board as to his proficiency in the established work and lectures of this jurisdiction, before receiving his commission. If he fails to do so, the Board shall notify the Grand Master, who shall vacate the appointment and make another to fill the vacancy so created.

**SECTION G18.03** The Grand Master shall have authority to remove any member of the Board from his position, who, from neglect of duty, inefficiency, incompetency or other good reason, is, in his opinion or a majority of the Board, unsuitable for the work, and to fill the vacancy so created.

**SECTION G18.04** The Custodian in Charge shall see that each district has, annually, a minimum of one (1) school of instruction in any one (1) of the three (3) degrees, in any order of rotation, except that no degree shall be used in the annual school twice in succession unless the other two (2) degrees have been exemplified at least once. A School of Instruction shall consist of one (1) session for the degree for which the call is specified when the school is requested, except for a Master Mason Degree school which may be held in two (2) separate sessions. Two (2) or more districts may join together for either annual or special schools of instruction following the same procedure as for a district school, and such additional schools as may be ordered by the Grand Master.

At the option and discretion of the Custodian in Charge an additional fourth school of instruction may be held at such time and place as he may designate to give instructions to the officers and other members of the line of Constituent Lodges upon the matter of conduct at funerals, amendment of by-laws and other Lodge procedures and any other matters which may be necessary to proper Masonic activities.

**SECTION G18.05** The Board of Custodians, with the approval of the Grand Master, shall divide the State of Minnesota into as many regions as may appear advisable; provided, however, that there shall be at least seven (7) and not more than ten (10) regions. In the designation of regions, the number of Lodges in a proposed region and the residences of the Board members shall be given controlling consideration. If not more than seven (7) regions are designated, the remaining members of the Board are to be designated Custodians-at-Large, who shall perform the duties of a Custodian as directed by the Board or by the Grand Master. The boundaries of any region or regions may be changed by the Board at any time with the approval of the Grand Master. A member of the Board shall by the Grand Master be designated as Custodian for each region established.

**SECTION G18.06** A member of the Board-at-Large shall have the same authority as the member for a region as above provided, when authorized or directed by the Grand Master or Chairman of the Board to visit a Lodge or Lodges, and shall receive the same mileage and per diem as the designated member of the Board for said region when the school is ordered by the Grand Master.

**SECTION G18.07** The Custodian, upon visiting any Lodge, shall correct errors in the work and lectures as given by the Lodge visited and shall make plain to such Lodge and its officers that the use of any other than the established work and lectures of this Jurisdiction is forbidden. If any Lodge fails or refuses to correct its work accordingly, the Custodian shall report such failure or refusal to the Grand Master.

**SECTION G18.08** Other schools of instruction in the work and lectures shall be held in any district at such times and place as the Custodian in charge, or a Custodian-at-Large, may recommend, and the Grand Master approve and direct. The place chosen shall be as accessible as is practicable and in a suitable room with light and heat furnished free of expense by the Lodge of the place where the same is appointed to be held. The school so held shall be in general charge of the Board, or such members of the Board as the Grand Master may designate, and in particular care of the Custodian in whose region it is held, unless the Grand Master or Chairman of the Board directs otherwise and designates who shall be in charge of any such school or schools. The Board shall make the necessary rules and regulations as to the hours, duration and general management of such school.

**SECTION G18.09** It shall be the duty of each Lodge in a designated district, when notified that a school of instruction for such district has been ordered by the Grand Master, to send thereto its Master or some other officer or member appointed by the Master to participate in the work and instruction to be given in the school. If any Lodge, when notified, shall fail or neglect to send a representative to a school, it shall be the duty of the Custodian in charge to report the fact to the Grand Master.

**SECTION G18.10** Any Lodge desiring a school of instruction for itself alone, for any extraordinary reason given, may forward a request therefor to the Grand Master. If, in the latter's judgment, such school is desirable and necessary, he may order one to be held and direct the Custodian of the region or some other member of the Board of another region, or a member of the Board-at-Large to hold the school.

**SECTION G18.11** It shall be the duty of each Lodge to have at least one of its Grand Lodge representatives present at any school of instruction.

**SECTION G18.12** It shall be the duty of the Board of Custodians or the Custodian in Charge to appoint a secretary at each of its Schools of Instruction and/or meetings of the Board, who will keep a record of all proceedings, including a roll of the Brethren in attendance.

**SECTION G18.13** The Board of Custodians shall make an annual report in writing to the Grand Lodge at each Annual Communication, giving a list of the several schools held during the year by order of the Grand Master, with the attendance at each school, by Lodges, and the number of representatives from each; and, in the case of separate Lodge schools, the number of members present, with such other information as in the judgment of the Board may be for the good of Masonry, or as requested or ordered by the Grand Master.

**SECTION G18.14** Each member of the Board of Custodians shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in conducting Schools of Instruction, mileage shall be at the rate established by the Corporate Board of Trustees annually for the succeeding year no later than three months prior to the next annual Grand Lodge Communication, except at any Communication or Annual Monitor School, it shall conform to Section G3.12 of these General Regulations.

**SECTION G18.15** Any Brother who serves at least one (1) full year as a member of the Board of Custodians of the work, shall thereafter be known, on his retirement from the Board of Custodians, as a "Past Custodian," and after five (5) years or more of service on the Board of Custodians, shall be entitled to the return of his apron as per Section G18.16 of the General Regulations, and after ten (10) years of service on the Board of Custodians shall become a permanent member of the Grand Lodge as designated in Section C3.01 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge.

**SECTION G18.16 Custodian Apron**

(a) The Custodian shall at the end of his term of office return to the Grand Secretary his Grand Lodge apron and case.

(b) A Custodian who has served five (5) or more years shall be entitled to the return of his apron and case by the Grand Secretary with the wording "Past Custodian" embroidered or sewed thereon, provided, however, the Grand Master deems the award and distinction earned.

(c) The return of the Past Custodian apron by the Grand Secretary to the Custodian shall not entitle him to any voting privileges as provided by Section C3.01, Constitution of Grand Lodge.

- (d) The return of a deceased Custodian's apron shall not be requested.

**SECTION G18.17** Any member of a Lodge who is certified under Lodge seal by the Master and Secretary of such Lodge as having, in the opinion of his Lodge Brethren, sufficient knowledge of the work and lectures to pass an examination as a Monitor may appear before any three (3) members of the Board of Custodians, unless the Grand Master directs that five (5) members of the Board be present - the members to attend to be selected by the Chairman of the Board - for an examination as to his proficiency. Monitorial examinations shall be held at such times and places as the Board shall prescribe. If the selected members of the Board find that he is possessed of the requisite ritualistic knowledge, he shall be issued a certificate designating him as a Monitor of the First, Second or Third Grade, according to the degree of his proficiency. Each recipient of a Monitorial Certificate shall be presented with a distinctive button identifying him as a qualified Monitor.

**SECTION G18.18** All Monitors, according to their ritualistic proficiency as established by their examinations before the Board, shall be graded as follows:

- (a) Monitors of the First Grade shall be proficient in the ritualistic work and lectures of all three (3) degrees and possess a thorough knowledge of the Test Oath, Manual of the Rod, Reception of Grand Lodge officers and the Conduct of the Ballot.
- (b) Monitors of the Second Grade shall be proficient in the ritualistic work and lectures of any two (2) degrees and possess a thorough knowledge of the Test Oath, Manual of the Rod, Reception of Grand Lodge officers and the Conduct of the Ballot.
- (c) Monitors of the Third Grade shall be proficient in the ritualistic work and lectures of any one (1) degree and possess a thorough knowledge of the Test Oath, Manual of the Rod, Reception of Grand Lodge officers and the Conduct of the Ballot.

**SECTION G18.19** A Monitor is charged with the duty:

- (a) To act, always under the direction of the Master of the Lodge, in assisting in coaching the officers of the Lodge in the ritualistic work to the extent of his Monitorial Grade.
- (b) To assist in coaching candidates for the degrees.
- (c) To examine where qualified, if requested by the Board of Custodians or by any member thereof, any Brother who desires to present himself to the Board for examination as a Monitor, and to advise the Board of his opinion as to the Brother's qualification.
- (d) To assist the Board, to the extent of his Monitorial proficiency, in conducting schools in his general district and to discharge other duties as the Master of his Lodge, the Board of Custodians or the Grand Master shall request.

**SECTION G18.20 Monitor Examinations**

- (a) Upon his original certification by the Board a Monitor shall, in attending his examination, receive the regular mileage rate and per diem allowed under Section G3.12 of these General Regulations.
- (b) A Monitor may present himself before any three (3) members of the Board of Custodians at such time and place as may be specified by the Chairman of the Board of Custodians for further examination or re-examination for advancement to a Monitor of a higher grade, and for such examination he shall receive, upon the Board's certification, mileage and per diem on the same basis as for an original examination.
- (c) Monitors, who at the request of a Custodian or the Board of Custodians, attend any School of Instruction and who then performs such duties as are assigned to him by a Custodian or the Board of Custodians, shall upon the Board's certification receive the same mileage rate and per diem as allowed under Section G3.12 of these General Regulations.

**SECTION G18.21** The Board of Custodians, as the sole judge of the qualifications of a Monitor, shall have authority to revoke a Monitor's commission for any cause, such as failure to perform his duties, inattention or failure to present himself for re-examination at least once in each three (3) year period. Provided, however, that due to age or infirmity a Monitor finds it difficult or impossible to present himself for re-examination, the Grand Master may, upon recommendation of the Board of Custodians, direct the Board of Custodians to issue to such Monitor a certificate of "Monitor Emeritus" to be valid for his lifetime.

**SECTION G18.22 Lecturer Certification** - The Board of Custodians has established a program to recognize and reward Masons who demonstrate proficiency in the lectures of the three degrees. The Brothers so certified shall be called "Lecturers" and designated in the same manner as the three Monitorial classes, with the highest Lecturer grade being Grade one.

The certification program is administered by the Board of Custodians with the aid of Monitors previously certified in the appropriate degree. The criteria of the program will be:

**Lecturer Third Grade**

Complete a satisfactory examination in the 1st section of the lectures of the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees.

**Lecturer Second Grade**

Complete a satisfactory examination of the 1st section *and* 2nd section of the lectures in the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees.

**Lecturer First Grade**

Complete a satisfactory examination of the 1st section, 2nd section and 3rd section of the lectures in the Entered Apprentice and Master Mason degrees and the 1st section, 2nd section of the lectures, together with the work of the Senior Deacon in the 2nd section of the work in the Fellowcraft degree.

**ARTICLE XIX. Regional Lodge Education Officer**

**SECTION G19.01** The Grand Master, upon installation, is authorized to divide this Grand Jurisdiction into not less than ten (10) regions.

**SECTION G19.02** The Grand Master as soon as practicable after installation, shall appoint or reappoint a Brother member who shall be known as Regional Lodge Education Officer of the region for which appointed. The Masters and Wardens of the district may recommend a Brother by March 1st of each year. If no recommendation is so made by then, the Grand Master shall make the appointment without the aid of the recommendation from the region. An appointment shall be for a one (1) year period.

Should a vacancy exist in a region, at any time, for any reason, the Grand Lodge Education Officer shall be notified at once. The Grand Lodge Education Officer can seek a replacement from the region at that time and recommend a suitable and acceptable replacement to the Grand Master, who shall make the final appointment.

**SECTION G19.03** It shall be the duty of the Regional Education Officer:

- (a) To encourage, promote and support the Lodge Education Officer program for the Lodges of the region.
- (b) As necessary, visit the Lodges of the region, especially those which do not have an active Lodge Education Officer program to encourage and promote this program. Annually prepare and submit a report on the Regional Lodge Education Officer activities during the preceding year to the Grand Lodge Education Officer including the expense budget for the coming year.
- (c) Conduct regular correspondence with the Lodge Education Officers of the region.
- (d) Convene and assist the Grand Lodge Education Officer to organize an annual meeting of Lodge Education Officers of the region.
- (e) Participate in all regional and state-wide education rallies and meetings.
- (f) Attend the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge for appointment and installation as the Regional Education Lodge Officer. Participate in the Grand Lodge Session as a member of the Grand Lodge. Encourage participation in all education programs for Minnesota Masonry sponsored by the Grand Lodge.
- (g) Complete other duties or functions of the office as directed by the Grand Lodge Education Officer and the Grand Master.

**SECTION G19.04** The Regional Lodge Education Officers shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties, such reimbursements to be made out of such funds as may be appropriated for the purpose from time to time by the Grand Lodge. Mileage for official visitations to Lodges shall be at the rate established by the Corporate Board of Trustees annually for the succeeding year no later than three months prior to the next annual Grand Lodge Communication.

**SECTION G19.05 Regional Lodge Education Officer Apron**

- (a) The Regional Lodge Education Officer shall at the end of his term of office return to the Grand Secretary his Grand Lodge apron and case.
- (b) A Regional Lodge Education Officer who has served five (5) or more years shall be entitled to the return of his apron and case by the Grand Secretary with the wording "Past Regional Education Officer" embroidered or sewed thereon provided, the Grand Master deems the award and distinction earned.
- (c) The return of the Regional Lodge Education Officer apron by the Grand Secretary to the Regional Lodge Education Officer shall not entitle him to any voting privileges as provided by Section C3.01, Constitution of Grand Lodge.
- (d) The return of a deceased Regional Lodge Education Officer's apron shall not be requested.

**ARTICLE XX. Retirement of Grand Lodge Employee**

**SECTION G20.01** The retirement plan shall be administered by the Office Management Committee.

**ARTICLE XXI. Standing Resolutions**

**SECTION G21.01** Resolutions of a permanent nature, adopted by the Grand Lodge, shall be known as Standing Resolutions, and shall have the force of Regulations.

**ARTICLE XXII. Prepaid Dues Fund**

**SECTION G22.01 General**

- (a) The title of this plan shall be "Prepaid Dues Fund" of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. (Hereinafter referred to as the "Fund.")
- (b) The Fund to be operated and administered within the framework of such regulations as may be adopted by the Grand Lodge.
- (c) A Prepaid Dues Committee to be established for the purpose of supervising the operation of the Fund, under the direction of the Board of Corporate Trustees of the Grand Lodge.
- (d) The Board of Corporate Trustees of the Grand Lodge to control all matters concerning investments made in the name of the Fund, accounting procedures and disbursements as such may effect this Fund subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge and except as limited hereinafter.
- (e) Any matter that might arise that is not specifically covered by Regulations, is to be disposed of in a manner directed by the Grand Master.

**SECTION G22.02 Eligibility**

(a) Any Master Mason, who is in good standing in any Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge, may become a participant in this Fund.

**SECTION G22.03 Cost of Prepaid Membership**

- (a) The entire cost of purchase of a Prepaid Membership is to be established by the application of a formula for determining the cost.
- (b) The formula to relate the amount of the member's annual dues in his home Lodge to the member's age at the time he applies for Prepaid Membership.

When a Lodge accepts a proposal to increase its dues, it shall immediately suspend the receiving of Prepaid Dues applications until such proposal is resolved. The amount of dues then adopted by such action shall be the amount of dues used to figure the cost of Prepaid Membership, regardless of the effective date of such dues increase.

(c) The cost of Prepaid Membership shall be determined from the following formula:

**Schedule for Determining Cost Factor**

(d) If purchased during the period from January 1st through June 30th.

Age	Factor	Age	Factor	Age	Factor	Age	Factor	Age	Factor
18	28.5	33	25.8	48	22.0	63	16.9	78	10.7
19	28.3	34	25.6	49	21.8	64	16.5	79	10.3
20	28.1	35	25.4	50	21.5	65	16.1	80	9.9
21	28.0	36	25.2	51	21.1	66	15.7	81	9.4
22	27.9	37	25.0	52	20.8	67	15.4	82	9.0
23	27.7	38	24.7	53	20.5	68	15.0	83	8.6
24	27.5	39	24.5	54	20.2	69	14.5	84	8.2

**Schedule for Determining Cost Factor, Continued**

Age	Factor	Age	Factor	Age	Factor	Age	Factor	Age	Factor
25	27.3	40	24.2	55	19.8	70	14.1	85	7.8
26	27.2	41	24.0	56	19.5	71	13.7	86	7.4
27	27.0	42	23.7	57	19.1	72	13.3	87	7.0
28	26.8	43	23.5	58	18.8	73	12.9	88	6.6
29	26.6	44	23.2	59	18.4	74	12.5	89	6.2
30	26.4	45	22.9	60	18.0	75	12.0	90+	5.8
31	26.2	46	22.6	61	17.7	76	11.6		
32	26.0	47	22.3	62	17.3	77	11.2		

Cost of Prepaid Membership is obtained by multiplying Factor x Total Annual Lodge Dues.”

(e) If purchased during the period from July 1st through December 31st, add (1.0) to each Factor in table. Example: Age "72" Factor of "13.3" becomes "14.3"

(f) The Grand Lodge shall, annually, record the average dues from all Lodges. When such average dues increase during a year, and the Net Worth of the fund at the close of such a year has decreased to below 100%, the formula factor shall increase by the percentage of such average dues increase percentage. If the amount earned by the Fund decreases during a year as reported at the close of the year from the amount earned by the Fund at the close of the previous year, the formula factor shall increase by the percentage of such earned amount decrease.

(g) The Grand Lodge shall require each Constituent Lodge to include a "financial operating statement" with its annual return.

**SECTION G22.04 Procedure of Application for Prepaid Membership**

(a) The member must submit an application on a form furnished by the Grand Lodge along with the required payment to the Secretary of his Lodge, who shall issue a receipt therefor.

(b) All checks shall be made payable to the "Prepaid Dues fund - Grand Lodge of Minnesota."

(c) The Secretary of the Lodge shall then, immediately, transmit the application and payment to the Grand Lodge Secretary.

**SECTION G22.05** Effective Date of a Prepaid Membership. Fund Membership is to be effective with the date that payment is received by the Grand Secretary.

**SECTION G22.06 Effect of Prepaid Membership on an individual member.**

(a) Upon the receipt of the Application and payment by the Grand Lodge, a "Certificate of Prepaid Dues" will be issued in the name of the individual member, certifying that he is a Prepaid Member.

(b) On or before March 1st of each year, after the year in which application was made to the member's Lodge, the Fund shall pay the current dues of the Prepaid Member to that Lodge or Lodges. If a Lodge increases its dues, payment from the Fund shall be limited to a 5% increase

per year until the total increase is reached. The Grand Master, with the approval of the Board of Corporate Trustees, may authorize a greater increase.

(c) On or before January 1st of each year after the effective date of the application for Prepaid Membership, the Secretary of the Lodge shall issue the regular and official dues card without any special designation.

(d) In the event of a member's affiliation with another Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, that member may then:

- (1) Retain his Prepaid Membership in his former Lodge and pay the regular dues in the affiliated Lodge as a plural member; or
- (2) May apply for Prepaid Membership in the affiliated Lodge as a new Prepaid Member, while retaining his previous Prepaid Membership; or
- (3) Request a Demit from his former Lodge, and request that the Fund pay the affiliated Lodge the dues amount to which he is entitled, and if the dues in the affiliated Lodge are greater than the amount of payment made by the Fund, the member may pay the difference annually, or may pay an additional amount, according to the current schedules, to the Prepaid Membership Fund, and receive a fully prepaid membership in the affiliated Lodge.

(e) No dues shall be paid by the Fund for a Prepaid Member who is not an affiliated member in a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

(f) No refund shall be made from the Fund to any person for any reason.

(g) In the event that a Lodge is merged or consolidated with another Lodge, the Fund shall pay the dues of those Prepaid Members in the amount to which they were entitled, in the now defunct Lodge, to such merged or consolidated Lodge, on or before February 1st of each year.

(1) In the event the dues in the merged or consolidated Lodge are greater than the dues were paid to the now defunct Lodge, the Prepaid Member may pay the difference annually; or

(2) The Prepaid Member may pay an additional amount, according to the current cost schedule to the Prepaid Dues Fund, and receive a fully Prepaid Membership in such merged or consolidated Lodge.

(h) In the event a Prepaid Member Demits from a Lodge and affiliates with another Lodge with lesser dues, the Fund shall pay the lesser dues amount to the Prepaid Member's affiliated Lodge.

(i) In the event that a Lodge decreases its annual dues, the Fund shall pay the lesser amount of dues to that Lodge.

(j) In the event that a Lodge surrenders its Charter, the Fund shall not be liable to pay the dues of the Prepaid Member of such Lodge until such member has affiliated with another Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

#### **SECTION G22.07 Effect of Prepaid Membership on the Lodge.**

(a) The administration of the Fund being vested with the Grand Lodge, the Constituent Lodges can exercise no control over the Fund.

(b) The Fund shall, annually, remit the Prepaid Members' dues, and the Lodge Secretary shall annually, issue the regular and official dues card without any special designation, prior to receiving the dues from the fund.

(c) No Prepaid Member is exempt from a "Punitive Action" by his Lodge. He is, therefore, subject to disciplinary action as any other member.

- (d) The Lodge is required to pay the "per-capita" on all living Prepaid Members, the same as for all other brothers.
- (e) A record is to be maintained of all Prepaid Members by and within each Lodge.
- (f) The Lodge shall not, gratuitously, pay into the Fund for, or on behalf of any Brother; or purchase a Prepaid Membership out of its operating funds. This subsection shall not apply to Honorary and Memorial Life Memberships, as outlined in Section G22.09 and G22.10.

**SECTION G22.08 Administration of the Fund by the Grand Lodge.**

- (a) All elements of Section G22.01 are to apply.
- (b) All amounts received into the Fund must remain segregated from all other monies of the Grand Lodge.
- (c) Investments of all monies are to be made in the name of the Fund and for the sole benefit of the Fund.
- (d) A record is to be maintained on each individual member who becomes a Prepaid Member.
- (e) All monies shall be invested only in the following:
  - (1) Federally guaranteed Funds.
  - (2) Such securities as are qualified for investment by Trust Funds as may be selected by the Board of Corporate Trustees.
- (f) The dues of all living Prepaid Members are to be paid by the Fund to each Lodge on or before March 1st of each year for those Prepaid Members of record on December 31st of the preceding calendar year.
- (g) No dues shall be paid by the Fund for any Prepaid Member during periods of nonaffiliation, suspension or expulsion.
- (h) Upon the death of a Prepaid Member, the Fund shall, annually pay to the deceased member's Lodge, a percentage return on the amount paid in by such deceased member; the percentage shall not be less than one-half of the earnings rate for the current year. The net value of the amount paid in by such deceased Member, shall be based on the amount determined from the formula in effect for the 1st one-half of the year.
- (i) The Board of Corporate Trustees may deduct \$2.00 from the initial remittance and, annually thereafter, \$0.50 per Prepaid Member, both living and deceased, for administration costs. Such costs to be transferred from the Fund on or before the closing of the year.
- (j) Standard accounting practices shall be observed in the maintenance of the records of the Fund with the following specific information being provided for each year and cumulatively since the inception of the Fund;
  - (1) The amount paid in by or on behalf of each Prepaid Member, with pertinent identifying information on each.
  - (2) The amount received from each Lodge.
  - (3) The total combined amount received from all Lodges.
  - (4) The Total amount received from all other sources.
  - (5) The amount disbursed from the Fund;
    - (aa) to each Lodge
    - (bb) For administration costs
    - (cc) Other
  - (6) The net value of the Fund.

(k) The Board of Corporate Trustees shall, each year, review the operation of the Fund and make any recommendations to the Grand Lodge, at its Annual Communication, that it may consider necessary and desirable. In the event that it is determined that the Fund has assets and income in excess of an amount necessary to meet its projected obligations, the Board of Corporate Trustees shall, specifically, make a recommendation as to the possible reduction of the Net Value of the Fund.

Should their recommendation be to distribute the excess back to the individual Lodges, such amount as will be paid to each individual Lodge shall be based upon a determination of the percentage that the amount paid in by each Lodge has to the total amount paid in by all Lodges; since the inception of the Fund.

#### **SECTION G22.09 Honorary Life Membership**

(a) As a token of esteem, honor or recognition, an Honorary Life Membership may be purchased by any Mason on behalf of another Mason, or by the family of a Mason, or by a Constituent Lodge of a Brother Mason for any living Master Mason who is a member in good standing of any Constituent Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction of Minnesota.

(b) The cost of purchase of an Honorary Life Membership is to be established by the application of the formula outlined in Section G22.03.

(c) Upon the receipt of a Prepaid Dues Fund Application and full payment to the Grand Lodge, a "Certificate of Honorary Life Membership" will be issued in the name of the individual member, certifying that he is an Honorary Life Member. He shall also receive the recognition of a permanent Honorary Life Membership card issued by the Grand Lodge. This card is property of the Grand Lodge and is given to an Honorary Life Member as long as he remains in good standing.

(d) Honorary Life Memberships shall be administered in the same manner as Prepaid Memberships, outlined in Section G22.06 , Section G22.07 and Section G22.08.

#### **SECTION G22.10 Memorial Life Memberships**

(a) A Memorial Life Membership may be purchased by any Mason on behalf of a deceased Master Mason, or by the family of a deceased Master Mason, or by a Constituent Lodge of a deceased Master Mason, who was a member in good standing at the time of his death in any Constituent Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction of Minnesota.

(b) The cost of purchase of a Memorial Life Membership will be a flat fee established by the Prepaid Dues Committee and concurrence of the Board of Corporate Trustees. This fee may be changed from time to time by notifying the Constituent Lodges of the change.

(c) Upon the receipt of a Prepaid Dues Fund Membership Application and required payment to the Grand Lodge, a "Certificate of Memorial Life Membership" will be issued in the name of the deceased Brother to his family certifying that he is so remembered and honored. The deceased brother's Constituent Lodge may also display a memorial plaque in the Lodge to honor his memory.

(d) Investment of Memorial Life Membership funds shall be the same as other Prepaid Dues Fund Memberships as outlined in Article XXII, and shall be paid out annually under the provisions of subsections G22.08 (h) & (i). (4/99)

### **ARTICLE XXIII. Amendments to Regulations**

**SECTION G23.01** All proposed amendments to any provision, part or Section of the Code shall be by reference to the appropriate Section of said code.

These regulations, as well as any Grand Lodge Standing Resolution, may be amended or repealed at an Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge only, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at such communication; provided, that notice of such amendment must have been given as a resolution at one (1) session of such communication and referred to and reported upon by the Committee on Jurisprudence at a subsequent session, before such vote is taken.

Unless expressly waived by the Grand Master, all proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Grand Master on or before the first (1st) day of November immediately preceding such Annual Communication. Amendments received after the first (1st) day of November and before the first (1st) day of February immediately preceding such Annual Communication will be referred to the proper committees, and if time permits, published.

## **CHAPTER IV. STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

### **SECTION S1.01 United States Flag - Banner of Grand Lodge.**

The Grand Lodge hereby adopts the United States Flag as its banner, to be displayed at its communications and carried upon all ceremonial occasions, except funerals; and it recommends the ownership and display of such flag by each Lodge and that the same be carried by it on like ceremonial occasions. (Adopted in 1915).

### **SECTION S1.02 Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada.**

The Grand Lodge subscribes to membership in this organization which is composed of Grand Jurisdictions, Boards of Relief and individual Lodges throughout the United States and Canada, for the philanthropic purpose of systematizing methods of granting relief to worthy distressed sojourning Brethren, their widows and orphans and protecting the Craft against professional Masonic mendicancy and imposture, by facilitating the discovery and exposure of unworthy persons going about the country preying upon the Fraternity. (Adopted in 1913.)

### **SECTION S1.03 Order of the Eastern Star.**

The General Grand Chapter, O.E.S., together with the Grand Chapter, O.E.S., of the State of Minnesota, and those Chapters existing under and by virtue of its authority, are recognized by the Grand Lodge as being entitled to the use of Masonic halls and temples in its jurisdiction, subject to such stipulations and conditions as may be agreed upon locally by the officers of the Lodge and Chapter. (Adopted in 1917.)

### **SECTION S1.04 Masonic Service Association of the United States of America.**

The Grand Lodge of Minnesota heartily sympathizes with, approves and endorses the plan of organization of the Masonic Service Association of the United States of America and pledges itself a member Jurisdiction thereof, cooperating to the utmost in its mission of service to mankind. (Adopted in 1919.)

### **SECTION S1.05 Minnesota Masonic Charities**

The Board of Directors of Minnesota Masonic Charities shall be appointed as follows:  
Except for those persons who shall serve as members of the Board of Directors by virtue of office, the corporate Board of Trustees of the Grand Lodge shall nominate such persons as it deems qualified to serve as directors for Minnesota Masonic Charities to the Grand Lodge for approval at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. Members shall serve no more than three (3) full, consecutive three (3) year terms. Terms of the Directors, other than the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and the Worthy Grand Matron, shall be staggered so that as nearly as possible, the terms of one-third (1/3) of the Directors will expire each year, and terms may be adjusted by affirmative vote of the Board of Minnesota Masonic Charities as necessary to maintain such staggering of terms.

### **SECTION S1.05A Minnesota Masonic Home**

The Articles of Incorporation of the Minnesota Masonic Home, originally approved in 1906, now provide that eleven of the fifteen members of the Board of Trustees shall be selected by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, thereby giving the Grand Lodge control of the corporation and its management, with the Grand Master (one of the eleven) as ex-officio member of said board.

### **SECTION S1.06 George Washington's Birthday.**

The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota designate Washington's Birthday, February twenty-second (22nd) of each year, as a special Masonic holiday and recommend the observance thereof by the Lodges within this Jurisdiction through appropriate open or closed communications. (Adopted in 1947.)

### **SECTION S1.07 Community Service Recognition.**

The Grand Master shall appoint a special committee of three (3) members on Community Service Recognition to select a member of the Craft in Minnesota who has served with unselfish and unusual distinction and who has exemplified the best traditions of the Masonic Fraternity in conjunction with his achievements in his chosen profession; and a suitable Certificate of Merit will be awarded to the Brother so selected at each Annual Communication, and that a sufficient annual appropriation be provided to cover the cost of preparing such suitable Certificate of Merit for

presentation to the Brother at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. (Adopted in 1955.)

**SECTION S1.08 Honorary Rank - Member of Other Jurisdictions.**

That the Grand Lodge of Minnesota be empowered, in recognition of eminence, ability or service rendered, to confer on a member of another Grand Jurisdiction such honorary rank as it may deem appropriate; that such honorary rank shall be conferred by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting at an Annual Communication. (Adopted in 1955).

**SECTION S1.09 Lodge Committee for Masonic Service Association.**

That from henceforth and until further changed and modified, each succeeding Grand Master, as soon after his installation as possible, appoint as a committee, in each Constituent Lodge, the Senior Warden and Junior Warden to present to the membership of Constituent Lodges the program of raising funds by voluntary contribution for the Hospital Visitation Program of the Masonic Service Association of the United States, such committee to be assisted by the officers and special committees of the Grand Lodge insofar as possible and necessary; that all funds raised in such manner be forwarded to the Grand Secretary not later than February fifteenth (15th) following for transmission to the Masonic Service Association of the United States and that the Grand Master acquaint the officers of each Constituent Lodge with the foregoing program and give his encouragement to the raising of funds as aforesaid. (Adopted in 1955).

**SECTION S1.10 Fifty Year Emblem.**

Any Master Mason, a member of a Constituent Lodge in Minnesota, who has completed Fifty (50) years or more of Masonic membership, shall be entitled to receive from the Grand Lodge a Fifty (50) year Emblem of such design as may be approved by it, evidencing said Fifty (50) years of membership. (Adopted 1970)

Provided further that the Grand Master may approve the request of the Master of a Constituent Lodge to present Fifty (50) Year emblems at any time during the calendar year to any and all members who shall during that said calendar year become eligible to receive the same. (See Masonic Manual of Minnesota for a suggested Ceremony for Presentation of Fifty-Year Emblem.) (Adopted 1990.)

**SECTION S1.11 Masonic Cancer Center Fund, Inc.**

The Grand Lodge will elect nine (9) members of the Board of Directors of Masonic Cancer Center Fund, Inc., three (3) of whom are elected every year for a term of three (3) years, to serve until their successors have been duly elected and qualified. The Grand Master of Masons of Minnesota to be a member of said Board by virtue of his office and with his consent to serve during his term of office. The Grand Lodge shall, at the expiration of the term of each director so elected annually at its Annual Communication, elect his successor for a term of three (3) years or for such term as the Grand Lodge may then determine, but in no event shall any director be elected for a term in excess of three (3) years.

That to facilitate the selection of the members of said Board by the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall, prior to each Annual Communication appoint a nominating committee of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) members of the Grand Lodge to present names of nominees to be considered to become members of said Board of Directors. Such nominating committee shall report its nominations to the Grand Lodge at such time as called for by the Grand Master, and further nominations by any member of the Grand Lodge may be made from the floor, and thereupon the Grand Lodge shall proceed with the election of the members of the Board. The Grand Secretary shall certify to the corporation, Masonic Cancer Center Fund, Inc., the names, addresses and terms of office for which each director was elected. (Adopted in 1959.) (Name change adopted 1989.)

**SECTION S1.12 Degree Teams.**

The Worshipful Master of any Constituent Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may, upon approval of the Grand Master, use any Degree Team or other group of Master Masons, the proficiency of which has been attested to in writing by a member of the Board of Custodians, to confer any one (1) of three (3) degrees of symbolic Masonry. The attestation of the Custodian shall be filed with the Grand Secretary each Grand Lodge year, and but one (1) such conferral of each degree shall

be permissible within one (1) Lodge in any one (1) calendar year. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit or modify the provisions of the General Regulations Section G13.06. ( 1963.)

**SECTION S1.13 Order of DeMolay.**

RESOLVED, that the program of the Order of DeMolay is hereby recognized and Constituent Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction may, and are hereby authorized to sponsor and financially support chapters of the Order. The program of the Minnesota DeMolay Foundation, Inc., is also recognized and permission is granted to Constituent Lodges to support said Foundation financially with their own funds. (Adopted in 1963.)

**SECTION S1.14 Job's Daughters International - International Order of Job's Daughters.**

Resolved, that the program of the Job's Daughters International is hereby recognized and Constituent Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction may, and are hereby authorized to sponsor and financially support Bethels of the Order. The Program of the Job's Daughters Foundation of Minnesota, Inc., is also recognized and permission is granted to Constituent Lodges to support said Foundation financially with their own funds. (amended 2010)

**SECTION S1.15 National Association of Masonic Scouters.**

The National Association of Masonic Scouters is hereby recognized for membership and association by Minnesota Masons within this Grand Jurisdiction, and are authorized to promote the activities and fellowship events of the National Masonic Scouters Association and all Masons are encouraged to support and participate in these efforts for the benefit and promotion of Freemasonry.

**SECTION S1.16 Full Recognition of Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M.**

It is mutually agreed by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Minnesota and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Minnesota, Inc. that we dwell together in peace and harmony and do hereafter fraternally recognize the other as legitimate and regular proponents of Ancient Craft Masonry, practicing the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth within the State of Minnesota, and do accord to the other all the rights and privileges that accompany recognition between Regular Grand Lodges, in Grand Lodge and Constituent Lodges wheresoever assembled, subject to the rights, powers and authority of the Grand Masters and the Masters of the Constituent Lodges to preside over their respective Grand Lodges and Lodges. (Adopted 1995)

**SECTION S1.17 Formation of Multiple Jurisdiction Fellowship Lodges**

The Grand Lodge is hereby authorized to enter into mutual agreements with any number of Sister Grand Jurisdictions for the purpose of granting a Charter or Warrant for a "Fellowship Lodge," subject to the following conditions:

PURPOSE The purpose of a Fellowship Lodge shall be to promote Masonic fellowship and brotherhood among the several Jurisdictions granting this charter, by means of sharing in the fellowship traditions and ritual work of the chartering Grand Jurisdiction.

BY-LAWS Prior to the granting of a Charter or Warrant, the by-laws of the Fellowship Lodge shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota for review and approval.

MEMBERSHIP Membership in the Fellowship Lodge shall be open to all and only Master Masons in good standing from any Grand Jurisdiction in amity with all of the chartering Grand Jurisdictions. An individual's membership in the Fellowship Lodge shall terminate if any of these conditions are not met.

MEETINGS The meetings of a Fellowship Lodge shall be held in a location approved for Masonic work of the chartering Grand Jurisdictions. The meeting location shall be specified in the by-laws.

WORK The Fellowship Lodge shall be permitted to host exemplification of the degree work of the several chartering Grand Jurisdictions, when such work is done under the authorization of the exemplifying and hosting Grand Jurisdictions. (Adopted 1993)

**SECTION S1.18 Masonic Clubs**

Any group of Masons of this Jurisdiction, who are in good standing, may form a club designated by a name which includes the words "Masonic Club" or "Masonic Association," providing its by-laws are submitted to the Grand Master for approval, and the same are approved by him. Any such group forming such a club may incorporate, provided that the suggested Articles of Incorporation

and By-laws be first submitted to and approved by the Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee and the Grand Master. The same shall only be a voluntary association of the members. Any such club, when formed, shall operate its club and its clubroom or rooms, if any, or their place of meeting with the same decorum as required by a Lodge of Masons, so that no unfavorable reflection will result against Masonry. Be it further provided that all laws, rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge governing the conduct of Constituent Lodges in this Jurisdiction, as contained elsewhere in the Minnesota Masonic Code, will be strictly followed and that it follow all rules and regulations that may be made by the Grand Master in giving such permission and authority. Any violation of the above having occurred, the Grand Master may rescind the permission and authority given by him.

### **SECTION S1.19 Freemasonry and Religion**

**Basic Principles.** Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. It requires of its members belief in a God as part of the obligation of every responsible adult, but advocates no sectarian faith or practice. Masonic ceremonies include prayers, both traditional and extempore, to reaffirm each individual's dependence on a supreme being and to seek divine guidance. Freemasonry is open to men of any faith, but religion may not be discussed at Masonic meetings.

**The Supreme Being.** Masons believe that there is one God and that people employ many different ways to seek, and to express what they know of, God. Masonry primarily uses the appellation, "Grand Architect of the Universe," and other non-sectarian titles, to address Deity. In this way, persons of different faiths may join together in prayer, concentrating on a Supreme Being, rather than differences among themselves. Masonry believes in religious freedom and that the relationship between the individual and God is personal, private, and sacred.

**Volume of the Sacred Law.** An open volume of the Sacred Law, "the rule and guide of life," is an essential part of every Masonic meeting, The Volume of the Sacred Law to a Christian is the Bible; to Freemasons of other faiths, it is the book held holy by them.

**The Oath of Freemasonry.** The obligations taken by Freemasons are sworn on the volume of the Sacred Law. They are undertakings to follow the principles of Freemasonry and to keep confidential a Freemason's means of recognition. The much-discussed "penalties," judicial remnants from an earlier era, are symbolic, not literal. They refer only to the pain any honest man should feel at the thought of violating his word.

**Freemasonry Compared with Religion.** Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of religion.

- (a) It has no dogma or theology, no wish or means to enforce religious orthodoxy.
- (b) It offers no sacraments.
- (c) It does not claim to lead to salvation by works, by secret knowledge, or by any other means. The secrets of Freemasonry are concerned with modes of recognition, not with the means of salvation.

**Freemasonry Supports Religion.** Freemasonry is far from indifferent toward religion. Without interfering in religious practice, it expects each member to follow his own faith and to place his Duty to God above all other duties. Its moral teaching are acceptable to all religions. (1996)

### **SECTION S1.20 International Order of the Rainbow For Girls**

The program of the International Order of the Rainbow For Girls is hereby recognized, and the Constituent Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction may, and are hereby authorized to, encourage and support assemblies of the Order, in harmonious relationship for the good of Freemasonry. (Adopted 1997)

### **SECTION S1.21 Duane E. Anderson Excellence in Masonic Education Award**

This lectureship award requires the recipient to come to Minnesota to receive the award; only one award may be given in any Grand Lodge year, even if an award has not been given in a previous year; the award recipient shall be chosen by the Grand Master or those whom he appoints for that purpose and the award shall be given in recognition for excellence in Masonic Education on a national or international level. (2002)

### **SECTION S1.22 Minnesota Anniversary Lodge No. 150**

MINNESOTA ANNIVERSARY LODGE No. 150 shall be established for a limited period from February 15th, 2003 through March 28th, 2004 and that its membership be granted all those privileges which may be fitting this honor. (2002)

**SECTION S1.23 A Standing Resolution Concerning Masonic Intercourse**

WHEREAS, ARTICLE II. Masonic Laws, Section C2.03 (17) states: *That masonic intercourse with a clandestine, suspended or expelled Mason is a breach of duty and an offense against Masonic law,* and WHEREAS the Grand Lodge of Minnesota has not enumerated the meaning of masonic intercourse for purposes of clarification; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

A Mason shall not have Masonic communication with:

- A. Any person who is not a member of a Masonic Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota; or
- B. A Mason under sentence of being expelled or suspended.

While outside the State of Minnesota, a Mason may have Masonic communication with any person legally present at the tiled meeting of a Masonic Lodge or Masonic Organization chartered by or holding allegiance to a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. This exception includes the tiled meetings of any such recognized Grand Lodge. During a tiled meeting, a Mason may have Masonic communication with any person legally present even though such a person is not a member of a Masonic Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. This exception applies only during such a tiled meeting and at no other time.

While in any State or Territory or Province outside the State of Minnesota, a Mason shall not have Masonic communication with any person who is a member of a Masonic Lodge which has been chartered by or holds allegiance to a Grand Lodge which is not recognized by the Grand Lodge which we recognize with jurisdiction over that State or Territory or Province.

No Masonic Organization in the Jurisdiction of Minnesota may permit any man suspended or expelled as a Mason in this or any other Jurisdiction to retain membership in it, or attend its tiled meetings. (Adopted 2003)

**SECTION S1.24 International Masonic Widow's Sons Masonic Motorcycle Riders**

**Association** - The International Widow's Sons Masonic Motorcycle Riders Association is hereby recognized for membership and association by Minnesota Masons, and the Constituent Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction, and are authorized to establish a Minnesota Grand Chapter and Affiliated Widows Sons Chapter Associations, and Masons are encouraged to support and participate in these efforts for the benefit and promotion of Freemasonry. (2009)

**SECTION S1.25 Masonic Motorcycle Club International** - The Masonic Motorcycle Club International and its local chapters located in Minnesota are hereby recognized for membership and association by Minnesota Masons, and the Constituent Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction, and are authorized to establish such local chapters as the Masonic Motorcycle Club International allows. Masons are encouraged to support and participate in these efforts for the benefit and promotion of Freemasonry. (2009)

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