

RITUAL
OF THE
TRUE KINDRED
DEGREE



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True Kindred

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TRUE KINDRED

When ready for opening the Conclave, the officers will form in line in the preparation room. The Organist plays a march, at the sound of which members must stand while the officers are marching to their stations. Upon assuming her station, the Worthy Commander says:

OPENING

W. C.—Officers and members, we are about to engage in the opening ceremony of a True Kindred Conclave. All who are not entitled to seats with us are kindly requested to retire.

(Seats Conclave).

Senior and Junior Deacons, you will ascertain if all presents are members.

Deacons immediately proceed to purge the Conclave. Senior and Junior Deacons advance to dais. Junior Deacon gives pass to Senior Deacon, who gives it to the Worthy Commander, who rises to receive it. Then, beginning at Counselor and Past Commander, respectively, Deacons take pass around the room, meeting in front of Vice Commander, who rises and gives pass to both Deacons.

Deacons then turn and advance to the Altar, salute Worthy Commander, and report as follows:

Junior D.—Safe in the South, Worthy Commander.

Senior D.—Safe in the North, Worthy Commander.

Deacons advance on square to their stations. When the Deacons are at their stations the Worthy Commander gives one blow of the gavel and Deacons and Guards immediately and without orders proceed with their floor work. When the floor work is completed and Deacons

and Guards are at their stations, the Worthy Commander then gives two raps of the gavel, which calls up the officers.

W. C.—Vice Commander, how many officers constitute a True Kindred Conclave, and to what do they correspond?

V. C.—Twelve officers, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel and other officers prescribed by the By-Laws, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Inner Guard, what are your duties?

I. G.—To guard the gate of the inner court of this temple, and open only to those who give the proper signal and pass-word of the True Kindred, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Where is the Outer Guard stationed?

I. G.—At the outer gate of the outer court of this Temple, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Call her within.
Guards change places.

W. C.—Outer Guard, what are your duties?

O. G.—To guard the outer gate of this Temple, keep out the unworthy, prevent noise or confusion on the outside and see that all members wear their proper regalia, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Where is the Senior Deacons station?

O. G.—In the East in front of the Counselor's station, Worthy Commander.

Outer Guard retires; Inner Guard re-enters.

W. C.—Senior Deacon, what are your duties?

S. D.—To introduce visitors and candidates and see that all are entitled to seats in our Temple, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Where is the Junior Deacon's station?

S. D.—In the East in front of the Worthy Past Commander's station, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Junior Deacon what are your duties?

J. D.—To assist the Senior Deacon in the duties of her office, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Where is the Secretary's station?

J. D.—In the South-East, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Secretary, what are your duties?

Sec.—To keep a faithful record of the proceedings of this Conclave, the attendance of its officers and members, all moneys received and expended and receive and answer all communications, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Where is the Treasurer's station?

Sec.—In the North-East, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Treasurer, what are your duties?

Treas.—To receive all moneys paid into the treasury from the Secretary, giving a receipt for the same, and pay all orders written by the Secretary, and indorsed by you, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Where is the Counselor's station?

Treas.—In the East at your right, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Counselor, what are your duties?

Coun.—To assist you when my help is needed, and advise with you in all matters pertaining to this Conclave, when requested, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—True, my Counselor, and I am stronger for your wise counsel. Where is the Vice Commander's station?

Coun.—In the West, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Vice Commander, what are your duties?

V. C.—To preside in the West, see that the guards are at their stations and so aid you that no disturbance in the West may mar the peace and harmony of the East, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Your services, Vice Commander, make my duties more pleasant and our Temple more

secure. Where is our Worthy Past Commander's station?

V. C.—In the East, at your left, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Worthy Past Commander, what are your duties?

W. P. C.—My duties are light and pleasant; my position one of honor, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Your past services in the East entitle you to the honor you now receive. Vice Commander, where is the Worthy Commander's station.

V. C.—The Worthy Commander's station is in the East and her duties are to see that the laws and rules of our Order are obeyed and that peace, harmony and fraternal love prevail, Worthy Commander.

Worthy Commander rises and calls up the Conclave.

W. C.—Let the Altar be clothed.

High Priest and Vice Commander advance to the Altar with Chaplain, and when the Bible is opened, High Priest places _____ on left page and Vice Commander places _____ on right page, and then High Priest and Vice Commander take positions according to Floor Work.

W. C.—The Chaplain will lead us in our devotions.

Chaplain kneels with clasped hands on open Bible.
Prayer:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, bless our coming together and grant that our deliberations may be potent for good. Bless every member of this Conclave and of the True Kindred and Masonic fraternity all over the world, and enable us to carry into consecrated practice the vows we have taken. Grant that our united labor in the dissemination of Faith, Hope and Love may ever continue. We ask this for Thy name's sake. Amen.

All respond:

Amen.

Chaplain, High Priest and Vice Commander return to their stations. Worthy Commander seats Conclave.

W. C.—Senior and Junior Deacons, you will retire with the Advisor and escort the flag.

* * * * *

Sisters and Brothers, you will unite with me in pledging allegiance to our flag.

We will now sing our opening ode.

W. C.—I now declare this Conclave open for the transaction of business.

OPENING SHORT FORM

Worthy Commander calls the Conclave to order, and all officers take their stations.

W. C.—Senior and Junior Deacons, you will ascertain if all present are members.

Deacons take the pass around the room, same as in formal opening.

W. C.—If there is no objection we will dispense with the formal opening. Let the Altar be clothed. Proceed as in formal opening.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Presentation of Visitors.
2. Calling the Roll of Officers.
3. Reading of Minutes.
4. Communications.
5. Reports of Committees.

W. C.—Sr. and Jr. Deacons you will take charge of the offering.

6. Coin March.
7. Receiving of Petitions.
8. Bills.
9. Balloting.
10. Initiation.
11. Sickness and Distress.
12. Unfinished Business.
13. New Business.
14. Good of Order.

Any Grand Conclave may, by a two-thirds vote at an Annual Meeting, change the position of "Coin March" in the Order of Business.

CLOSING

W. C.—Does any member know of any further business which should be attended to at this meeting?

There being no further business, we will proceed to close.

Worthy Commander calls up Conclave.

W. C.—Members will assume the "Due Guard" and repeat the pledge.

In the presence of Almighty God and these witnesses I now repledge myself to work for the good of the Order, and earnestly strive to keep my True Kindred Vow.

W. C.—High Priest, you will deliver the parting injunction.

H. P.—Officers and members, we have now repledged our fidelity to each other, to labor for the good of the Order and keep inviolate the obligation we have taken. Kindred, remember your vow and its penalty.

W. C.—Let us unite in singing our closing ode. Song.

W. C.—Let the Altar be unclothed.

Altar is unclothed by Vice Commander and High Priest removing the ———, Chaplain closes the Bible, then raising her right hand, prays.

Closing prayer:

Chap.—O Lord; when our earthly work is ended take us home to Thine own kingdom to live forever, where sorrow, parting and death shall come no more. Amen.

All respond: Amen.

W. C.—Members will stand at attention while the Advisors retire the flag.

After Advisors and Guards have returned to their stations.

W. C.—I now declare this Conclave closed. Good night, Kindred.

All respond: Good night, Worthy Commander. Worthy Commander sounds gavel.

W. S. says: "Officers and members will remove their ———."

ROYAL HONORS

If the Worthy Supreme Commander or Worthy Grand Commander is present, the Conclave is not seated after the formal opening until they are introduced.

W. C.—Sisters and Brothers, we are honored tonight by the presence of Sister (full name and

title). Senior and Junior Deacons, you will present our Worthy _____ at the Altar.

Deacons escort visitor to the West of Altar.

S. D.—Worthy Commander, I have the honor to present Sister (name and title).

Worthy Commander welcomes the visitor and says:

W. C.—Senior and Junior Deacons, you will escort our (title) to the East.

The visitor is introduced by the Worthy Commander, and given the Royal Honors.

Only the Worthy Grand Commander, Worthy Supreme Commander, the Worthy Commander of the Conclave (on a Guest Night) and the Guest or Guests of Honor shall be presented at the Altar. Other visitors MAY be escorted to the East, but all present entitled to the "Royal Honors" shall receive them.

Those entitled to receive Royal Honors are:

The four Original Incorporators.

The Worthy Supreme Commander.

All Past Worthy Supreme Commanders.

Worthy Grand Commanders.

All Past Worthy Grand Commanders.

The Supreme Advisors.

All Past Supreme Advisors.

Grand Advisors.

The 33 Elected Incorporators.

All Past Grand Advisors.

Any others who are accorded that honor from time to time by special action of the Supreme Conclave.

BALLOTING

The ballot box is placed on the Treasurer's desk by the Custodian before the Conclave is opened.

W. C.—Senior Deacon, you will prepare the ballot box.

Senior and Junior Deacons rise, Senior Deacon prepares box and places it on Worthy Commander's pedestal. Junior Deacon meets Senior Deacon and stands with her immediately in front of Worthy Commander while the Counselor rises and inspects.

Coun.—Worthy Commander, I find the ballot box correctly prepared.

Worthy Past Commander rises and inspects box.

W. P. C.—Worthy Commander, I find the ballot box correctly prepared.

....*Worthy Commander rises and inspects, leaving box open and with the petition in her hand says:*

W. C.—Sisters (and Brothers), you are about to ballot on the petition of "Mrs. _____," (address) _____, wife of _____, a member of _____ Lodge No. _____, (A.) F. and A. M. of _____ City and State.

She has never (not within the last three years) petitioned any other Conclave for the Degree.

She comes recommended by Sisters (or Brothers) _____ Her petition was referred to a committee consisting of Sisters (or Brothers) _____, _____, _____, all of whom have reported, and the report is favorable (or unfavorable).

The ballot box is correctly prepared. All must ballot unless excused by the Conclave. White balls elect, one black cube rejects. *Let* neither petty jealousies nor personal feelings influence your ballot.

Worthy Commander deposits first ballot. Senior Deacon passes box to Organist and then places it on the Altar. All officers except the Deacons vote first then the members. While members are voting Inner and Outer Guards quietly change places. When all members have voted the Worthy Commander will repeat the ritual as before to the Outer Guard. After the Outer Guard has voted the Junior Deacon will vote and then the Senior Deacon. While the Senior Deacon is voting the Worthy Commander says:

W. C.—Have all balloted? If so, I declare the ballot closed.

Worthy Commander gives one blow of the gavel at the word “closed,” and Senior Deacon closes the box at the same word, and without further orders takes it immediately to the Worthy Commander’s station.

Counselor rises, inspects the ballot, and reports:

Coun.—Worthy Commander, I find the ballot clear.

Worthy Past Commander rises, inspects the ballot and reports:

W. P. C.—Worthy Commander, I find the ballot clear.

Worthy Commander rises, inspects the ballot and says:

W. C.—The ballot being clear, I am pleased to announce that you have elected Mrs. _____ to receive the True Kindred Degree in this Conclave.

If the report is “not clear,” the Worthy Commander says:

W. C.—As the ballot is not clear I have to announce that you have rejected the petition of Mrs.

_____ for the True Kindred Degree.
If only one cube appears, the ballot shall be re-taken and the Worthy Commander says:

W. C.—Since the ballot is so nearly clear, fearing there may have been some mistake, we will reballet upon the petition of Mrs. _____.

The Worthy Commander will repeat the ritual and give the usual instruction.

If more than one cube appears, the ballot cannot be retaken under any circumstances.

INITIATION

W. C.—Inner Guard, you will inquire of the Outer Guard if there are candidates in waiting.

Inner Guard gives two raps, Outer Guard gives three raps, opens door. Inner Guard inquires if there are candidates and the Outer Guard hands list of names written on paper.

I. G.—Worthy Commander, Mrs. _____, Mrs. _____ and Mrs. _____ are in waiting.

W. C.—Secretary, are these candidates entitled to receive the True Kindred Degree?

Sec.—They are, Worthy Commander.

W. C.—Counselor and High Priest, you will proceed with the preparation of the candidates.

Counselor and High Priest rise, meet at Altar, face east and salute, turn, walk to Vice Commander’s station and retire.

When anti room door is closed, W. C. rises and says:

W. C.—“Sisters and Brothers, during the initiation let nothing else occupy your attention. Let perfect order and silence as far as possible

prevail. A word, a whisper, even a look would break the harmony of silence, mar the solemnity of an obligation and confuse the holy instruction of our Bible lectures.”

THE OUTER COURT OF TEMPLE
(To Petitioners)

H. P.—Do you believe in a Supreme Being, in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the Immortality of the Soul?

Answer:

I do.

H. P.—My friend, you came here of your own free will, and thus far we have encouraged you because of good report concerning you, but before allowing you to advance, it is my duty to warn you of what will be required.

Our Portals are closed to tale-bearers and wrong doers.

We require solemn obligations from you and a vow taken in this Temple **MUST BE SACREDLY** kept. Your tongue must remain silent and your lips sealed. Violation of your vow merits expulsion. If, after this explanation, you do not wish to remain, **DEPART IN PEACE**, but if you are willing to proceed, place your right hand over your heart and repeat: “So help me God, I will remain true to my trust.”

Coun.—My friend, you must now be D.O.A.S. J.A.O. which you will entrust to me until later.

Counselor adjusts W. B. High Priest gives signal. Inner Guard takes position at door of Preparation Room.

Inner Guard receives report from High Priest, opens wide the door and leaves it open. High Priest and Counselor advance to the Altar and salute.

Coun.—Worthy Commander, in obedience to your commands the candidates have been properly prepared.

Counselor and High Priest advance to their stations.

I. G.—Worthy Commander, there are strangers without who are worthy of sanctuary with us.

W. C.—Our gates are always open wide to the worthy. We will give them into our Deacon’s charge, who will guide them to our various Altars.

Deacons rise, walk on square to Altar, thence to Vice Commander’s station, and to door for candidates.

S. D.—Welcome to our Temple, strangers. Come with me and fear not, for we will safely guide you to our sacred Altars, and may the lessons there taught confirm your faith in God and strengthen your love for humanity.

Senior Deacon is on the left at end of line. Junior Deacon on the right at end of line. Guides offer right arm to candidates. Senior Deacon carries her staff in left hand, and Junior Deacon carries her staff in right hand. They march around the Temple to the Lecturer.

S. D.—Lecturer, we come to you for the Ancient Charge of the True Kindred.

Lecturer.—In the olden times, my friends, men and women thought deeply and seriously of such vows and promises as God will witness here tonight, and the same God who heard and blessed those who kept them and laid his curse upon those who trifled with them, is watching us tonight.

“It is a great peril and danger to your soul to forswear yourself upon the Book.

“A peril to the Soul; for he that breaketh his oath hath given his Soul to evil.”

He was thought unfit to live, and was cast out from his brethren to become scorned of all men. For forsworn meant absolute disgrace, degradation and oftentimes death.

Forsworn means to swear upon the Holy Bible to do certain things and then fail to do them; and this is just as grievous a wrong today as it was hundreds of years ago.

These be the charges that these men and women of ancient times “swore upon a book” to keep, and which we, as their successors are sworn to keep today:

Ye shall be true to each other and to God. Ye shall practice no treason.

Ye shall call each other sister or brother and no evil or unkind name.

Ye shall pay truly for all your food and raiment.

Ye shall not take any work or profit from each other, nor supplant each other in any way nor let one another suffer in their worldly goods through your actions.

Ye shall not slander others behind their backs to make them lose their good names, or their worldly goods.

Above all, ye shall keep counsel of all things spoken in your Temple, nor disclose any secret.

Ye shall attend your Conclave, if you receive warning of its assembly.

If ye find yourselves guilty of any wrong, strive to amend, lest failing, you disgrace your kindred.

These charges should be as sacredly kept by us today as they were of old, and I charge you that ye forget not that it is a great peril and danger to your soul to forswear yourself upon the Book.

Deacons conduct candidates around Temple to Vice Commander.

S. D.—Vice Commander, we seek your permission to proceed through the Temple.

V. C.—Travelers and friends, because of your Masonic kinship, you have my permission to proceed. I *gladly* direct you to greater achievements.

As you advance in self-denial, putting away hasty words, anger and wrong thoughts, filling your life with good acts and fraternal love, you will be better prepared to enter the great Temple not made with hands. Naamah was Tubal Cain's sister and the inventor of weaving. She had three brothers and these four were the founders of all crafts. From the beginning she was associated with them in all their arts, crafts and inventions. Miriam, sister of Moses, constructed his ark so skillfully that she saved his life, and with his mother made the ark plumb, level, square, arched and waterproof. Learn from these noble, self-reliant daughters of ancient times your responsibility and work in making the world better because you live, and earnestly strive to become worthy builders of the Temple of Justice, Truth and Right. We are in possession of certain secrets which are sacred to us, and must be kept sacred by all who are permitted to receive them. So we require an extremely solemn vow from you. This will not interfere with your duties to your family, your church, or your social position. Yet our vow, once taken, *must be sacredly kept*. If after learning this you desire to proceed, you will be conducted to the Altar of Love where the obligation will be administered to you. If not, you will be conducted to the outer court when you will be permitted to depart in peace.

Are you willing to unite with us in the building

of this spiritual Temple, and do you wish to obtain the mystic recognition of the T. K.? If so, answer, "I do."

Senior Deacon, you will conduct the candidates to the Altar, where the obligation will be given.

After the candidates have been placed in position, the Chaplain advances to her position at west side of Altar. W. C. calls up Conclave. Deacons escort the Worthy Commander to the Altar.

W. C.—You will say, "I," pronounce your name in full, and repeat after me the following obligation.

OBLIGATION

At close of obligation all members say:

"God keep them faithful to their trust."

Chap.—Let us pray.

Prayer:

We pray Thee, Almighty God, to witness these solemn promises, and strengthen these sisters (and brothers) to be forever faithful to Thee and loyal to us. Amen.

Members respond:

Amen.

Guides remove the W. B., hand them to Chaplain, who takes them with her to her station.

Chap.—Rise, my sister (and brothers).

Candidates rise.

Initiation ode.

(Tune, What a Friend We Have in Jesus.)

God, our Father, with us ever,

Thou hast heard our solemn vow!

Seal our lips that we may never
Break the promise given now.
Fill our hearts with love for others,
From our thoughts bid evil flee;
May our tongues be silent ever,
Save in love and sympathy.

Deacons escort Worthy Commander to dais, and then conduct candidates toward High Priest's station and to Worthy Past Commander.

S. D.—Worthy Past Commander, we would learn the narrative of this degree and its teachings.

W. P. C.—Sisters (and Brothers), the journey you have traveled through life is long compared with the journey you take in our Temple. You will here meet those who are loyal to Friendship and Kin; those who scorn the unworthy scandal-mongers, who look for the best there is in others and speak not of their faults and follies. Know ye that the narrative of Ruth and Boaz, the foundation and keystone of this degree, teaches us to cherish in our hearts the virtues of Fidelity, Faithfulness, Hospitality, True Love for God and one another. Ruth, after burying her husband, accompanied her mother-in-law into Bethlehem. Being destitute, she went to glean in the barley fields of Boaz. At noon, when the sun was high, she became tired and hungry, and sat down under a palm tree to rest. There alone, in all her modesty. Boaz saw her, and so attracted was he that he

reached her parched corn and she did eat. He afterwards married her, and King Solomon, the builder of the Temple, was a direct descendant of Ruth and Boaz. In building this temple he caused two large pillars to be erected in the porch, naming them Jachin, meaning "beauty," which represented Ruth, and Boaz, meaning "strength." Solomon represented Wisdom. So, my dear Kindred, we surround you with the representation of Wisdom, Strength and Beauty. Treasure them in your life while you like Ruth, gather wisdom from your kin. Walk in love with God, whose choicest blessings shall be yours. You will now proceed to the East, where our Worthy Commander will exhibit our most valued treasures.

Deacons conduct candidates past the High Priest, then east of Altar and march directly abreast to Worthy Commander's station.

S. D.—Worthy Commander, we seek the treasures of the T. K. at your altar.

W. C.—Dear Kindred, you come to me for that knowledge which is the privilege of only a few to receive. None but those who are deemed worthy by our committee, and who have assumed our obligations are so favored. I will now instruct you in the secret work.

Secret work.

W. C.—You will now listen to the advice of our Counselor.

Deacons conduct candidates around the Temple to the Counselor's station.

S. D.—Counselor, we present these new Kindred to receive your counsel and advice.

Coun.—Sisters (and Brothers), you no doubt have realized in your journey around this Temple that every act and word has been a lesson of wisdom for your good. You will also understand that the reason for your being D.O.A.S.J.A.O., before being permitted to enter our court, was to teach you the lesson of *equality*. In this Order we know no caste, for neither gold, elegant attire, or precious jewels form the stepping stones to membership. Individual worth is the only wealth recognized, while true merit, coupled with Chastity, Purity of Heart, Fraternal Love, and Open-handed Charity to all mankind are the jewels to be worn in actual service by all who enter the inner court of this Temple. Kindred, let these cardinal virtues govern your lives; Fortitude that you may resist temptation, Prudence that you may regulate your conduct by the dictates of reason, Temperance to govern your passion, and Justice, by which you must direct your duties toward all mankind. I now restore to you, your J's, and rejoice that you will follow the Great White Light.

Deacons conduct candidates around Temple to High Priest.

S. D.—High Priest, we come to you for the badge of this degree.

H. P.—My Sister (or Brother), I now present you with this ————. It is the symbol of the priceless jewels of Purity and Chastity. Never, as you value your vow, soil the one, nor cast aside the other. It is also the distinguished badge of the True Kindred.

Whatever of good or seeming ill the coming years may hold for you, we do not know, for we cannot read the future. We trust it may be your privilege to drink deeply at the "Fount of Inspiration," and so excel in all that you worthily undertake.

You may succeed in placing your name high above all others upon the scroll of Fame. Decorations of Merit and Jewels of Worth and Beauty may be yours, but even so, you would not be the proud possessor of the equal of that which you have just received.

Although possessing no real monetary value, yet, pause my sister (my brother), if tempted to think lightly of this our simple token. It has values that cannot be represented by gems or gold.

Emblematically within the warp and woof of this small piece of linen white, angel hands have woven innocence, purity, chastity and all the virtues with which mortal may be endowed. Let its

pure whiteness ever remind you of all that is good, true and ennobling.

May the color of its embroidered symbols impart to you a fervency and zeal in attaining all the graces bestowed by Love Divine.

And when the end of your pilgrimage draws nigh and your weary feet falter upon the river's brink, when you no longer find strength or skill within your palsied hands the Distaff still to use and hence must cease to weave the pattern of your Life's Design, then in the silence of the night, when comes the pale messenger of death, may the sweet consciousness be yours of having well wrought out in daily life the lessons of our Order, and spotless kept your badge of membership. May the Jewels of a pure and blameless life like rainbow hues illumine your spirit when it seeks admission to the Conclave Triumphant, whose members all, as Kindred True of the King of Glory, are bound by no ties but those of love and who will there accord to you the Royal Honors.

Deacons conduct candidates to Chaplain.

S. D.—Chaplain, we come to you for the Emblem of this degree.

Chap.—The Emblem of this degree is the ————. It is emblematic of woman's work, as the trowel is of man's. We are told that Naamah invented the art of weaving, but even before that she had used the ————, which is that part of the ancient spinning wheel which held the pr-

pared flax. From the ———— the flax was taken to the spindle and made into thread, fine or coarse, rough or smooth, according to the work of the spinner. This thread was used for warp and woof in the looms and the women wove fair white webs of linen of various designs. We use this emblem as a sign that we are willing workers for the good of humanity. Idleness palls upon a brave heart. Work comes to us as a wind visits a forest and stirs our faculties to greater activity. It puts a zest into life that awakens ambition. As we pass through this world we should never miss an opportunity to say a kind and encouraging word, help or protect our fellowman, share another's burden, soothe their sorrows and plant a loving thought, or twine a rose upon the terrace of tomorrow. May you, dear Kindred, earnestly strive

*"To weave in the web of life
A bright and golden filling,
And do God's Will with a heart sincere,
And hands that are brave and willing!"*

Deacons conduct candidates around hall to west of Chaplain's station, directly west of Altar and abreast to Vice Commander's station.

S. D.—Vice Commander, we seek an explanation of the Square and Compasses as used by the True Kindred.

V. C.—The Square and Compasses are symbols

of the oldest and grandest body of workers the world has ever known.

What they mean in all their fullness can never be known to any but those who have traveled the path, received the instruction, performed the work, made the demonstrations, and had the personal experiences. From the beginning to the end of our labors we are building the "Temple of Human Character" which is founded upon the solid rock of enduring Truth, and, when completed stands as a column of unfading light to illumine the pathway of life to all who travel that way. Try to gain the full knowledge of our beautiful teachings by practical work in our Order.

Senior Deacon, you will conduct these new Kindred to the Secretary's desk that their names may be enrolled with those of the H. H. O. T. F. and thence to the Worthy Commander for final instruction.

Deacons conduct candidates past High Priest to Secretary; then around Temple again to the Worthy Commander.

S. D.—Worthy Commander, we are now prepared for your final instructions.

W. C.—Dear Kindred, you have tonight taken a solemn vow that binds you to us for life.

For life you have sworn to be true to us in thought, word and deed; to look for, and to speak

only, of the good that is in each one of us, be it, much or little.

To be a friend, nay more, a True Kindred in all that the name implies.

From this day forth, new principles, principles and precepts that may not easily be practiced, must enter into your life.

A guard must be placed upon your lips, for a silent and truthful tongue must be yours.

A clean life is demanded of you; and above all, remember that while you wear the True Kindred emblem, that bears the Square and Compasses, you are not to enter any place, speak any word, or commit any act that would cause your True Kindred to blush for you.

Remember, that from this day forth, we are your true friends, proud of your good repute, rejoicing in your good fortune, ready to shield your name from any aspersion that may be cast upon it, and aid you, when needed, as far as our ability permits.

Be worthy of our trust, learn the secret meaning of our beautiful Order, and above all, show in word and deed, that the mystic tie that binds you to us is the most honorable link in the chain of your life.

May God keep you faithful to your trust, and may the unseen hand bestow naught but blessings upon you and yours!

Senior Deacon, you will retire with our new Kindred and enter with the usual formalities.

Deacons conduct candidates to the Chaplain's station, then west of Altar, face west and walk to the Vice Commander's station, then to the door. Guides do not leave the room, but walk by way of V. C.'s station to Altar and separate to their seats.

Deacons and candidates give proper signals, and the Inner Guard reports in the usual manner.

I. G.—Vice Commander, Sisters (and Brothers) of this Conclave with the pass.

V. C.—Admit all, if correct.

Deacons and candidates enter in single file by way of High Priest to Altar, salute, Senior Deacon seats candidates in North-East corner of Temple.

Custodian presents token. Leaves her station as Deacons ground their staffs. When she reaches candidate, says:

Custodian.—Sisters, accept from us as your True Kindred the emblem of hospitality extended to the gentle and humble R———— as she sat alone in the barley fields of B————.

(S. W.).

When Custodian reaches her station and is seated, Senior Deacon says: "We will now Listen to the Advisor's lecture." Deacons are then seated beside the candidates without a gavel.

ADVISOR'S LECTURE

My Sisters and Brothers:

As a member of the True Kindred you will be entitled to all the rights, benefits and privileges that go with membership in this splendid fraternity.

In your True Kindred experience you are the captain of your own destiny. The amount of satisfaction you will derive rests solely with yourself. The rendition and interpretation of our sublime ritual and ceremonies may well inspire your greatest efforts. Its social and fraternal contacts will bring you happiness and add to the joy of living. But the greatest of all, it will afford you the opportunity of giving expression to your charitable impulses.

You have taken the first step. There remain the Heroine of Jericho and the Good Samaritan degrees, in which you will find further opportunity for progress in the True Kindred philosophy of life.

You must always remember that we owe our existence and inspiration to the Masonic Fraternity, which from time immemorial has stood for Justice and Equality among men, and has taught, by precept and example, the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Its record is unblemished and the lustre of its achievements undimmed. Membership in the True Kindred imposes on you the solemn obligation to so conduct yourself that Free Masonry may never suffer or be disgraced by any act of yours.

And now, may the God of our Fathers let the light of His countenance shine upon you and bless

you, and bless the work of your hands. May your labors be fruitful and bring you satisfaction and the joy that passeth all understanding, so that when the time shall come, when with faltering steps you descend the Western Slope, towards the setting sun with the shadows lengthening behind you traveling onward to that land from whose bourne no traveler returns, you may pause near the end of the day, and look back over the pathway you have trod, and see the road lined with good deeds, with kindly thoughts and with happy memories. That, my friends, is all that matters. Wealth, Honors and Titles will all fade into oblivion. A friendly spirit dispenses kindness wherever it goes, and the memory of it lives forever; and a life spent on this earth, spreading sunshine and gladness, will obtain all the reward there is to be had, beyond the veil.

Advisor returns to his station and is seated. Deacons rise and walk to altar. Senior Deacon places right hand, palm upwards on Bible and says:

S. D.—Worthy Commander, I now declare (giving names) fully instructed in the mysteries of the True Kindred degree, and duly initiated into _____ Conclave No. _____ True Kindred, State (or Province) of _____.

Worthy Commander closes initiation with gavel.

INSTITUTING A CONCLAVE

At the opening of this meeting the Worthy Grand Commander presides. If not under Grand Jurisdiction, the Worthy Supreme Commander, or her Deputy presides. Meeting is called to order, an address of welcome is given by the presiding officer. Instituting Officer is introduced and handed the gavel by the presiding officer. Any member having due authority from the Worthy Supreme Commander to institute a Conclave shall be addressed as "Deputy Supreme Commander." If the commission is received from the Worthy Grand Commander, the title of the Instituting Officer shall be "Deputy Grand Commander."

(This ceremony is written for the instituting of a Conclave by the Worthy Grand Commander. Titles may be changed to fit occasion.)

The Worthy Grand Commander, having previously asked the necessary officers to assist her, will assume her station and will give one blow of the gavel.

W. G. C.—I have the pleasure to appoint as my assistants in the work of Instituting, Sister _____, as Grand Secretary; Sister _____, as Grand Chaplain; Sister _____, as Grand Marshal; Sister _____, as Grand Senior Deacon; Sister _____, as Grand Junior Deacon; Sister _____, as Grand Inner Guard; Sister _____, as Grand Outer Guard, and Sister _____, as Grand Organist, who will assume their stations.

If Instituting Officer is a Deputy, she now asks the Grand Secretary to read her commission.

W. G. C.—Grand Marshal, you will prove all those present and report.

No one is allowed in the room except members of the Order and the signers of the petition for the new Conclave.

Grand Marshal at the altar, says:

G. M.—All is sife.

An address may be given here.

W. G. C.—Grand Secretary, you will call the names of the petitioners for this Conclave, who, as their names are called will rise and form a semi-circle west of the Altar.

When all are in position the Grand Marshal will say:

G. M.—Worthy Grand Commander, I have the pleasure of presenting to you these petitioners who, entertaining a favorable opinion of our ancient institution, desire to receive the True Kindred degree, and we find them eligible and worthy to become members of this Conclave.

W. G. C.—Have each of you signed the dispensation to organize this Conclave which we are about to Institute?

Answer:

I have.

W. G. C.—If the dispensation be granted, will you pledge yourselves to obey the rules and regulations of the Order, and work diligently and consistently for the *Good* of the Order?

Answer:

I will.

W. G. C.—Will you conscientiously and faithfully perform the duties of any office to which you may be elected?

Answer:

I will.

W. G. C.—Do you believe in a Supreme Being, in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the immortality of the Soul?

Answer:

I do.

W. G. C.—My friends, the satisfactory answers you have given these questions assure us of your earnest desire to practice the principles and precepts of our Order, but, before allowing you to advance, it is my duty to warn you of what will be required. Our doors are closed to traitors, tale-bearers and evil-does. We require solemn obligations from you, and a vow taken in this Temple must be sacredly kept. Your tongue must remain silent and your lips sealed. Violation of your vow merits expulsion. If, after this explanation, you do not care to remain—depart in peace. If you still desire to unite with us—you will kneel around our sacred Altar and assume our obligation.

W. C. calls up Conclave.
Obligation, prayer and ode will be given as an initiation ceremony.

W. G. C.—You will now be conducted to the Secretary's desk, where you will sign your name and address as a member of this Conclave, after which you will resume your seats.

Officers are now installed as briefly as possible. At conclusion of the Installation Ceremony the Grand Installing Officer will say:

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, you will now proclaim this Conclave instituted and its officers installed.

Grand Marshal places left hand palm upward on open Bible, raises right hand, and says:

In the name of the Grand Conclave and by order of the Worthy Grand Commander, I now declare _____ Conclave U. D. duly instituted and the officers installed according to our laws.

Grand Marshal closes the Book and places it on the Chaplains pedestal.

W. G. C.—The officers of _____ Conclave have been selected to exemplify the True Kindred degree. Will these officers retire and open a Conclave in regular form?

INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

The installation ceremonies may be performed in public. The Installing Officer must be the Worthy Supreme

Commander, a Past Worthy Supreme Commander, a Worthy Grand Commander, a Past Worthy Grand Commander or a Past Worthy Commander. The first officers of a new Conclave must be installed by the Worthy Grand Commander or her Deputy. In States where a Grand Conclave has not yet been organized the first officers must be installed by the Worthy Supreme Commander or her Deputy.

If the Worthy Supreme Commander presides, the Marshal, Chaplain, and Organist will be Supreme Marshal, etc. If the Worthy Grand Commander presides, the Marshal, Chaplain, and Organist will be Grand Marshal, etc. If a Past Worthy Commander presides, she will be addressed as Worthy Commander and the assisting officers will have Sister or Brother affixed to their titles.

The officers' regalia and the open Bible should be on the Altar before the Assembly is called to order.

The Worthy Commander calls the meeting to order, and appoints and introduces the Mistress of Ceremonies, who says:

M. of C.—Sisters, Brothers and friends, on behalf of _____ Conclave of True Kindred, I extend to you a most cordial welcome to this, our public Installation. We trust that you may glean from our beautiful ceremonies some knowledge of our aims and purposes, and we pray that the blessings of Fraternity, Truth and Charity, the foundation principles of our Order, may rest like a benediction upon your daily lives.

Senior and Junior Deacons, you will escort the Installing Officers into our Temple.

Deacons rise, and accompanied by Worthy Commander, walk on square to Altar, thence to Vice Commander's station and to door of preparation room.

Senior and Junior Deacons escort the Grand Installing Officer, and Grand Marshal and Chaplain follow.

Senior Deacons will introduce the Grand Installing Officer, and Grand Marshal, and the Junior Deacon will introduce Grand Chaplain. M. of C. may welcome these officers in her own words, then say:

M. of C.—Senior and Junior Deacons, you will escort the Installing Officers to their stations.

Deacons escort the Grand Installing Officer to the East, return on square to Altar, and Senior Deacon escorts the Grand Marshal to Senior Deacon's chair and Junior Deacon escorts the Grand Chaplain to Chaplain's chair. Then Deacons return to Altar, placing staffs on either side of Altar, then take their seats on side (or retire if to be installed). M. of C. introduces G. I. O.*

*If the Installation is public, an address may be given on the history and purpose of the Order.

G. I. O.—It gives me great pleasure to have as my assistant Sister _____, as Grand Marshal; Sister _____, as Grand Chaplain, and Sister _____, as Grand Organist. Grand Marshal, you will invite the officers-elect to enter our Temple.

The chairs have been previously placed in straight lines between Altar and Vice Commander's station. Officers march in and are seated.

G. I. O.—Sisters, Brothers and Friends, we are assembled here tonight to install the Officers

who have been elected and appointed to serve this Conclave for the ensuing year, but, before proceeding to invest them with authority, we desire to pay our tribute of love and honor to those whose services during the past year deserve this just recognition.

To the Officers:

G. I. O.—Sisters and Brothers, for the past twelve months you have performed your duty to this Conclave faithfully and well. Through your earnest efforts and unswerving loyalty, our Order has steadily advanced and you have, indeed, earned the reward of the faithful. Having borne the mantle of responsibility and learned the difficulties that lie before us in the advancement of our noble cause, we are assured that you will be able advisors and staunch helpers in the unknown future, and on memory's beautiful walls there is a place dedicated to each of you.

NOTE: G. I. O. means Grand Installing Officer. G. M. means Grand Marshal.

G. I. O.—Worthy Commander, are all things in readiness for the Installation of these newly elected officers?

Worthy Commander arises when addressed.

W. C.—They are, Grand Installing Officer.

G. I. O.—That we may not be unmindful that a Father's love is ever over us and that we are daily guided by Divine power, I would ask our

Grand Chaplain to approach the Altar and reverently ask God's blessing upon our deliberations.
Chaplain approaches Altar. G. I. O. gives * * *
Prayer:

Chap.—God of Our Fathers, the same yesterday, today and forever, we thank Thee for the privileges we enjoy of meeting together in Thy name and learning lessons of fidelity and love from Thy Holy Word. We ask Thy blessing to rest upon this Conclave and these officers now about to be installed. May they realize the binding obligation of their vows—their duties and responsibilities! As the light of the rising sun in the East disperses the darkness and chill of the night, so may jealousy, contention and selfishness be driven away by the virtues of Fraternity, Truth and Charity.

May Thy presence ever abide with us that we may become builders on the imperishable temple of Wisdom and Love, that our joy may be full now and forever more. Amen.

Seats Conclave.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, you will call the roll of officers-elect; who will arise and remain in their positions.

Grand Marshal calls roll of officers.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, the officers-elect are before you and await your instructions.

Calls up Conclave.

G. I. O.—You will place your right hand over your heart and repeat after me the obligation.

Obligation:

In the presence of Almighty God and these witnesses here assembled, I solemnly pledge, on my honor, to perform the duties devolving upon me while an Officer of this Conclave, according to my ability and strength. I promise to obey the By-Laws of this Conclave, together with those of the Supreme and Grand Conclaves, and strive earnestly to keep my True Kindred vow.

Conclave is seated.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, present the Worthy Commander-elect.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I have the honor to present Sister _____, who has been elected to the responsible position of Worthy Commander of this Conclave for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—My Sister, as Worthy Commander, you are the presiding Officer of this Conclave, and as you have received the highest honor, so upon you rests the greatest responsibility. It is to you, above all others, that we look for that peace and harmony which is essential to our growth and prosperity. May it be your constant aim to so illustrate the virtues of Fraternity, Truth and Charity in your own life, that others may see

your good works, and emulate your noble example! The gavel is your emblem of authority, and as no True Kindred will disobey its call, I admonish you to use it wisely and well. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our sister with the regalia of her office and conduct her to her station in the East.

Calls up Conclave.

Hands gavel to new Worthy Commander.

G. I. O.—Sisters and Brothers of _____ Conclave, I now present to you your Worthy Commander. You will salute her with the proper honors.

Worthy Commander seats Conclave.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, present the Worthy Past Commander.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I have the honor and pleasure to present Sister _____ to be installed as the Worthy Past Commander of this Conclave.

G. I. O.—The title of Worthy Past Commander signifies that you have served this Conclave in its highest office and that you are now prepared, out of your experience, to assist not only our Worthy Commander, but every member of the Conclave. May you give this assistance in the spirit of Love and Charity. You will receive as a badge of distinction a Past Worthy Commander's jewel and let it remind you to keep unsullied the record you have made. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our sister with the regalia of her office, and conduct her to her station at the left of the Worthy Commander.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, you will present the Counselor-elect.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I have the pleasure to present Sister _____, who has been elected Counselor of this Conclave for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—My Sister, yours is a position requiring much wisdom and caution. You should be a faithful assistant and have a correct knowledge of our By-Laws and be ready and willing to give your advice whenever it is solicited by your Worthy Commander.

G. M. gives Book of Laws.

G. I. O.—The book of laws is your authority. Let it remind you to be obedient to law and order, and extend true Justice to others. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our sister with the regalia of her office and conduct her to her station at the right of the Worthy Commander.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, present the Vice Commander-elect.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I have the pleasure to present Sister _____, who has been elected Vice Commander of this Conclave for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—My Sister, you are to preside in the West, see that the Guards are at their posts, and assist in preserving the Harmony and Decorum

of the Temple, so that the dignity of the East may find a fitting reflection in your earnestness and zeal.

G. M. gives Square and Compasses.

G. I. O.—The Square and Compasses are the emblems entrusted to you and should so assist in maintaining the high standard of the True Kindred that the Masonic Brethren will not regret our relationship to them. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our Sister with the regalia of her office and conduct her to her station in the West.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, present the High Priest-elect.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I have the pleasure to present Sister _____, who has been elected High Priest of this Conclave for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—My Sister, the most sacred and tender duties of our Conclave have been given to you. Truly have we learned "That into each life sorrow must sometime come," and it is your duty to speak words of comfort to those who mourn, directing their thoughts in Faith and Love to "Him who doeth all things well," so that at last they may be able to say, "Weeping endureth for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

"There is no flock, however watched and tended,

But one dead lamb is there!

There is no fireside, howso e'er defended,

But has one vacant chair."

It is also your duty to supervise and direct our burial services when desired.

May strength from above be yours as you thus minister unto others, and help us to remember the sacred vows we have taken.

G. M. gives D_____.

G. I. O.—Your emblem is the d_____ and may it remind you that, when sorrow pierces the heart like a dagger, there is need of human sympathy and help. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our Sister with the regalia of her office and conduct her to her station in the South.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, present the Secretary-elect.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I take pleasure in presenting Sister (or Brother) _____, who has been elected Secretary of this Conclave for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—My Sister, it devolves upon you to keep a correct and impartial record of the business of the meetings, collect and pay over to the Treasurer all money due the Conclave, receive and answer promptly and courteously all correspondence, and forward to the Grand Secretary the annual reports.

Your duties are arduous, and your responsibility great, but upon your efficient faithfulness largely depends the welfare of your Conclave.

G. M. gives Pen and Seal.

G. I. O.—Your symbol of office is the pen and seal, and should remind you that when rightly used “the pen is mightier than the sword.” Grand Marshal, you will clothe our Sister with the regalia of her office and conduct her to her station in the South-East.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, present the Treasurer-elect.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I have the pleasure to present Sister _____, who has been elected Treasurer of this Conclave for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—My Sister (or Brother), the funds of this Conclave are about to be entrusted to your care and it speaks well for the confidence thus reposed in you. So conduct yourself in your position that it will bring to you both honor and gratitude.

G. M. gives keys.

G. I. O.—The keys are your emblems of office and remind you to guard well your trust, so that unworthy or dishonest motives may not be imputed to you. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our Sister with the regalia of her office and conduct her to her station in the North-East.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, present the Chaplain-elect.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I have the pleasure to present Sister _____, who has been elected Chaplain of this Conclave for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—My Sister, the duties of your office are of a Scriptural nature. You have been selected to so lead us in our devotions that we shall ever remember our dependence upon the source of all Wisdom and Love, and “so live that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts may be acceptable in His sight who is our strength and our Redeemer.”

G. M. gives Bible.

G. I. O.—The Bible is the symbol of your office, and may it ever be as a light to your feet and a guide to your pathway. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our Sister with the regalia of her office and conduct her to her station in the North.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, you will present the Advisors.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I take pleasure in presenting Brother _____ and Brother _____, who have been chosen to fill the offices of Advisor and Deputy Advisor for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—My Brother, as Advisor it is your duty to assist the Worthy Commander on all matters pertaining to the betterment of the Order and to see that all applicants for admission are legally entitled to enter. You will also give your advice on any matter relative to our ceremonies when requested to do so by your Worthy Commander.

Deputy Advisor, it is your duty to officiate in the absence of the Advisor and assist him at all times when necessary, or when requested to do so. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our Brothers with the regalia of their office and conduct them to their stations in the North-West and South-West of this Temple.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, you will present the Senior and Junior Deacons-elect.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I have the honor to present Sister _____ and Sister _____ who have been elected to fill the offices of Senior and Junior Deacons for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—My Sisters, to you belongs the honor of introducing and directing the candidates who seek to understand the teachings of the True Kindred, and of receiving all who come as our guests. It is incumbent upon you to be faithful, courteous and kind, so that visitors and candidates will alike be impressed with the beauty and solemnity of our work.

G. M. gives staffs.

G. I. O.—The staffs are the symbols of your office, and may they serve you on life's pathway, as a support when weary and a guide to higher and better knowledge. Grand Marshal, you will clothe these Sisters with the regalia of their office and conduct them to their stations.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, you will present the Guards.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I have the honor to present Sister _____ and Sister _____, who have been appointed to serve as Inner and Outer Guards for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—My sisters, it is your Duty to guard the inner and outer doors, and see that no interruption mars the peace of our inner Temple. Faithful Guards are ever watchful and cautious. They open the doors of the inner Court only to worthy members and visitors who have been accorded permission by the Vice Commander.

G. M. gives sword to Outer Guard.

G. I. O.—Outer Guard, the sword is your symbol of office and signifies security and protection. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our Sisters with the regalia of their office, and conduct them to their stations at the door of our Temple.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, you will present the Organist.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I take pleasure in presenting Sister _____, who has been appointed Organist for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—Sister Organist, yours is a most important position. Strains of sweet melody bring harmony out of discord, drive away bitter and contentious feelings, cheer sad hearts, and make our Conclave meetings pleasant and agreeable. It is your duty to be present, if possible at all sessions, so that our ceremonies may not be lacking in beauty and impressiveness. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our Sister with the regalia of her office and conduct her to her station.

G. I. O.—Grand Marshal, you will present the Lecturer and Custodian.

G. M.—Grand Installing Officer, I take pleasure in presenting Sister _____, who has been appointed Lecturer, and Sister _____, who has been appointed Custodian, for the ensuing year.

G. I. O.—Sister Lecturer, yours is a position of much honor and dignity, for to you is entrusted the first lesson given to those who seek the paths of Wisdom and Righteousness. May you so conduct yourself in the affairs of life as to be a living example of that most ancient and Holy charge.

Sister Custodian, yours is no light task. You are to have charge of the paraphernalia, and all property of the Conclave used in the Temple room. You must see that the Regalia, Jewels and emblems are in their proper places at each meeting, and that they are cared for at the close of the session. You will be held responsible for their safe keeping when not in use, and must give a correct account of all supplies at the end of your term of office. You are privileged to call upon the Deacons for assistance when needed. Grand Marshal, you will clothe our Sisters with the regalia of their office and conduct them to their stations.

G. I. O.—Sisters, Brothers and Friends, an organization of any nature whatsoever, means that only the few can be chosen to rule, while the many must submit and obey. You have by your free ballot selected these officers to serve you, and I have installed them into their several stations. I am fully persuaded that not one of them will exceed the authority that you have given into their hands nor violate the solemn obligation they have taken. As you enter together upon a new year, I pray that your lives will be lives of service and your work successful and harmonious.

We are the True Kindred, the wives, widows, mothers, daughters, sisters, granddaughters and blood nieces of Master Masons, linked to them

by this beautiful Order, not to desire or expect undue privileges from our Masonic Brothers, but to offer our help in every loving service they render to humanity, care for those in sorrow or distress, clothe the friendless babes and orphans and so broaden our hearts and minds that the tongue will be ever silent, save to comfort and bless. We feel that this is a purpose so worthy that the best and noblest can unite with us. We ask your cooperation and encouragement as we labor faithfully in this part of the Master's Vineyard, for

*"We cannot hope to be Mrowers
And gather the bright golden ears,
Until we have first been sowers,
And watered the furrows with tears.*

*It is not just as we take it,
This mystical world of ours;
Life's field will yield as we make it,
A harvest of thorns or of flowers."*

G. I. O.—Worthy Commander of _____
Conclave No. _____, you will now have charge of the charter, it is now my pleasure to entrust to your keeping this gavel, which I hope in your hands will be truly an emblem of love, as well as authority. Although it will be necessary to wield it with firmness, let all your decisions be tempered

with justice and kindness, and may it be your daily prayer, like Solomon of old, for Wisdom and strength from above.

Worthy Commander calls up Conclave.

Grand Marshal, you will declare the officers of this Conclave duly installed.

G. M. By order of the Grand Installing Officer and of the Grand Conclave, I declare the officers of _____ Conclave duly installed for the ensuing year.

CONSTITUTION CEREMONY

The Worthy Grand (or Supreme) Commander, or her Deputy, calls the meeting to order and appoints her assistants. Deacons take pass.

The Worthy Grand Commander calls on the Secretary to read the report of the Instructor and of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations.

(If a Deputy presides, her commission as such should be read before the reports.)

W. G. C.—Sisters and Brothers, in the name of the Grand Conclave, True Kindred of _____, and in accordance with these recommendations, I now constitute you as a regular Conclave of True Kindred. Henceforth you will be known as _____ Conclave No. _____ True Kindred of _____.

I now present to you this Charter which you will keep exposed to view within the Temple during each meeting of the conclave. This seal must be used to authenticate documents and is to be in the conclave room at every stated meeting.

The officers will now retire to be installed, after which you will assume your full duties as a chartered conclave, and may the Supreme Ruler of the Universe prosper, direct and counsel you in all your doings.

(Installation)

Marshal declares Conclave constituted and officers installed.

BURIAL SERVICES

The Worthy Commander stands at the head of the casket with the Counselor on her right and the Worthy Past Commander on her left. The Vice Commander stands at the foot of the casket with Inner and Outer Guards on either side. Senior and Junior Deacons stand on either side of head with grounded staffs. High Priest stands at the right and the Chaplain at the left of the casket. The members present stand in line on either side.

H. P.—Dear Kindred, in obedience to the demands of love and duty we are gathered today to pay the last tribute of respect to our Sister, who has answered to the roll call of the Supreme Conclave on high. "There is no death, for they on whose brow has been set the seal of everlasting peace, who live enshrined in hearts and minds, are but at rest." Resting sweetly in the promises

of Him who giveth us the Victory over sorrow, pain and loss, we know that in the City of our God we shall meet our loved ones yet again.

*'Tis a wonderful land just over there
And close to the beautiful gate,
With joyous faces and outstretched hands,
Your loved ones and mine doth wait.*

So may we not for a little while trust the soul of our Sister to our Fathers tender care?

Solo: "When They Ring Those Golden Bells," or other appropriate music.

W. C.—Sister Secretary, you will at this time read the scroll prepared in memory of our departed Sister.

Here the Secretary reads memorial.

W. C.—In this solemn hour with hearts in tune with the infinite let us make this a service of commemoration and remembrance, rather than one of sorrow, but for those who grieve, and who at this hour summon the memory of the dear one gone before, the heart of our Order everywhere throbs and vibrates with sympathy and love.

"We think of death as a flower, Nature's most beautiful handiwork, that having shed its fragrance and beauty, casts its seeds, only to bud and bear its bloom again." Though our loved ones

have passed from us, the sweet incense of their lives remains. We place them not in the Chambers of forgetfulness, for what we truly love cannot be lost or forgotten.

*“Just a little while and the tears that stray,
Down our faces now, God will wipe away,
And the bitter pain and the wanderings lone,
And will surely end at the Father’s throne.
Just a little while—let us work and wait,
Till our Father’s hand opens wide the gate,
And we hear His voice sweetly bid us come
Evermore to dwell with God at home.
Just a little while; it won’t be long.
Courage, faint heart! Let your faith be strong.”*

Coun.—We mourn not as those who have no hope, for as we say a last sad farewell we hear the loving words of our Savior, as He says, “Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Sisters and Brothers, believing truly in the Immortality of the soul, I would ask you to join me in the expression of love and faith.

Each member lays right hand over heart, extends it toward the casket and says:

In God we trust. Farewell.

W. P. C.—In token of our Sister’s faithfulness to the principles we teach, I place above her still and pulseless heart this apron and these emblems of our Order, which in life she wore with honor to herself and love for her companions.

Chap.—Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, our only help in time of trouble, be near to us in this hour of deep affliction. A dear one has gone from our midst, and we are indeed sorrowful. As Thou art ever pitiful and tender, we beseech Thee to pour the richness of Thy love and mercy into the hearts of those who are so sadly bereaved. Sustain them by Thy grace, and direct their sorrowing hearts from the gloom of death to the glory of the resurrection. Help us, O Lord, while sojourning here to so live in the spirit of Mercy, Truth and Love that we shall be found worthy of Eternal fellowship with Thee.

The following service at the grave, or at the house, if members do not go to the grave:

H. P.—As our Sister in her lifetime endeavored to scatter the blossoms of kindness and helpfulness along the pathway of others so do we scatter these flowers of nature in her casket as a token of our affection for her, and our faith in God’s promises to the children of men.

High Priest places flower in casket (while soloist may sing appropriate music).

W. C.—Our Sister hears not our words of love and praise, and sees not our tribute of flowers, but may we not hope that out of the lessons of this hour will come an admonition to the living, a lesson that will come as a still, small voice, bidding us to be more tender and kind while yet there is time, that no measure of regret may darken our future years, for

*“Closed eyes cannot see the white roses,
Cold hands cannot hold them, you know;
Breath that is stilled cannot gather
The Odors that sweet from them blow.
What to dulled ears are kind sayings?
What to hushed heart is deep cry?
Life is the time to help others,
So be kind lest your chance passeth by.”*

Let us unite in paying the last honors to our beloved Sister.

All members cross the arms with open palms upon the breast, left over right, raise both hands above head, then drop the arms, and extend them toward the grave. Then cross the arms over the breast as before, bend low and say slowly and together.

Farewell!

V. C.—May the blessing of Almighty God be with us as we consign to Mother Earth the body of our Companion and friend. May the lesson of this hour bind us more closely to each other and to Thee. May the principles of our Order be so exemplified in our daily lives that we, too, shall be ready when the final summons comes.

And now, may the spirit of Peace and Love rest and abide with us now and for evermore —
Amen!