

The
Law of Freemasonry
in North Dakota

containing the

Ancient Charges and Regulations, Landmarks, Constitution,
Bylaws, Standing Resolutions and Approved Decisions

of the

**Grand Lodge A \ F \ & A \ M **
of North Dakota

NINTH EDITION

Revised, Edited and Arranged by Committee Consisting of
M.: W.: B.: Gerald M. Skogley, PGM, W.: B.: Robert E. Nygaard
and W.: B.: Robert O. Darling

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE GRAND LODGE
1981

NOTE—PREVIOUS EDITION

The first edition of the Code of the Grand Lodge was compiled by R. W. Brother Thomas J. Wilder, Grand Secretary 1890-92. The next two were edited by M. W. Brother Frank J. Thompson, Grand Secretary 1892-1910. The third followed the revision made by M. W. Brothers John F. Selby, George L. McGregor, Robert M. Carothers and Frank J. Thompson. The fourth edition was compiled in 1916 by M. W. Brother Walter J. Stockwell, Grand Secretary 1910-1950, the revision having been made by a committee consisting of M. W. Brothers Sylvester J. Hill, Louis A. Jacobson, Grant S. Hager, Frank H. Sprague and Walter L. Stockwell. The fifth edition was a revision prepared by Walter H. Murfin, Past Grand Master, Edward A. Ripley, Past Grand Master and John A. Stormon. The sixth edition was merely a recompilation of our laws with such amendments as had been adopted since 1928 and was prepared by a committee consisting of Walter H. Murfin, John A. Stormon and Walter L. Stockwell. The seventh edition was a recompilation of our laws with such amendments as have been adopted since 1939 and was prepared by a special committee consisting of Past Grands Walter H. Murfin, Charles M. Pollock and Rilie R. Morgan. The eighth edition was a revision which included such amendments adopted since 1954 and was prepared by a committee consisting of Past Grand Master J. Marlin Kyle, Brothers Theodore W. Settee and Frank Richards. Brother Kyle passed on during this period and Brother Robert V. Wells was appointed to fill the vacancy. The work of the committee as adopted at the 1965 Grand Lodge session.

FORWARD

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Ninth Edition

The ninth edition of the Grand Lodge Code is a complete revision of the Constitution and Bylaws, including such amendments as have been adopted since 1965 through 1981. A committee consisting of Past Grand Master Gerald M. Skogley and Right Worshipful Brothers Robert E. Nygaard and Robert O. Darling was appointed and charged to make a careful and complete study of the code and submit their recommendations to the Policy and General Purposes Committee. The Policy and General Purposes Committee approved the recommended revision. The Grand Secretary was directed to have copies of the proposed change printed and sent to the constituent lodges and the Jurisprudence Committee for study prior to the convening of Grand Lodge. The Code revision committee next presented their proposed revision to the Jurisprudence Committee at Grand Lodge. Following an in depth review of the proposed revision the Jurisprudence Committee recommended its passage at the Grand Lodge session.

The work of the committee was so thorough and complete that the changes were adopted at the 1981 Grand Lodge Communication without a dissenting vote.

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ANCIENT CONSTITUTIONS

CHARGES OF A FREEMASON

Extracted from

THE ANCIENT RECORDS OF LODGES BEYOND SEA, AND OF THOSE IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND, FOR THE USE OF THE LODGES IN LONDON: TO BE READ AT THE MAKING OF NEW BRETHREN, OR WHEN THE MASTER SHALL ORDER IT.

THE GENERAL HEADS, viz.:

- I. Of God and Religion.
- II. Of the Civil Magistrate, supreme and subordinate.
- III. Of Lodges.
- IV. Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices.
- V. Of the Management of the Craft in working.
- VI. Of Behavior, viz.:
 1. In the Lodge while constituted.
 2. After the Lodge is over and the Brethren not gone.
 3. When Brethren meet without Strangers, but not in a Lodge.
 4. In Presence of Strangers not Masons.
 5. At Home and in the Neighborhood.
 6. Towards a strange Brother.

I. Concerning God and Religion

A Mason is obliged, by his Tenure, to obey the moral Law; and if he rightly understands the Art, he will never be a stupid Atheist nor an irreligious Libertine. But though in ancient Times Masons were charg'd in every Country to be of the Religion of that Country or Nation, whatever it was, yet 'tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that Religion in which all Men agree, leaving their particular Opinions to themselves; that is, to be good Men and true, or Men of Honor and Honesty, by whatever Denominations or Persuasions they may be distinguish'd; whereby Masonry becomes the Center of Union, and the means of conciliating true Friendship among Persons that must have remain'd at a perpetual Distance.

II. Of the Civil Magistrate, supreme and subordinate.

A Mason is a peaceable Subject to the Civil Powers, wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concern'd in Plots and Conspiracies against the Peace and Welfare of the Nation, nor to behave himself undutifully to inferior Magistrates; for as Masonry hath been always injured by War, Bloodshed and Confusion, so ancient Kings and Princes have been much dispos'd to encourage the Craftsmen, because of their Peaceableness and Loyalty, whereby they practically answer'd the Cavils of their Adversaries, and promoted the Honor of the Fraternity, who ever flourish'd in Times of Peace. So that if a Brother should be a Rebel against the State, he is not to be countenanc'd in his Rebellion, however he may be pitied as an unhappy Man; and, if convict'd of no other Crime, though the loyal Brotherhood must and ought to disown his Rebellion, and give no Umbrage or Ground of political Jealousy to the Government for the time being, they cannot expel him from the Lodge, and his relation to it remains indefeasible.

III. Of Lodges

A Lodge is a Place where Masons assemble and work: Hence that Assembly, or duly organiz'd Society of Masons is called a Lodge, and every Brother ought to belong to one, and to be subject to its By Laws and the General Regulations. It is either particular or general, and will be best understood by attending it, and by the Regulations of the General or Grand Lodge here-unto annex'd. In ancient Times, no Master or Fellow could be absent from it, especially when warn'd to appear at it, without incurring a severe Censure, until it appear'd to the Master and Wardens that pure necessity hinder'd him.

The Persons admitted Members of a Lodge must be good and true Men, free-born, and of mature and discreet Age, no Bondsmen, no Women, no immoral or scandalous Men, but of good Report.

IV. Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices.

All Preferment among Masons is grounded upon real Worth and personal Merit only; that so the Lords may be well served, the Brethren not put to Shame, nor the Ryald Craft Despis'd; Therefore no Master or Warden is chosen by Seniority, but for Merit. It is impossible to describe these things in Writing, and every Brother must attend in his Place, and learn them in a Way peculiar to this Fraternity: Only Candidates may know that no Master should take an Apprentice unless he has sufficient Employment for him, and unless he be a perfect Youth, having no Maim or Defect in his Body, that may render him incapable of learning the Art of serving his Master's Lord, and of being made a Brother, and then a Fellow-Craft in due Time, even after he has served such a Term of Years as the Custom of the Country directs; and that he should be descended of honest Parents that so, when otherwise qualifi'd, he may arrive to the Honor of being the Warden, and then the Master of the Lodge, the Grand Warden, and at length the Grand Master of all the Lodges, according to his Merit.

No Brother can be a Warden until he has pass'd the part of a Fellow-Craft; nor a Master until he has acted as a Warden, nor Grand Warden until he has been Master of a Lodge, nor Grand Master unless he has been a Fellow-Craft before his Election, who is also to be nobly born, or a Gentleman of the best Fashion, or some eminent Scholar, or some curious Architect, or other Artist, descend'd of honest Parents, and who is of singular great Merit in the Opinion of the Lodges. And for the better and easier, and more honorable Discharge of his Office, the Grand Master has the Power to choose his own Deputy Grand Master, who must be then, or must have been formerly, the Master of a particular Lodge, and has the privilege of acting whatever the Grand Master, his Principal, should act, unless the said Principal be present, or interpose his Authority by a Letter.

These Rulers and Governors, supreme and subordinate, of the ancient Lodge, are to be obeyed in their respective Stations by all the Brethren, according to the old Charges and Regulations, with all Humility, Reverence, Love and Alacrity.

V. Of the Management of the Craft in Working.

All Masons shall work honestly on Working Days, that they may live creditably on Holy Days; and the time appointed by the Law of the Land or confirmed by Custom, shall be observed.

The most expert of the Fellow-Craftsmen shall be chosen or appointed the Master or Overseer of the Lord's Work; who is to be called Master by those that work under him. The Craftsmen are to avoid all ill language, and to call each other by no disobliging Name, but Brother or Fellow; and to behave themselves courteously within and without the Lodge.

The Master, knowing himself to be able of Cunning, shall undertake the Lord's Work as reasonably as possible, and truly spend his Goods as if they were his own; or to give more Wages to any Brother or Apprentice than he really may deserve.

Both the Master and the Mason receiving their Wages justly, shall be faithful to the Lord and honestly finish their Work, whether Task or Journey; nor put the Work to Task that hath been accustomed to Journey.

None shall discover Envy at the Prosperity of a Brother, nor supplant him, or put him out of his Work, if he be capable to finish the same; for no man can finish another's Work so much to the Lord's Profit, unless he be thoroughly acquainted with the Designs and Draughts of him that began it.

When a Fellow-Craftsman is chosen Warden of the Work under the Master, he shall be true both to Master and Fellows, shall carefully oversee the Work in the Master's Absence to the Lord's Profit; and his Brethren shall obey him.

All Masons employed shall meekly receive their Wages without Murmuring or Mutiny, and not desert the Master till the Work is finish'd.

A younger Brother shall be instructed in working, to prevent spoiling the Materials for want of Judgment, and for increasing and continuing of Brotherly love.

All the Tools used in working shall be approved by the Grand Lodge.

No Laborer shall be employ'd in the proper Work of Masonry; nor shall Free Masons work with those that are not free, without an urgent Necessity; nor shall they teach Laborers and unaccepted Masons as they should teach a Brother or Fellow.

VI. Of Behavior.

1. Behavior in the Lodge While Constituted.

You are not to hold private Committee; or separate conversation without Leave from the Master, nor to talk of anything impertinent or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any Brother speaking to the Master; Nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious and solemn; nor use any unbecoming Language upon any Pretense whatsoever; but to pay due Reverence to your Master, Wardens and Fellows, and put them to Worship.

If any Complaint be brought, the Brother found guilty shall stand to the Award and Determination of the Lodge, who are the proper and competent Judges of all such Controversies (unless you carry it by Appeal to the Grand Lodge) and to whom they ought to be refer'd unless a Lord's Work be hinder'd the meanwhile, in which Case a particular Reference may be made but you must never go to Law about what concerneth Masonry, without an absolute necessity apparent to the Lodge.

2. Behavior After the Lodge is Over, and the Brethren Not Gone.

You may enjoy yourselves with innocent Mirth, treating one another according to Ability, but avoiding all Excess, or forcing any Brother to eat or drink beyond his Inclination, or hindering him from going when his Occasions call him, or doing or saying anything offensive, or that may forbid an easy and free Conversation; for that would blast our harmony, and defeat our laudable Purpose. Therefore no private Piques or quarrels must be brought within the Door of the Lodge, far less any Quarrels about Religion, or Nations, or State Policy, we being only, as Masons, of the Catholic Religion above mention'd; we are also of all Nations, Tongues, Kindr'd, and Languages, and are resolv'd against all Politics as what never yet conduc'd to the Welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will. This Charge has been always strictly enjoined and observ'd; but especially ever since the Reformation in Britain, or the Dis sent and Secession of these Nations from the Communion of Rome.

3. Behavior When Brethren Meet Without Strangers, But Not in a Lodge Formed.

You are to salute one another in a courteous Manner, as you will be instructed, calling each other Brother, freely giving Mutual Instruction as shall be thought expedient without being overseen or overheard and without encroaching upon each other, or derogating from that Respect which is due to any Brother, were he not a Mason; For though all Masons are as Brethren upon the same Level, yet Masonry takes no Honour from a Man that he had before; nay, rather it adds to his Honour, especially if he has deserved well of the Brotherhood, who must give Honour to whom it is due, and avoid ill Manners.

4. Behavior in Presence of Strangers Not Masons.

You shall be cautious in your Words and Carriage, that the most penetrating Stranger shall not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated, and sometimes you shall divert a Discourse, and manage it prudently for the Honour of the Worshipful Fraternity.

5. Behavior at Home, and in Your Neighborhood.

You are to act as becomes a moral and wise Man; particularly not to let your Family, Friends and Neighbors know the Concerns of the Lodge, &c., but wisely to consult you own Honour, and that of the ancient Brotherhood, for Reasons not to be mention'd here. You must also consult your Health, by not continuing together too late, or too long from Home, after Lodge Hours are past; and by avoiding of Gluttony or Drunkenness, that your Families be not neglected or injured, nor you disabled from working.

6. Behavior Towards a Strange Brother.

You are cautiously to examine him, in such a Method as Prudence shall direct you, that you may not be impos'd upon by an ignorant, false Pretender, whom you are to reject with Contempt and Derision, and beware of giving any Hints of Knowledge.

But if you discover him to be a true and genuine Brother, you are to respect him accordingly; and if he is in Want, you must relieve him if you can, or else direct how he may be reliev'd; you must employ him some Days, or else recommend him to be em-

ploy'd. But you are not charged to do beyond your ability, only to prefer a poor Brother, that is a good Man and true, before any other poor People in the same Circumstances.

Finally, All these Charges you are to observe, and also those that shall be communicated to you in another way cultivating Brotherly Love, the Foundation and Capestone, the Cement and Glory of this ancient Fraternity, avoiding all Wrangling and Quarreling, all Slander and Backbiting, nor permitting others to slander any honest Brother, but defending his character, and doing him all good Offices, as far as is consistant with your Honour and Safety, and no farther. And if any of them do you Injury you must apply to your own or his Lodge; and from thence you may appeal to the Grand Lodge, at the Quarterly Communication, and from thence to the annual Grand Lodge, as has been the ancient laudable Conduct of our Forefathers in every Nation; never taking a legal Course but when the Case cannot be otherwise decided, and patiently listening to the honest and friendly Advice of Master and Fellows when they would prevent your going to Law with strangers, or would excite you to put a speedy Period of all Law-suits, so that you may mind the Affairs of Masonry with the more Alacrity and Success; but with respect to Brothers or Fellows at Law, the Master and Brethren should kindly offer their Meditation, which ought to be thankfully submitted to by the contending Brethren; and if that submission is impracticable they must, however, carry on their Process, or Law-suit, without Wrath and Rancor (not in the common way), saying or doing nothing which may hinder Brotherly Love, and good Offices to be renew'd and continu'd that all may see the benign Influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the Beginning of the World, and will do to the End of Time.

GENERAL REGULATIONS *

Compiled first by Mr. George Payne, Anno 1720, when he was Grand Master and approv'd by the Grand Lodge on St. John Baptist Day, Anno 1721, at Stantioner's Hall London; When the most noble Prince John, Duke of Montague, unanimously chosen our Grand Master for the Year ensuing; who chose

John Beal, M.D., his Deputy Grand Master;

and Mr. Josiah Villeneau were chosen by the
Mr. Thomas Morris, Jun. Lodge Grand Wardens.

And now, by the Command of our said Right Worshipful Grand Master Montague, the Author of this Book has compar'd them with, and reduc'd them to the ancient Records and immemorial Usages of the Fraternity, and digested them into this new Method with several proper Explications, for the use of the Lodges in and about London and Westminster.

I. The Grand Master or his Deputy hath Authority and Right, not only to be present in any true Lodge, but also to preside wherever he is, with the Master of the Lodge on his Left hand, and to order his Grand Wardens to attend him, who are not to act in particular Lodges as Wardens, but in his Presence, and at his Command; because there the Grand Master may command the Wardens of that Lodge, or any other Brethren he pleaseth, to attend and act as his Wardens pro tempore.

II. The Master of a particular Lodge has the Right and Authority of congregating the Members of his Lodge into a Chapter at Pleasure, upon any Emergency or Occurrence as well as to appoint the Time and Place of their usual forming; And in case of Sickness, Death, or necessary Absence of the Master, the senior Warden shall act as Master pro tempore, if no Brother is present who has been Master of that Lodge before for in that Case the absent Master's Authority reverts to the last Master then present though he cannot act until the said senior Warden has once congregated the Lodge, or in his absence the junior Warden.

III. The Master of each particular Lodge, or one of the Wardens, or some other Brother by his Order, shall keep a Book containing their Bylaws, the Names of their Members, with a list of all the Lodges in Town, and the usual times and places of their forming, and all their Transactions that are proper to be written.

IV. No lodge shall make more than Five new Brethren at one Time, nor any Man under the Age of Twenty-five, who must be also his own Master; unless by a Dispensation from the Grand Master or his Deputy.

V. No Man can be made or admitted a Member of a particular Lodge without previous notice one month before given to the said Lodge in order to make due Enquiry into the Reputation and Capacity of the Candidate; unless by the Dispensation aforesaid.

*Or the "Anderson Constitutions;" so called, because written by Br. Jas. Anderson, A.M., the W.M. of the Lodge which was numbered 17 at the time the Grand Lodge was formed.

VI. But no Man can be enter'd a Brother in any particular Lodge, or admitted to be a member thereof, without the unanimous consent of all the members of that Lodge then present when the Candidate is propos'd, and their Consent is formally ask'd by the Master; and they are to signify their Consent or Dissent in their own prudent way, either virtually or in form, but with Unanimity; Nor is this inherent Privilege subject to a Dispensation; because the Members of a particular Lodge are the best Judges of it; and if a fractious Member should be impos'd on them, it might spoil their Harmony or hinder their Freedom; or even break and disperse the Lodge, which ought to be avoided by all good and true Brethren.

VII. Every new Brother at his making is decently to cloath the Lodge, that is, all the Brethren present, and to deposit something for the relief of indigent and decay'd Brethren, as the Candidates shall think fit to bestow, over and above the small Allowance stated by the bylaws of that particular Lodge which Charity shall be lodg'd with the Master or Wardens, or the Cashier, if the Members see fit to chuse one.

And the Candidates shall also solemnly promise to submit to the Constitutions, the Charges and Regulations, and to such other good Usages as shall be intimated to them in Time and Place convenient

VIII. No Set or Number of Brethren shall withdraw or separate themselves from the Lodge in which they were made Brethren, or were afterwards admitted Members, unless the Lodge becomes too numerous; nor even then, without a Dispensation from the Grand Master or his Deputy, and when they are thus separated they must either immediately join themselves to such other Lodge as they shall like best, with the unanimous Consent of that other Lodge to which they go (as above regulated,) or else they must obtain the Grand Master's Warrant to join in forming a new Lodge.

If any Set or Number of Masons shall take upon themselves to form a Lodge without the Grand Master's Warrant, the regular Lodges are not to countenance them, or own them as fair Brethren and duly formed, nor approved of their Acts and Deeds; but must treat them as Rebels, until they humble themselves, as the Grand Master, shall, in his prudence, direct and until he approve of them by his Warrant, which must be signifi'd to the other Lodges as the Custom is when a new Lodge is to be registered in the List of Lodges.

IX. But if any Brother so far misbehave himself as to render his Lodge, uneasy, he shall be twice duly admonish'd by the Master or Wardens in a formed Lodge; and if he will not refrain his Imprudence and obediently submit to the Advice of the Brethren, and reform what gives them Offence, he shall be dealt with accordingly to the bylaws of that particular Lodge, or else in such a manner as the Quarterly Communication shall in their great prudence think fit; for which a new Regulation may be afterwards made.

X. The Majority of every particular Lodge, when congregated; shall have the Privilege of giving Instructions to their Master and Wardens before the assembling of the Grand Chapter, or Lodge, at the three Quarterly Communications hereafter mention'd, and of the Annual Grand Lodge, too; because their Master and Wardens are their Representatives, and are supposed to speak their Mind.

XI. All particular Lodges are to observe the same usages as much as possible; in order to which, and for cultivating a good Understanding among Free Masons, some Members out of every Lodge shall be deputed to visit the other Lodges as often as shall be thought convenient.

XII. The Grand Lodge consists of, and is form'd by, the Masters and Wardens of all the regular particular Lodges upon Record, with the Grand Master at their Head, and his Deputy on his Left hand, and the Grand Wardens in their proper Places; and must have a quarterly Communication about Michaelmas, Christmas, and Lady-Day, in some convenient place, as the Grand Master shall appoint, where no Brother shall be present, who is not at that time a Member thereof, without a Dispensation; and while he stays, he shall not be allow'd to vote, nor even give his Opinion without Leave of the Grand Lodge ask'd and given, or unless it be duly ask'd by the said Lodge.

All Matters are to be determin'd in the Grand Lodge by a Majority of Votes, each Member having one Vote, and the Grand Master having two Votes, unless the said Lodge leave any articular thing to the Determination of the Grand Master for the sake of Expedition.

XIII. At the said Quarterly Communication all Matters that concern the Fraternity in general, or particular Lodges, or single Brethren, are quietly, sedately and maturely to be discours'd of and transacted. Apprentices must be admitted Masters and Fellow-Craft only here, unless by a Dispensation. Here also all differences that cannot be made up and accommodated privately, nor by a particular Lodge, are to be seriously considered and decided: And if any Brother thinks himself aggrieved by the Decision of this Board, he may appeal to the Annual Grand Lodge next chusing a Grand Master or Wardens.

Here also the Master or the Wardens of each particular Lodge shall bring and produce a List of such Members as have been made, or even admitted in their particular Lodges since the last Communication of the Grand Lodge: And there shall be a book kept by the Grand Master, or his Deputy, or rather by some Brother whom the Grand Lodge shall appoint for Secretary, wherein shall be recorded all the Lodges, with their usual Times and Places of forming, and the Names of all the Members of each Lodge; and all the Affairs of the Grand Lodge that are proper to be written.

They shall also consider of the most prudent and effectual Methods of collecting and disposing of what Money shall be given to, or lodged with them in Charity, towards the Relief only of any true Brother fallen in Poverty or Decay, but of none else. But every particular Lodge shall dispose of their own Charity for poor Brethren, according to their own Bylaws, until it be agreed by all the Lodges (in a new Regulation) to carry in the Charity collected by them to the Grand Lodge at the Quarterly or Annual Communication in order to make a common stock of it, for the more handsome Relief of poor Brethren.

They shall also appoint a Treasurer, a Brother of good worldly Substance, who shall be a Member of the Grand Lodge by virtue of his Office, and shall be always present, and have Power to move to the Grand Lodge anything, especially what concerns his Office. To him shall be committed all Money raised for Charity. or for any other Use of the Grand Lodge, which he shall write down in a Book, with the respective Ends and Uses for which the several Sums are intended; and shall expend or disburse the same by such a certain Order sign'd, as the Grand Lodge shall afterwards agree to in a new Regulation: But he Shall not vote in chusing a Grand Master or Wardens, though in every other Transaction. As in like manner the Secretary shall be a Member of the Grand Lodge by virtue of his Office, and vote in everything except in chusing a Grand Master or Wardens.

The Treasurer and Secretary shall have each a Clerk, who must be a Brother and Fellow-Craft, but never must be a member of the Grand Lodge, nor speak without being allow'd or desir'd.

The Grand Master, or his Deputy shall always command the Treasurer and Secretary, with their Clerks and Books, in order to see how Matters go on, and to know what is expedient to be done upon any emergent Occasion.

Another Brother (who must be a Fellow-Craft) should be appointed to look after the Door of the Grand Lodge; but shall be no member of it.

But these Offices may be farther explain'd by a new Regulation, when the Necessity and Expediency of them may more appear than at present to the Fraternity.

XIV. If at any Grand Lodge, stated or occasioned, quarterly or annual, the Grand Master and his Deputy should be both absent, then the present Master of a Lodge, that has been the longest a Free Mason, shall take the Chair, and preside as Grand Master pro tempore; and shall be vested with all his power and Honour for the time; provided there is no Brother present that has been Grand Master formerly, or Deputy Grand Master, for the last Grand Master Present, or else the last Deputy present, should always of right take place in the Absence of the present Grand Master and his Deputy.

XV. In the Grand Lodge none can act as Warden but the Grand Wardens themselves, if present; and if absent, the Grand Master, or the Person who presides in his Place, shall order private Wardens to act as Grand Wardens pro tempore, whose Places are to be suppli'd by two Fellow-Craft of the same Lodge, call'd forth to act, or sent thither by the particular Master thereof; or if by him omitted, then they shall be call'd by the Grand Master, that so the Grand Lodge may be always complete.

XVI. The Grand Wardens, or any others, are first to advise with the Deputy about the Affairs of the Lodge or of the Brethren, and not to apply to the Grand Master without the knowledge of the Deputy, unless he refuse his Concurrence in any certain necessary Affair; in which Case, or in case of any Difference between the Deputy and the Grand Wardens, or other Brethren, both parties are to go by Concert to the Grand Master who can easily decide the Controversy and make up the Difference by virtue of his great Authority.

The Grand Master should receive no Intimation of Business concerning Masonry, but from his Deputy first, except in such certain Cases as his Worship can well judge of, for if the Application to the Grand Master be irregular, he can easily order the Grand Wardens or any other Brethren thus applying, to wait upon his Deputy, who is to prepare the Business speedily, and to lay it orderly before his Worship.

XVII. No Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary or whoever acts for them, or in their stead pro tempore, can at the same time be the Master or Warden of a particular Lodge; but as soon as any of them has honorably discharg'd his Grand Office, he returns to that post or station in his particular Lodge, from which he was call'd to officiate above.

XVIII. If the Deputy Grand Master be sick or necessarily absent, the Grand Master may chuse any Fellow-Craft he pleases to be his Deputy pro tempore: But he that is chosen Deputy at the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Wardens too, cannot be discharged without the Cause fairly appear to the Majority of the Grand Lodge; and the Grand Master, if he is uneasy, may call a Grand Lodge on purpose to lay the Cause

before them, and to have their Advice and Conference: In which case the Majority of the Grand Lodge, if they cannot reconcile the Master and his Deputy or his Wardens, are to concur in allowing the Master to discharge his said Deputy or his said Wardens, and to chuse another Deputy immediately and the said Grand Lodge shall chuse other Wardens in that Case, that Harmony and Peace may be preserved.

XIV. If the Grand Master should abuse his Power, and render himself unworthy of the Obedience and Subjection of the Lodges, he shall be treated in a way and manner to be agreed upon in a new Regulation because hitherto the ancient Fraternity have had no occasion for it, their former Grand Masters having all behaved themselves worthy of that honorable Office.

XX. The Grand Master, with his Deputy and Wardens, shall (at least once) go round and visit all the Lodges about Town during his Mastership.

XXI. If the Grand Master die during his Mastership, or by Sickness, or by being beyond Sea, or any other way should be render'd incapable of discharging his Office, the Deputy, or in his Absence, the Senior Grand Warden, or in his Absence the Junior, or in his Absence any three present Masters of Lodges, shall join to congregate the Grand Lodge immediately, to advise together upon that Emergency, and to send two of their Number to invite the last Grand Master to resume his Office, which now in course reverts to him; or if he refuse, then the next last, and so backward: But if no former Grand Master can be found, then the Deputy shall act as Principal, until another is chosen; or if there be no Deputy, then the oldest Master.

XXII. The Brethren of all the Lodges in and about London and Westminster, shall meet at an Annual Communication and Feast, in some convenient place, on St. John Baptist's Day, or else on St. John Evangelist's Day, as the Grand Lodge shall think fit by a new Regulation, having of late Years met on St. John Baptist's Day: Provided,

The Majority of the Masters and Wardens, with the Grand Master, his Deputy and Wardens, agree at their Quarterly Communication, three months before, and there shall be a Feast, and a General Communication of all the Brethren: For if either the Grand Master, or the Majority of the particular Masters, are against it, it must be dropt for that Time.

But whether there shall be a Feast for all the Brethren, or not, yet the Grand Lodge must meet in some convenient Place annually on St. John's Day: or if it be Sunday, then the next Day, in order to chuse every Year a new Grand Master, Deputy and Wardens.

XXIII. If it be thought expedient, and the Grand Master, with the Majority of the Masters and Wardens, agree to hold a Grand Feast according to the ancient laudable Custom of Masons, then the Grand Wardens shall have the care of preparing the Tickets, seal'd with the Grand Master's Seal, of disposing of the Tickets, or receiving the Money for the tickets, of buying the Materials of the Feast, of finding out a proper and convenient Place to Feast in; and of every other thing that concerns the Entertainment. But that the Work may not be too burthensome to the two Grand Wardens and that all Matters may be expeditiously and safely managed, The Grand Master or his Deputy shall have power to nominate and appoint a certain Number of Stewards, as his Worship shall think fit, to act in concert with the two Grand Wardens; all things relating to the Feast being decided among them by a Majority of Voices except the Grand Master or his Deputy interpose by a particular Direction or Appointment.

XXIV. The Wardens and Stewards shall, in due time, wait upon the Grand Master or his Deputy for Directions and Orders about the Premises; but if his Worship and his Deputy are sick, or necessarily absent, they shall call together the Masters and Wardens of Lodges to meet on purpose for their Advice and Orders; or else they may take the Matter wholly upon themselves and do the best they can.

The Grand Wardens and the Stewards are to account for all the Money they receive, or expend, to the Grand Lodge, after Dinner, or when the Grand Lodge shall think fit to receive their accounts.

If the Grand Master pleases, he may in due time summon all the Masters and Wardens of Lodges to consult with them about ordering the Grand Feast, and about any Emergency or accidental thing relating thereunto, that may require Advice; or else to take it upon himself altogether.

XXV. The Master of Lodges shall each appoint one experienc'd and discreet Fellow-Craft of his Lodge, to compose a Committee, consisting of one from every Lodge, who shall meet to receive, in a convenient Apartment, every Person that brings a Ticket, and shall have Power to discourse him, if they think fit, in order to admit him or debar him, as they shall see cause: Provided they send no Man away before they have acquainted all the Brethren within Doors with the Reasons thereof, to avoid Mistakes, that no true Brother may be debarr'd nor a false Brother, or mere Pretender, admitted. This Committee must meet very early on St. John'S Day at the Place, even before any Persons come with Tickets.

XXVI. The Grand Master shall appoint two or more trusty Brethren to be porters or Door-keepers, who are also to be early at the Place, for some good Reasons; and who are to be at the Command of the Committee:

XXVII. The Grand Wardens, or Stewards, shall appoint beforehand such a Number of Brethren to serve at Table as they think fit and proper for that Work; and they may advise with the Masters and Wardens of Lodges about the most proper Persons, if they please, or may take in such by their Recommendation; for none are to serve that day but free and accepted Masons, that the Communication may be free and harmonious.

XXVIII. All the Members of the Grand Lodge must be at the Place long before Dinner, with the Grand Master or his Deputy at their Head, who shall retire and form themselves. And this is done in order.

1. To receive any Appeals duly lodg'd, as above regulated, that the appellant may be heard, and the Affair may be amicably decided before Dinner if possible; but if it cannot it must be delay'd till after the new Grand Master is elected; and if it cannot be decided after Dinner it may be delay'd, and refer'd to a particular Committee, that shall quietly adjust it, and make Report to the next Quarterly Communication that Brotherly Love may be preserv'd.

2. To prevent any Difference or Disgust which may be feared to arise that Day; that no Interruption may be given to the Harmony and Pleasure of the Grand Feast.

3. To consult about whatever concerns the Decency and Decorum of the Grand Assembly,

4. To receive and consider of any good Motion, or any momentous and important Affair, that shall be brought from the particular Lodges, by their Representatives, the several Masters and Wardens.

XXIX. After these things are discuss'd, the Grand Master and his Deputy, the Grand Wardens, or the Stewards, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Clerks and every other person shall withdraw, and leave the Masters and Wardens of the particular Lodges alone, in order to consult amicably about electing a new Grand Master, or continuing the present, if they have not done it the Day before; and if they are unanimous for continuing the present Grand Master, his Worship shall be call'd in, and humbly desired to do the Fraternity the Honour of ruling them for the Year ensuing: And after Dinner it will be known whether he accepts of it or not: For it should not be discover'd but by the Election itself.

XXX. Then the Masters and Wardens and all the Brethren, may converse promiscuously, or as they please to sort together, until the Dinner is coming in, when every Brother takes his Seat at the Table.

XXXI. Some time after Dinner the Grand Lodge is form'd not in Retirement, but in the Presence of all the Brethren, who yet are not Members of it, and must not therefore speak until they are desir'd and allow'd.

XXXII. If the Grand Master of last Year has consented with the Masters and Wardens in private, before Dinner, to continue for the Year ensuing then one of the Grand Lodge, deputed for that Purpose, shall represent to all the Brethren his Worship's good Government, &c. and turning to him, shall, in the Name of the Grand Lodge, humbly request him to do the Fraternity the Great Honour (if nobly born, if not) the great Kindness, of continuing to be their Grand Master for the Year ensuing. And his Worship declaring his consent by a Bow or a Speech, as he pleases, the said deputed Member of the Grand Lodge shall proclaim his Grand Master, and all the Members of the Lodge shall salute him in due Form. And all the Brethren shall for a few Minutes have leave to declare their Satisfaction, Pleasure and Congratulation.

XXIII. But if either the Masters and Wardens have not in private, this Day before Dinner, nor the Day before, desir'd the last Grand Master to continue in the Mastership another Year, or if he, when desir'd has not consented: Then,

The last Grand Master shall nominate his Successor for the year ensuing, who if unanimously approv'd by the Grand Lodge, and if there present, shall be proclaim'd, saluted, and congratulated the new Grand Master as above hinted, and immediately install'd by the last Grand Master, according to Usage.

XXIV. But if that Nomination is not unanimously approv'd, the new Grand Master shall be chosen immediately by Ballot, every Master and Warden writing his Man's Name, and the last Grand Master writing his Man's Name too; and the Man, whose Name the last Grand Master shall first take out, casually or by chance, shall be Grand Master for the Year ensuing; and if present, he shall be proclaim'd, saluted, and congratulated, as above hinted, and forthwith installed by the last Grand Master, according to Usage.

XXXV. The last Grand Master thus continued, or the New Grand Master thus installed, shall next nominate and appoint his Deputy Grand Master, either the last or a new one, who shall be also declar'd, saluted, and congratulated, as above hinted.

The Grand Master shall also nominate the new Grand Wardens, and if unanimously approv'd by the Grand Lodge, shall be declar'd, saluted and congratulated, as above hinted but if not, they shall be chosen by Ballet, in the same way as the Grand Master: As the Wardens of Private Lodges are also to be chosen by Ballot in each Lodge, if the Members thereof do not agree to their Master's Nomination.

XXXVI. But if the Brother, whom the present Grand Master shall nominate for his Successor, or whom the Majority of the Grand Lodge shall happen to chuse by Ballot, is, by sickness, or other necessary Occasion, absent from the Grand Feast, he cannot be proclaim'd the New Grand Master, unless the old Grand Master, or some of the Masters and Wardens. of the Grand Lodge can vouch, upon the Honour of a Brother, that the said Person, so nominated or chosen, will readily accept of the said Office; in which case the Old Grand Master shall act as Proxy, and shall nominate the Deputy and Wardens in his Name, and in his Name also receive the usual Honour, Homage and Congratulations.

XXXVII. Then the Grand Master shall allow any Brother, Fellow-Craft or Apprentice to speak, Directing his Discourse to his Worship; or to make any Motion for the good of the Fraternity, which shall be either immediately consider'd and finish'd, or else referr'd to the Consideration of the Grand Lodge at their next Communication, stated or occasional. When that is over,

XXXVIII. The Grand Master or his Deputy, or some Brother appointed by him shall harangue all the Brethren, and give them good Advice: And lastly after some other Transactions, that cannot be written in any Language, the Brethren may go away or stay longer, as they please.

XXXIX. Every Annual Grand Lodge has an inherent Power and Authority to make new Regulations, or to alter these, for the real Benefit of this ancient Fraternity: Provided, always that the old Land Marks be carefully preserved, and that such Alterations and new Regulations be proposed and agreed at the third Quarterly Communication preceding the Annual Grand Feast; and that they be offered also to the Perusal of all the Brethren before Dinner, in writing, even of the youngest Apprentice; the Approbation and Consent of the Majority of all the Brethren present being absolutely necessary to make the same binding and obligatory; which must, after Dinner, and after the new Grand Master is install'd, be solemnly desir'd; as it was desir'd and obtain'd for these Regulations, when propos'd by the Grand Lodge, to about 150 Brethren, on St. John Baptist's Day, 1721.

THE LANDMARKS OF FREEMASONRY

“Freemasonry,” said Mackey, “as the most ancient and universal of all societies, is governed by its laws or rules of action, which either spring out of its organization, and are based upon its long established customs and usages, or which are derived from the enactment of its superintending tribunals.” This divides our governing laws into the unwritten and the written, the latter being the Constitutions, Regulations, etc. of the Grand Lodge; and the former the Landmarks.

There has been some diversity of opinion among Masonic writers as to the nature of Landmarks, but to quote Mackey again, “The safest method is to restrict them to those ancient, and therefore universal, customs, which, either grew gradually into rules of action or if enacted by authority were, enacted so long ago that no record account of their origin is found in Masonic history.” and the Landmarks are therefore of higher antiquity than memory or history can reach.

The first requisite to constitute a Landmark is its antiquity. Another peculiarity of Landmarks is that they are unrepealable—cannot be changed by any existing authority, being older than such authority. To change them would be to destroy the foundations of Masonry itself.

The Landmarks of Masonry, computed by Mackey, are twenty-five briefly stated as follows:

1st. The Modes of Recognition.

2nd. The Division of Symbolic Masonry into three degrees.

3rd. The Legend of the Third Degree.

4th. The Government of the Fraternity by a Grand Master.

5th. The Prerogative of the Grand Master to Preside over every assembly of the Craft.

6th. The Prerogative of the Grand Master to Grant Dispensations for conferring degrees at irregular times.

7th. The Prerogative of the Grand Master to give dispensations for opening and holding Lodges.

8th. The Prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at Sight.

9th. The necessity for Masons to congregate in Lodges.

10th. The Government of the Craft when congregated in a Lodge, by a Master and two Wardens.

11th. The necessity that every Lodge when congregated, should be duly Tyled.

12th. The right of every Mason to be represented in the general meetings of the Craft, and to instruct its Representative.

13th. The right of every Mason to appeal from the decision of his brethren in Lodge convened to the Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons.

14th. The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every Regular Lodge.*

15th. That no visitor unknown to the brethren present, or to some of them, as a Mason, can enter a Lodge without passing an examination.

16th. That no Lodge can interfere in the business of another Lodge.

17th. That every Freemason is amendable to the Laws and Regulations of the Masonic Jurisdiction in which he resides.

18th. That certain Qualifications of candidates for Initiation shall be that he is a man, unmutilated, freeborn, and of mature age.

19th. A belief in the existence of God as the Grand Architect of the Universe.

20th. The Belief in the Resurrection to a Future Life.

21st. That a “Book of the Law” shall constitute an indispensable part of the Furniture of every Lodge.

22nd. The Equality of all Masons.

23rd. The Secrecy of the Institution.

24th. The Foundation of a Speculative Science upon an Operative Art, and the Symbolic Use and Explanation of the Terms of the Art, for purposes of Religious or Moral Teaching.

25th. That these Landmarks can never be Changed.

*But Mackey says this right may be impaired by special circumstances, but that if visitation is refused, good and sufficient reason should be given for refusal.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF NORTH DAKOTA

DECLARATION

We, the representatives of twenty Lodges of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Dakota, in convention assembled, in order to form a perfect union, establish order, insure tranquillity, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and secure to the Fraternity within the State of North Dakota, the blessing of Masonic privileges, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

(Convention June 12, 1889.
Affirmed-Proceedings First Session
1889, Page 47.
Re-affirmed - June 16, 1915
See 1915 Proceedings, pages 80-83)
Re-affirmed June 17, 1926.
Re-affirmed June 16, 1965.
Re-affirmed June 13, 1991.

ARTICLE I

Name: The Grand Lodge shall be styled and known by the name of GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF NORTH DAKOTA.

ARTICLE II

The Grand Lodge shall consist of:

(a) Grand Officers.

Grand Master.
Deputy Grand Master.
Senior Grand Warden.
Junior Grand Warden.
Grand Secretary-Treasurer.
Senior Grand Deacon.
Junior Grand Deacon.
Senior Grand Steward.
Junior Grand Steward.
Grand Marshall.
Grand Tyler.
Grand Chaplain.
Grand Orator.
Grand Lecturers
Grand Historian.
Grand Librarian.

(REV. June 1985)

(b) **District Deputy Grand Master.** Such District Deputy Grand Masters as may be appointed by the Grand Master under the direction of the Grand Lodge A.:F.: & A.:M.: of North Dakota.

(c) **District Deputy Grand Lecturers.** Such District Deputy Grand Lecturers as may be appointed by the Grand Master under the direction of the Grand Lodge A.: F.: & A.: M.: of North Dakota.

(d) **Standing Committees.** The members of Standing Committees as may be authorized by the bylaws of the Grand Lodge A.:F.:& A.:M.: of North Dakota.

(e) **Masters and Wardens.** The Masters and Wardens while they are in office of the several lodges, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, or their regularly appointed proxies, provided such proxies are members in good standing in the lodges in which they hold membership.

(f) **Past Masters.** All Past Masters of constituent lodges in person, so long as they remain in good standing in the lodges in which they hold membership.

(g) **Past Elective Grand Officers.** All past elective grand officers of this Grand Lodge who continue members of any constituent Lodge under this grand jurisdiction.

(h) **Honorary Membership.** Any distinguished Master Mason of another grand jurisdiction, by vote of three-fourths of the members present at any communication, may be elected an honorary member of this Grand Lodge. but such membership will not confer the right to vote.

(i) **Honorary Past Grand Masters.** Any distinguished Grand Master or Past Grand Master of another grand jurisdiction, who by attendance at three Grand Lodge sessions or otherwise has rendered outstanding service and inspiration to the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, by recommendation of the Jurisprudence Committee and a vote of three-fourths of the members present at any annual communication, may be elected to the rank of Honorary Past Grand Master of this Grand Lodge, but such rank will not confer the right to vote.

(j) **Constituent Lodge Secretaries.** All Secretaries of Constituent Lodges of the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, when in person at the Annual Grand Lodge Communication, so long as they hold Office of Secretary and remain in good standing in the lodge in which they hold membership.

ARTICLE III.

Annual and Special Communications. The Grand Lodge shall hold annual communications; and the Grand Master, or his Deputy, in case of absence from the state, may, on very urgent occasions, call special communications.

ARTICLE IV.

Privileges of Grand Officers. Past Grand Officers may hold offices in constituent Lodges and this shall not deprive them of any privileges they may have in the Grand Lodge as Past Grand Officers.

ARTICLE V.

What Officers to be Elected and What Appointed. The Grand Master, The Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, and the Junior Grand Warden, shall be elected annually by ballot.

The Grand Lodge shall elect the members of the North Dakota Masonic Foundation Committee, Finance Committee, and Policy and General Purposes Committee.

The Grand Master shall appoint Masons in good standing to all other Grand Lodge officer positions and all non-elective special and standing committee positions authorized by the Grand Lodge or to fill positions on interim committees instituted by the Grand Master.

ARTICLE VI.

Votes Lodge and Grand Lodge Officers Entitled To. On all Questions which shall come before the Grand Lodge for its decision, every constituent lodge shall be entitled to vote by officers present as follows:

1. Every Past and Present Elective Grand Officer.
2. Every appointive Grand Officer.
3. Every member of standing committees.
4. Every Past Master of Constituent Lodges.
5. Secretaries of Constituent Lodges.
6. Master and Wardens of Constituent Lodges or their proxies.

(REV.2002)

No person may cast more than one vote in any capacity. Voting shall be the usual Masonic voting sign unless the Grand Master shall rule that a voice vote, written vote, division vote, or roll call vote, would be more expeditious or necessary for a clear decision.

The Grand Master, or his Deputy, when presiding, shall, in case of a tie vote, cast the deciding vote.

ARTICLE VII.

Powers of Grand Lodge

(a) **New Lodges and Mergers.** The Grand Lodge shall have the power to constitute new lodges by letters patent under its seal and to consummate the merger of lodges.

(b) **Uniform Work.** To establish a ritual which shall be uniform throughout its jurisdiction, strictly adhering to the Ancient Landmarks, usages, and customs of Masonry.

In the furtherance of this object, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master, by himself, his Deputy, or the Grand Lecturer, to visit, as often as practicable, the constituent Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, for the purposes of general instruction.

(c) **To Determine Disputes.** To hear and determine all appeals from constituent Lodges and decide all disputes between lodges in this jurisdiction.

(d) **Fees.** To fix such fees as may be deemed just and reasonable for granting dispensations and constituting new lodges and for other Masonic purposes.

(e) **Transact Business.** To receive reports and transact such business as may properly be brought before it.

ARTICLE VIII.

Amendments. This constitution shall not be altered or amended except in the following manner:

Every amendment shall be proposed, in writing, and filed, in duplicate, with the Grand Secretary-Treasurer no later than April 1, before the opening of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. It shall be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, who shall register their respective approval, disapproval, or other recommendation in writing. It shall then be submitted to the Grand Lodge and shall be deemed adopted and shall be a part of this Constitution, (1) if approved by at least three-fourths of the total votes of the members present and voting thereon, or (2) if approved by a majority of those present and voting thereon at each of two consecutive Annual Communications after it is filed.

(REV.1972)

BYLAWS

OF THE

GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF NORTH DAKOTA

CHAPTER I

GRAND LODGE -- MEETING AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Communications. The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge shall open in due form on the Friday following the Second Tuesday in June at such place as the Grand Lodge determines.

The Grand Communication shall commence on Saturday Morning at 9 o'clock a.m. for business and shall continue in session until the business to come before it shall have been transacted and the Grand Officers shall have been elected, appointed, and installed. In case of emergency, the Grand Master shall have the power to fix another date. (REV.1998)

Section 2. Prerequisite for Office. No Brother shall be elected to the Office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior or Junior Grand Wardens, who has not been elected and installed to preside over a regular lodge. (REV.1996)

Section 3. Vacancies—How Filled. In case the Office of Grand Master becomes vacant by death, resignation, removal, disability, or otherwise, the secession thereto shall be: First: Deputy Grand Master; Second: Senior Grand Warden; Third: Junior Grand Warden; Fourth: Junior Past Grand Masters resident within this jurisdiction. Should a vacancy occur in any office other than those mentioned in this section, the Grand Master shall fill such vacancy by appointment.

Section 4. Grand Master—Powers and Duties. The powers and duties of the Grand Master are such as devolve upon him by the Ancient Landmarks, charges, regulations, and usage's of Masonry, and the Constitution and edicts of this Grand Lodge.

(a) Specific Powers.

1. Under certain conditions, he shall have the power to declare vacant the Offices of Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens of any constituent lodge.

2. He shall have discretionary power to arrest the Charter of any Lodge, and for gross misconduct of any kind, to suspend the Master of any Lodge.

3. For similar conduct, he may suspend any Grand Officer save Deputy Grand Master and Senior and Junior Grand Wardens.

4. He shall have power to issue a duplicate to any Lodge whose Charter has been lost by fire or other casualty.

5. To appoint representatives near other Grand Lodges.

6. To issue dispensations for the formation of new lodges when all the conditions prescribed by these bylaws have been fulfilled, and he believes that the interests of Masonry will be advanced by the organization of such new lodge.

7. To issue special dispensations permitting a constituent lodge to perform out of regular time, any act which is not specifically forbidden by the Laws of the Grand Lodge

8. He may cause the ritual and lectures of any one of the symbolic degrees in Masonry to be exemplified before the Grand Lodge at any annual communication and may issue his proclamation or edict requiring the officers of each lodge to exemplify the three degrees of Symbolic Masonry at least once during the year upon a substitute candidate, in the absence of actual candidates for the degrees.

9. To issue dispensations to a constituent lodge within this grand jurisdiction to make more than five new Brethren and confer more than one degree at a lodge meeting. (REV.1998)

(b) Specific Duties.

1. It shall be his duty to submit, at the opening of each Annual Communication, a written address, setting forth an account of his official acts during the recess of the Grand Lodge and such suggestions and recommendations as he deems advisable to the fraternity and proper for the consideration of the Grand Lodge.

2. It shall be his duty to countersign all checks drawn by the Grand Secretary Treasurer and no such check shall be valid without the Signature of the Grand Master.

3. He shall appoint and announce through the Official Proceedings issued following the close of the Annual Communications, the following committees to consist of three each, except as otherwise provided, which shall be known as Standing Committees and which shall serve until the close of the next Annual Communication.

On Bylaws

On Credentials ; to consist of 5 members

On Custodians of the Work

On Fraternal Correspondence; to consist of 1 member

On Grand Lodge Library and Museum; to consist of 5 members (REV.1982)

On Lodges Under Dispensation and Petitions for Charters

On Masonic Jurisprudence; to consist of the Past Grand Masters resident in North Dakota

On Necrology; to consist of 1 member

On Nominating

On Publications

On Returns of Chartered Lodges

On Trial Commission

On Masonic Education to consist of the Grand Lecturer, Ex Officio, the Senior Grand Warden, Ex Officio, and three Brothers who shall be appointed for a three-year term.

Provided that nothing in these bylaws shall restrict the Grand Master from appointing any other committees which may be necessary for the transaction of special business which may arise. The Grand Master may authorize any committee to meet at any time he shall deem to be expedient.

4. It shall be the duty of the Grand Master to exercise supervision over all Grand Officers and over the administration of the affairs of this Grand Lodge.

5. The Grand Master will consider it a duty as well as a privilege, to respond to any proper inquiries for Masonic light and knowledge from constituent lodges or duly authorized officers of the same. All questions, however, requiring a decision at his hands must be in form and under the Seal of the Lodge.

6. He shall appoint, on the recommendation of the Worshipful Master of each constituent Lodge, from its membership, a Special Instructor in the Ritual who shall supervise the ritualistic proficiency of the Lodge and for such purpose shall be the special Representative of the Grand Master.

7. He may appoint at his discretion Past Masters of constituent Lodges as District Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Lecturers, if warranted. The Grand Lecturers will provide direction and control to the District Lecturers.

(REV. 2002)

8. Nothing contained in these bylaws shall restrict the Grand Master from combining the duties of any of the foregoing Standing Committees. (REV.1986)

Section 5. Duties of Deputy Grand Master.

a.) It shall be the duty of the Deputy Grand Master to attend all Communications of the Grand Lodge and to assist the Grand Master in the discharge of his duty.

b.) In case of the death, resignation, removal, or disability of the Grand Master, he shall become acting Grand Master and perform all the duties and exercise all the powers of Grand Master.

c.) During the temporary absence of the Grand Master from the jurisdiction or whenever requested by the Grand Master, he may exercise the powers and duties of the Grand Master,

Section 6. Duties of Grand Wardens.

a.) It shall be the duty of the Grand Wardens to assist the Grand Master in the discharge of his duties and perform the duties which appertain to their respective offices.

b.) In case of the death, resignation, removal, or disability of the Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master, they shall succeed to the powers and duties of Grand Master in order of their rank.

Section 7. Duties of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer.

a) It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer to keep a record of all of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge; and as soon as possible thereafter he shall cause to be printed as many copies of such proceedings as necessary and distribute the same to such officers, persons, and lodges as authorized by the Grand Lodge.

b) To receive all moneys, securities, and evidences of indebtedness of the Grand Lodge and keep an accurate account thereof; and shall submit to the Grand Lodge, or to the Finance Committee, evidence in the form of certificates of deposit, drafts, certified checks, or sworn statements of all money in his possession at the time of making his reports.

c) To issue all checks for appropriations made or expenditures of money authorized by the Grand Lodge. Such checks must be signed by the Grand Secretary-Treasurer and countersigned by the Grand Master. In cases of emergency, the Grand Master may authorize the issuance of checks without his signature, but must report the same to the Grand Lodge for its information and approval.

d) To attend all communications of the Grand Lodge with necessary books and papers; submit on the first day of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, a report that shall contain the transactions of his office during the year. This report shall include an accounting of the various funds belonging to the Grand Lodge as well as a list of all securities and evidence of indebtedness.

e) To execute, before entering upon the duties of his office, to the Grand Lodge, a surety bond in the sum equal to the highest estimated amount which may be in his hands at any time during the term of office. Said bond shall be approved as to form by the Grand Master and the cost of such bond shall be paid out of the funds of the Grand Lodge.

f) He shall immediately deliver to his successor, all funds, securities, and other evidence of indebtedness belonging to the Grand Lodge together with all books, papers, and documents pertaining to his office.

g) To keep in his office, a file of all Charters issued by the Grand Lodge.

h) To maintain in his office, a register of all constituent lodges and their members, with lodge and Grand Lodge numbers, together with such other information as is now found in the membership registry previously authorized by this Grand Lodge.

i) To be the Custodian of the Grand Lodge Seal and affix it to such papers or certificates as shall be attested by him. Also, to keep on file all papers or documents pertaining to the administration of the Grand Lodge.

J) To issue at the close of the Masonic Year, a circular to each lodge containing a list of all suspensions and expulsions in this jurisdiction during the year.

k) Prior to the publication of the printed proceedings, issue a list of Grand Officers and Committees elected and appointed, and such other information as is of immediate importance to all constituent lodges.

l) When a dispensation is issued for the organization of a lodge, the secretaries of all adjacent lodges whose jurisdiction may be affected by such new lodge, shall be notified, in writing. Such notice shall give the location of the new lodge and date of its dispensation.

m) To purchase annually, a Grand Master's Apron of Design heretofore adopted, and present the same to the Grand Master.

n) To see that suitable badges are supplied for the members and representatives at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

o) To see that the constituent lodges are supplied with the Warning Circulars issued by the Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada, and also with a copy of the List of Regular Lodges for the current year if requested.

p) To be a member of the several committees of which he is designated a member by these bylaws and to be Secretary-Treasurer of the North Dakota Masonic Foundation and also be the Secretary of the Committee on Policy and General Purposes without vote.

q) To visit as many of the Constituent Lodges as possible to provide information relative to this Constitution and bylaws and for the good of the Craft.

Section 8. Duties of Grand Lecturers.

a) There shall be two or more Grand Lecturers. It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturers to visit, as directed by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, the several district meetings in this Grand Jurisdiction and carefully note the proficiency of the Officers in the ritualistic and monitorial work adopted by this Grand Lodge. (REV.1989)

b) To hold schools of instruction at such times and places as directed by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

c) The Grand Lecturer so designated by the Grand Master shall be ex officio, one of the Custodians of the Work.

d) The Grand Lecturers shall perform their respective duties within that portion of this Grand Jurisdiction as may be designated by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master. (REV.1985)

Section 9. Duties of Other Grand Officers. The duties of the other officers of this Grand Lodge shall be such as are usually performed by similar officers in Grand Lodges and as are defined by the established customs and practices of Freemasonry.

Section 10. Elected Committees. The following committees shall be elected by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication. No member can be re-elected to serve on a committee until he shall have been off that committee for at least one year.

a) On Finance, to consist of five members elected at-large. The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, and the Chairman of the North Dakota Masonic Foundation Incorporated shall be ex-officio members. The elected members shall each serve for terms of five years.

b) On Policy and General Purposes, to consist of the Grand Master, the Immediate Past Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, and five other members elected at-large. The Chairman of the North Dakota Masonic Foundation, Incorporated, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee shall be ex-officio members. The elected members shall each serve for terms of five years. The Grand Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as Secretary of the Committee without vote. (REV.1972)

c) Directors of the North Dakota Masonic Foundation, Incorporated, to consist of five members elected at-large. The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary-Treasurer; and the Chairman of the Finance Committee shall each serve for terms of five years.

Section 11. Duties of Committees. The duties of the several committees of the Grand Lodge shall be:

a) To furnish the Policy and General Purposes Committee such information and estimates are needed for the preparation of the budget by March 15 of each year.

b) Such as are implied in the name of the committee with the following additions:

1. **Finance.** It shall be the duty of this committee to receive from the Policy and General Purposes Committee, estimates of expected receipts and expenditures for each department of the Grand Lodge for the coming year, along with such other information and recommendations as will be necessary to prepare and present to the Grand Lodge, the budget covering all departments and activities of the Grand Lodge. Said budget to be prepared and in sufficient copies so that each member of the Grand Lodge present at the Annual Communication may receive a copy on the first day of the Annual Communication.

To pass upon the appropriation of all moneys from the General Fund of the Grand Lodge.

To arrange for the North Dakota Masonic Foundation to hold in trust such funds as the Grand Lodge may have to be invested from the general fund, the Masonic Home and Hospital Fund, the Relief Fund, and such other funds as may be established by the Grand Lodge.

To instruct the Grand Secretary-Treasurer with respect to furnishing the North Dakota Masonic Foundation, all funds that the Grand Lodge may receive for any charity, benevolence, education, or philanthropy.

To employ a certified public accountant or licensed public accountant to audit the books and accounts of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer.

2. **Custodians of the Work.** To this committee is entrusted the interpretation of the secret ritual adopted by the Grand Lodge. It shall consist of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, Grand Lecturers, and one member appointed by the Grand Master. (REV.1998)

It shall be its duty also to conduct examinations on proficiency in the ritual at such times and places as it shall direct, of all brethren requesting the same and shall issue certificates of proficiency to those who, in the judgment of the committee, satisfactorily pass such examination. The committee may delegate one or more of its members to conduct such examination.

3. **Fraternal Correspondent.** It shall be the duty of the Fraternal Correspondent to submit at the time of the Annual Communication, a report which shall contain a summary of the proceedings of the various Grand Lodges with which we hold fraternal relations, together with such comments as the writer may desire to offer; however, such comments shall be held to be the views of the Fraternal Correspondent and not those of the Grand Lodge.

4. **Jurisprudence.** The Jurisprudence Committee shall examine all amendments proposed to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and shall register its approval, disapproval, or other recommendations, in writing.

To recommend to the Grand Lodge, the names of distinguished Grand Masters or Past Grand Masters of other Jurisdictions for election to the rank of Honorary Past Grand Master of this Grand Lodge.

It shall also be the duty of the Jurisprudence Committee to review and pass on all decisions of the Grand Master with respect to dispensations and interpretations of the Constitution and bylaws of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota.

5. **Grand Lodge Library.** It shall supervise the Grand Lodge Library.

It shall arrange with the Finance Committee to have the North Dakota Masonic Foundation hold in trust such dedicated library funds as are or should be, invested.

6. **North Dakota Masonic Foundation.** It shall be the duty of this committee to control the North Dakota Masonic Foundation in the best interests of the Grand Lodge and consistent with the Articles of Incorporation and the Laws of the State of North Dakota.

It shall have the North Dakota Masonic Foundation take title and control of the following parcels of real property: Lookout Point, Fort Buford Masonic Historical Site, Grave Site of Lt. Beaver, Lewis and Clark Historical Marker, Masonic Island, and Pembina Masonic Park belonging to the Grand Lodge of North Dakota.

It shall have the Foundation Act as Trustees for all funds furnished the Foundation under Trust Agreement for the purpose of investment.

It shall have the Foundation invest all funds, both those in the name of the Foundation and those held in trust by the Foundation, in Government securities of the United States or the State of North Dakota, or such other securities as in its unanimous judgment are deemed entirely safe for such investment.

It shall have the Foundation keep such records as are necessary for the proper administration of all funds and investments in its control and make a complete report to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication of receipts and expenditures of each fund together with the income received by each fund from the investment of its funds.

It shall have the Foundation keep such records as are proper with respect to all charitable, benevolent, educational and philanthropic activities of the Foundation and to make a comprehensive report of such activities to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication.

7. **Nominating.** It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to propose nominees who are willing to accept selection for an elective position of the Grand Lodge. The names of these nominees are to be published in the last issue of the 'North Dakota Mason' prior to the Annual Communication. (REV.2002)

8. **Policy and General Purposes.** It shall be the duty of the committee to exercise control and direction of all programs of Masonic Service and Education.

It shall exercise direction and control of all plans and projects of the Grand Lodge not specifically referred to another committee and shall assist the Grand Master in formulating and carrying out any projects or programs for the general good of the Fraternity.

It shall have the power to inspect all books, papers, documents or accounts of the Grand Lodge or any constituent Lodge and to summon any officer to appear before it.

It shall review and pass on proposals of the Grand Master for removal of members from any elected committee and for filling of vacancies in such committee.

9. Publications. It shall be the duty of this committee to edit and issue quarterly or oftener, if the Grand Lodge so directs, a bulletin containing matters of interest and information to the Craft in this Jurisdiction and under such regulations as the Grand Lodge shall, from time-to-time adopt.

10. Trial Commission. It shall perform such duties as are provided in Chapter VI of these bylaws.

11. Bylaws. It shall be the duty of this committee to consider all proposals for amendment of the Bylaws referred to it by the Grand Lodge and to report back, during the Annual Communication, its recommendation as to whether, in the opinion of the committee, the proposals:

(i) Appear proper as to form, and

(ii) Do not conflict with the Constitution or another Bylaw. (REV.1996)

Section 12. Revenues Received by Grand Lodge.

a) **Dues.** Every constituent Lodge in the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall pay into the treasury of the Grand Lodge, through the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, the sum of (\$19.00 for 1999, \$20.00 for 2000, \$21.00 for 2001, \$22.00 for 2002 and \$23.00 for 2003) annually as dues for each member of said Lodge. (One dollar of this amount to be placed in a special fund to finance the publication and distribution of the N. D. MASON).

(REV.1997, 1992)

b) **Fees.** A fee of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid upon each candidate who is initiated as an Entered Apprentice in any constituent Lodge and in any Lodge under dispensation, except such as may have been initiated by courtesy for another Lodge; and in such cases, if the requesting Lodge is in this Jurisdiction, it shall pay such fee and which fees shall all be paid into the general fund of the Grand Lodge.

A fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for each Master Mason raised in any constituent Lodge shall be paid into the principal of the Grand Lodge Relief Fund. (REV.1998)

c) **Interest.** Interest on all Grand Lodge Trust Funds shall accrue to the principal from which the investment was made except the Masonic Home and Hospital Fund shall be paid into the North Dakota Masonic Foundation unless otherwise directed by the Grand Lodge.

d) **Fines.** All fines shall be paid into the General Fund of the Grand Lodge.

e) **Other Receipts.** Other receipts shall be paid into the fund designated by the source of the fund; and, if there is no designation, into the General Fund of the Grand Lodge.

f) **Dues and Fees.** All dues, fees, assessments, or taxes, shall accompany the annual reports of the respective Lodges to the Grand Lodge.

g) **George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.** Further, every constituent lodge in the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall collect the sum of five dollars (\$5) for each petition for the Degree of Entered Apprentice, said amount to be forwarded to the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, who shall, in turn, forward the amount to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association for the support of said memorial.

(REV.1981)

h) **Assessment.** An assessment of two dollars (\$2.00) per capita shall be paid by each constituent Lodge in this jurisdiction into the Grand Lodge General Fund which shall be used exclusively for office administrative costs. (REV.2000)

Section 13. Salaries of Grand Officers. The Grand Master, the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, the Grand Lecturers, and the Fraternal Correspondent may receive such salaries as the Grand Lodge may determine and the members of the trial Commission. such compensation as provided in Chapter VI of these bylaws. No other officer shall receive compensation, but officers and committees, when transacting business for the Grand Lodge, shall receive their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. (REV.1986)

Section 14. Representation Compulsory. Any constituent Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction failing to have a representative in attendance at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, shall be fined the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50) for such failure unless for good cause shown, said Lodge is excused by vote of the Grand Lodge. (REV.1989)

Section 15. Miscellaneous Provisions.

a) **Reports Presented-When.** All Officers and committees appointed to act during recess, having reports to make to the Grand Lodge, shall be required to present them on the first day of the communication.

b) **Insignia - When Worn.** Members of the Grand Lodge not officers therein and representatives of constituent Lodges may appear at its sessions clothed with jewels which it is proper for them to wear in their constituent Lodges.

c) **Questions Presented.** Members of the Grand Lodge having questions involving Masonic Jurisprudence to propound to the Grand Lodge, shall present the same in writing.

CHAPTER III

GRAND LODGE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Section 1. General Provisions - Library. The Grand Lodge shall maintain a Library which shall have free access for every Mason in this Grand Jurisdiction and to such others may be granted this privilege by the Grand Librarian or Grand Secretary-Treasurer.

a) The Grand Librarian shall maintain an operations and procedures handbook to detail cataloging, inventory and disposition of all Masonic Library soft and hard print materials.

b) A list of adequate and proper depositories shall be maintained for placement of the non Masonic publications.

Section 2. General Provisions Museum. The Grand Lodge shall maintain a Masonic Museum in the Grand Lodge Office Building to be supervised by the Grand Librarian and with the assistance of the Grand Historian.

a) The Museum shall have free access for every Mason in this Grand Jurisdiction and to such others as may be granted this privilege by the Grand Librarian, Grand Historian, or Grand Secretary-Treasurer.

b) The Grand Librarian shall maintain an operations and procedures handbook to detail cataloging, inventorying, displaying, and disposition of all museum collections, coins, medals, arms, curios, or anything which may have a Masonic historical value in connection with the Grand Lodge and of this State and other Jurisdictions.

c) A list of adequate and proper depositories shall be maintained for the placement of non-Masonic museum items.

Section 3. General Provisions--Archives. The Grand Lodge shall maintain an archival depository which shall have free access for every Mason in this Grand Jurisdiction and to such others as may be granted this privilege by the Grand Librarian or Grand Secretary-Treasurer ever keeping in mind the strict supervisory requirements inherent in maintaining archives.

a) **Handbook.** The Grand Librarian shall maintain an operations and procedures handbook to detail cataloging inventory and disposition of all Masonic material classified as archives.

Section 4. Reports. An annual report of all transactions, usages, and recommendations shall be made to the Library and Museum Committee.

CHAPTER III

MASONRY, SYMBOLIC AND LEGITIMATE

Section 1. Consists of What. Legitimate, symbolic Masonry consists of the following degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. This Grand Lodge exercises supreme control over the conferring of these degrees in the State of North Dakota.

Section 2. Recognition of Other Masonic Bodies. This Grand Lodge recognizes the legitimacy and regularity of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of North Dakota and the Chapters receiving their authority therefrom; The Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of North Dakota and the Councils under its jurisdiction; the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Dakota and The Commanderies chartered thereby; and the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, and all bodies existing in North Dakota under and by virtue of its authority. (REV.1982)

This Grand Lodge exercises supreme control over the use of Masonic membership as the basis of qualification for membership in any other body, order, or fraternal society within its jurisdiction and no such body, order, or fraternal society not now in active existence within this Grand Jurisdiction shall be promoted or organized unless this Grand Lodge, by a two-thirds vote, shall have first sanctioned, endorsed, or recognized such organization.

CHAPTER IV

FORMATION OF NEW LODGES

Section 1. Dispensation—By Whom Granted. The Grand Master or in his absence, the Deputy or Acting Grand Master may, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, upon proper application, issue letters of dispensation for the formation of new lodges, to continue in force from the date thereof until the first day of June following. No dispensation shall be issued until after the fee therefor shall be deposited with the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, nor be valid without the Seal of the Grand Lodge. No dispensation shall be granted to form a new lodge in any city where a lodge already exists unless the population exceeds six thousand (6,000).

Section 2. Prerequisites to Obtain Dispensation. No dispensation shall be granted for the formation of a new lodge except upon the petition of at least twenty Master Masons, accompanied by their certificates of good standing or demits, in which petition, their First Master, Wardens, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be nominated and that, prior to the Constitution of such lodges, the demits of the petitioners must be filed with the Grand Secretary-Treasurer. Provided that, in case any of said petitioners desire to retain their membership in the lodge of which they are already members, the filing of such demits shall be plural or dispensed with if such original lodge is located in a jurisdiction permitting dual membership. This petition shall be accompanied by a recommendation from the lodge nearest the place where the new lodge is to be located. Before any constituent lodge shall recommend any petition for a new lodge, the Brother named as Master of said new lodge, and the other officers, shall appear in open lodge and exemplify the symbolic degrees of Masonry a satisfactory manner. Any constituent lodge recommending a petition for a new lodge shall state explicitly that the petitioners have provided a suitable lodge room and that they have complied with the provisions of this section.

In case such nearest lodge refuses to act upon the petition, or to allow the Master and the officers of the proposed lodge to appear in its open lodge and exemplify the symbolic degrees of Masonry as required in this section, then said petition may be presented to the Grand Master. If he finds, upon investigation, that the refusal of such lodge to act is without good cause, he may, in his discretion, proceed to examine the petition and hear the exemplification of the degrees by the Master and other officers of the proposed lodge, and, if satisfactory, he may grant a dispensation for the formation of the new lodge.

Section 3. Cost of Dispensation and Charter. For every dispensation for the formation of a new lodge, there shall be paid to the Grand Lodge, the sum of twenty dollars (\$20); for every charter, the sum of thirty dollars (\$30). No charter shall be issued to a lodge which has not worked under dispensation without the unanimous consent of the Grand Lodge and the payment of the fifty dollars (\$50).

Section 4. Charters in Duplicate. All charters issued by the Grand Lodge shall be made in duplicate, one copy of which shall be retained in the Archives of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer. In case of the destruction of the charter of any lodge, the duplicate charter shall be furnished to the lodge after a copy of said duplicate is made for the files of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer's office. The cost of engrossing said copy shall be a charge against the constituent lodge.

Section 5. Charters—By Whom Signed. The charters granted at any Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge shall be signed by the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Wardens, elected and installed at that Communication and attested by the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, with the Seal of the Grand Lodge attached.

Section 6. Lodges Under Dispensation—Duties of. Every lodge under dispensation shall make a report upon blanks furnished by the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, showing all petitions, elections, initiations, passing, raising, admissions by affiliation, deaths, suspension or expulsions, if any, rejections, with respective dates, and such other information as may be required. This report shall be signed by the Master and attested by the Secretary. It shall cover the period from the date of the dispensation to June 1st, following and shall be accompanied by the amount of fees due the Grand Lodge; namely, five dollars (\$5) for each candidate initiated an Entered Apprentice and five dollars (\$5) for each candidate raised to the Degree of Master Mason. In addition thereto, it shall, on or before June 5th, return the dispensation granted it, together with a transcript of work showing the following facts:

a) **Shall show at the commencement of the minutes of each Communication:**

1. The name and location of the Lodge and the day of the week, month, and year.
2. The names of the Officers and number of members present.
3. The Communication, whether stated or special and on what degree opened and closed.
4. What degrees were conferred and upon whom.
5. A statement showing what moneys were received and disbursed and for what purposes.
6. A certificate of the correctness of the abstract, signed by the Master and the Secretary.
7. Such abstract shall be typewritten.

No charter shall be issued until the above provisions have been complied with, a complete financial statement made, and a petition for a charter has been

Section 7. Lodges U.D.—No Seal. Lodges under dispensation have no authority to use a lodge seal.

Section 8. Representatives from Lodges U.D.—Right of. Representatives of lodges under dispensation shall be allowed the privilege of the floor in the Grand Lodge -and the right to participate in the discussion, but shall not vote, serve on committees, or hold offices therein.

Section 9. Fines. A fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be imposed on lodges under dispensation whose reports are not in the hands of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer by January 31st.

(REV.1987)

Section 10. Merger. Whenever two or more lodges vote to merge as herein provided, the three principal officers of such lodges shall submit an appropriate petition, in duplicate, to the Grand Master and to the Grand Secretary -Treasurer, accompanied with copies of the agreement as to the name, temporary officers, property, terms, and the other details for instituting the new lodge. At least thirty (30) days prior to such vote in any lodge, the secretary thereof shall send an appropriate written notice to all members in good standing and the merger shall not be authorized until there has been an affirmative vote at two successive regular lodge meeting. There-upon, the three principal officers of the respective lodges are authorized to enter into an appropriate agreement subject to such instructions as their respective lodge may impose upon them. The Grand Lodge shall vote upon such petition at the next Annual Communication and thereupon, if desired or necessary, a new charter shall be issued substantially in the manner and according to the other provisions for issuance and presentation of a charter. At the same time, the sum of thirty dollars (\$30) shall be paid to the Grand Lodge. A new lodge by merger shall be deemed a continuation of the lodges merged therein and the members shall automatically be members of the new lodge and the old charters shall be deemed continued and merged into the new charter and provided further, that the merging lodges may provide for the continuation of one of their charters and for merger of the other charter or charters therein.

CHAPTER V CONSTITUENT LODGES

Section 1. Master Must Have Served as Warden. The Ancient Charge, requiring the Master to have served as a Warden, shall be enforced in this Jurisdiction, except in lodges under dispensation. In extreme cases, by vote of the lodge, the Grand Master may, by dispensation, permit any member of the lodge to be elected Master. Provided, further, that no Brother shall hold concurrently in two lodges, any of the following offices: Master, Warden, Secretary.

Section 2. Jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of a constituent lodge shall include all territory in this Grand Jurisdiction nearer in a direct line to it than to any other lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, subject to the following exceptions:

a) When two or more lodges are located in any city, said lodges shall have concurrent jurisdiction.

b) A zone of concurrent jurisdiction, equally distant between two lodges, is hereby created as follows: When lodges are nine or more miles apart, the zone shall be two miles in width; when less than nine miles, said zone shall be one mile in width.

c) The Grand Lodge or the Grand Master may, by reason of accessibility or convenience of travel, grant concurrent jurisdiction between two or more lodges upon presentation of a petition setting forth all facts concerning the proposed concurrent jurisdiction. Notice of any such petition shall be sent to all interested lodges. When this power is exercised by the Grand Master, he shall report the same to the next Communication of the Grand Lodge for ratification.

d) The Grand Lodge of North Dakota grants to adjoining grand jurisdictions, concurrent jurisdiction over all persons residing within the State of North Dakota near the boundary line of this state and whose residence is nearer and more accessible to a lodge in an adjoining state or Canadian province, this regulation to be in effect only after receipt of official information from an adjoining grand jurisdiction that a similar regulation has been adopted by it as to residents thereof, provided that, in case any petition shall be presented to a lodge in an adjoining state or province by a resident of North Dakota, the lodge receiving the petition shall immediately notify the lodge in whose jurisdiction the petitioner resides and shall take no further action for thirty days from the date of such notification and, if the petitioner has been rejected by the lodge so notified, no action shall, at any time, be taken without the consent of such lodge.

e) Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other bylaw provision concerning jurisdiction that may be to the contrary, any petitioner for Masonic Degrees in the state of North Dakota, shall be allowed to petition any Lodge of his choice whether the same is within the Grand Lodge jurisdiction of North Dakota or a neighboring Grand Lodge jurisdiction. (REV.1982)

Section 3. Vacancies—How Created—How Filled. Whenever the Worshipful Master, or any elective officer, shall remove permanently from the jurisdiction of the lodge, or shall refuse to serve or to attend meetings, the Grand Master shall, upon presentation of the facts, have power to declare any or all of these offices vacant and thereupon shall authorize some Brother to act temporarily as Master and shall then grant a dispensation to hold a new election, the results of which shall be at once forwarded to the Grand Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 4. Lodge Opened—On What Degree. All business of a constituent lodge that does not usurp the inherent rights of a lodge of Master Masons may be transacted in either of the two lesser degrees. (REV.2002)

Section 5. Lodge Communications, Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction shall not have more than two stated Communications in each month and only at such stated Communications, can petitions for degrees or for affiliation be received and ballot taken without dispensation from the Grand Master. The charter of any constituent lodge In this Grand Jurisdiction may be arrested for failure to hold at least eight stated Communications during the Masonic Year. A quorum for the transaction of lodge business shall consist of seven members, but three members may open and close a lodge, one of whom shall be the Worshipful Master or a Warden.

Section 6. Lodge Seal. Each constituent lodge shall have a seal and file an impression of the same in the Office of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer to be preserved. This provision does not apply to a lodge under dispensation.

Section 7. Lodge bylaws. Every lodge shall have, for the government of its local affairs, a set of bylaws in substantial accord with those adopted by the Grand Lodge for the government of constituent lodges.

Each new lodge, immediately following its constitution, shall formulate and adopt for its government, bylaws as provided above. All bylaws, when adopted, or amendments to the same, shall have the approval of the Grand Master before becoming operative.

Section 8. Lodge Funds. All funds belonging to any constituent lodge or lodge under dispensation, shall be deposited by the Treasurer in some bank in the name of the lodge. No money shall be paid out of the lodge treasury except upon warrant duly authorized by the lodge and signed by the Worshipful Master and the Secretary. The accounts of the Secretary and the Treasurer of constituent lodges shall be audited annually by the Worshipful Master and the Wardens, or by a Special Finance Committee prior to the installation of officers and a report made to the Grand Lodge with the annual returns.

Each constituent lodge, at a stated Communication, on or before the annual Installation of officers, shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year showing its estimated receipts from all sources and the amounts of anticipated expenditures of the lodge for

the same period. Each lodge shall file with its annual returns to the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, a copy of such budget as adopted and upon such form as shall have been prepared by the Grand Secretary-Treasurer and the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Finance Committee.

Section 9. Dues: How Fixed—When Payable—Suspension for Non-Payment.

(a) Every member of a constituent lodge in this jurisdiction shall pay such annual dues as may be fixed by the bylaws of the lodge, provided, however, that such dues shall not be less than twenty dollars (\$20). Such annual dues shall become due on the first day of January and become delinquent on the thirty-first day of October of that calendar year. Dues may be remitted for good and sufficient reasons by two-thirds vote of the lodge. Upon payment of dues for the current year, each member shall receive their membership card authorized by the Grand Lodge. Any Brother applying for membership and presenting his demit and the membership card of the current year to any lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, if elected, shall not be required to pay further dues for that year.

(b) The secretary of each constituent lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction is hereby directed to report to this lodge at the first stated Communication in November, the names of all members who are delinquent in their current year's dues. Unless otherwise directed, such Secretary shall immediately thereafter, notify by registered or certified mail, with return receipt requested, each delinquent Master Mason, that he has not paid his dues for the current year and is subject to suspension at the end of the calendar year if such dues are not paid and that, if any reason exists why such suspension should not be made, he shall appear, at a designated stated Communication, not sooner than twenty days after the mailing or service of such notice, and show cause why he should not be suspended or file his reasons in writing with the Secretary on or before such Communication. At the Communication named in such notice, the Secretary shall report his action and the names of the Brethren so notified and any written reasons filed with him and unless the lodge remits or extends the payment of such dues or takes action to the contrary, the Brethren so notified shall defacto stand suspended as of December 31st of that calendar year.

(c) Such suspension shall be in full force and effect until it is removed by the lodge, which may be done at any stated Communication when a petition for removal of such suspension is presented together with a statement that all arrearages have been paid. Reinstatement shall be by a majority vote. If the applicant for restoration shall be rejected, the sum paid as a condition precedent to his restoration shall be returned to him.

Section 10. Assessments: How Made—For What Purpose. Any constituent lodge in this jurisdiction may, by majority vote, levy any reasonable assessment upon its members. Such assessment, however, shall be for the purpose of meeting the actual expenses of maintenance of the lodge or for the demands of Masonic charity. No assessment shall be made to meet the expense of any entertainment or social feature in connection with the lodge.

Section 11. Lodge Fees. No lodge shall confer the symbolic degrees of Masonry for a sum less than sixty-five dollars (\$65), at least twenty dollars (\$20) of which must accompany the petition provided, however, that any lodge fixing said fee at a less amount than seventy dollars (\$70) shall collect the five dollars (\$5) required to be paid for the benefit of the Grand Lodge Relief Fund for each Master Mason raised over and above that paid for the degrees. No fee shall be charged in this Grand Jurisdiction with any petition for affiliation. No lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall confer any

of the symbolic degrees of Masonry upon credit. Any constituent lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may, by majority vote of the members present at any stated Communication, return any unearned fee which shall have been paid.

Section 12. Annual Returns. Every constituent lodge in the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall, on or before the 31st day of January in each year, prepare and forward to the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, a report in such form as shall be prescribed and furnished by him and shall include a list in tabular form, of all initiations, passings and raisings, admissions by affiliation, demissions, deaths, suspensions, expulsions of members, rejections and restorations, with the respective dates, a certificate signed by the Worshipful Master that the Secretary and Treasurer have made annual reports and that the same have been audited and approved by the Finance Committee, together with such other information as may be required. This report shall include the term of one year from the first of January to the thirty-first day of December, inclusive, and shall be signed by the Worshipful Master or Secretary. All dues assessments and fees, are due and payable on or before the 31st day of January, unless the Lodge presents satisfactory reasons for nonpayment and is excused by vote of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to close his reports March 31 and report all lodges that have not made returns and paid their dues at the date, as delinquent. A fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be imposed on constituent lodges whose annual returns are not in the hands of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer by January 31st of each year.

(REV.1987)

Section 13. Revenue payable to Grand Lodge.

a) Every constituent lodge in the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall pay into the treasury of the Grand Lodge, through the Grand Secretary -Treasurer, the sum of (\$19.00 for 1999, \$20.00 for 2000, \$21.00 for 2001, \$22.00 for 2002 and \$23.00 for 2003) annually, as dues for each member of said lodge. One dollar of this amount to be placed in a special fund to finance the publication and distribution of the North Dakota Mason.

(REV.1992, 1998)

b) A fee of five dollars (\$5) shall be paid upon each candidate who is initiated an Entered Apprentice in any constituent lodge and in any lodge under dispensation except such as may have been initiated by courtesy for another lodge and in such cases if the requesting lodge is in this jurisdiction, it shall pay such fee and which fee shall all be paid into the General Fund of the Grand Lodge.

A fee of five dollars (\$5) for each Master Mason raised in any constituent lodge shall be paid into the principal of the Grand Lodge Relief Fund.

Further, every constituent lodge in the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall collect the sum of five dollars (\$5) for each petition for the Degree of Entered Apprentice, said amount to be forwarded to the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, who shall, in turn, forward the amount to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association for the support of said memorial.

c) All dues, fees, assessments, or taxes shall accompany the annual reports of the respective lodges.

d) No constituent lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge until all indebtedness to the Grand Lodge is paid. In case of refusal or neglect of any lodge to pay the same at or before the next Annual Communication thereafter, unless excused, its charter may be arrested by the Grand Lodge. However, such lodge upon making due returns and the payment of such indebtedness, may upon application

to the Grand Lodge be restored to its former status by a majority vote of the Grand Lodge. The restriction set forth in this paragraph shall not apply when the indebtedness consists of a loan from the Grand Lodge and in any event, the provisions of this paragraph may be invoked or waived by the Grand Master in specific cases unless the Grand Lodge votes otherwise.

e) An assessment of two dollars (\$2.00) per capita shall be paid by each constituent Lodge in this jurisdiction into the Grand Lodge General Fund which shall be used exclusively for office administrative costs. (REV.2000)

Section 14. Petitions—Procedure With.

a) **Received—When.** No petition for initiation or membership (affiliation) or application for advancement, when jurisdiction has been waived of a Brother initiated or passed, as the case may be, in any other lodge, shall be received in a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction except at a stated Communication, without a dispensation from the Grand Master.

b) **Conditions Precedent to Affiliation.** No petition for affiliation shall go to a ballot until the applicant has visited the lodge or has passed a satisfactory examination under the direction of the Worshipful Master. The residence qualification demanded of petitioners for degrees, is not required with the petitioner for affiliation.

c) Investigating Committee

1. Upon the petition of every candidate for degrees or of a Brother for membership (affiliation), the Master shall appoint a committee of three members of the petitioned lodge known only to himself and the Secretary of the Lodge. It shall be the duty of each member of such committee to make careful investigation into the vocation, character, qualifications, habits, and standing of the applicant; reporting his findings and conclusions in full to the lodge upon blanks prepared for this purpose. These reports should be made within 14 days and upon the presentation of the reports from two members of the committee, the petition may come to a ballot. A ballot must be taken regardless of the nature of these reports.

2. If any member of the Investigating Committee finds it impossible to make his report within the 14 days and asks for further time, it shall be granted and the ballot deferred.

3. Whenever a committee, or a majority of the same, fails to act within a reasonable time, the Master may discharge such committee and appoint a new one.

4. As soon as the reports of the Investigating Committee have been read by the Secretary, in open lodge, omitting the name of the signer, they shall be destroyed.

d) Ballot.

1. No ballot upon such petition or application shall be taken except at a stated Communication at least 14 days after the receipt of such petition or application, except by special dispensation from the Grand Master and until a majority of the Investigating Committee shall have reported. An unfavorable report by the committee does not do away with the necessity of the ballot. No ballot shall be taken unless seven members are present. Every member present when a petition or application is being balloted upon, must cast a ballot unless excused from so doing by unanimous consent of the members present at that time. The words to be used in announcing the result of the ballot shall be “clear” in case it is favorable and “not clear” when it is unfavorable. A unanimous favorable ballot is necessary to elect except in case a non-affiliate petition for membership in the Lodge from which he had demitted within five years from the date of the demit, or a member within this Grand Lodge Jurisdiction applies for affilia-

tion or plural membership, a majority favorable vote shall be sufficient and may be taken by a show of hands.

2. Each ballot box must contain at least seven white balls and seven black cubes with enough additional to allow all members to ballot.

e) **One Ballot for Degrees.** When a ballot is taken on the petition of a candidate to receive the symbolic degrees of Masonry and become a member of any Constituent Lodge in this Jurisdiction, if the ballot is clear, the petitioner shall be declared elected. If, upon examination of the ballot, the Master finds but a single black cube cast, he must order a second ballot. Under no other circumstances, shall any further ballot be permitted and when the ballot has once been declared by the Master, it cannot be reconsidered. Further, it shall be destroyed by him after it has been declared.

f) **Collective Ballot.** When petitions for degrees or affiliation of more than one candidate are ready for ballot. the Lodge may, at its option, and with the consent of the eligible voters present, take a collective ballot upon the petitions. If, upon examination of the collective ballot, the Master finds one black cube, he must declare the ballot invalid and each petition must be balloted upon separately.

(REV.1975)

g) **Consent for Conferring Degrees by Courtesy.** Whenever a degree is to be conferred by courtesy within this Grand Jurisdiction for another lodge, the consent to confer the degree shall be manifested by the usual voting sign and at any Communication, a majority vote being sufficient.

h) **Objection—How Made—Result:** Any member of a lodge has the right to object secretly to the initiation of any elected candidate, and such objection, unless withdrawn before the next stated Communication, shall have the same effect as a black ball cast at the time of the ballot. A secret objection made to the Master cannot be questioned and is effective if made at any time subsequent to the candidate's election and prior to his initiation. In a secret objection, reasons may or may not be given. Any objection made in open lodge must be put in written form. It then becomes the property of the lodge and may be disposed of at any stated Communication by majority vote. If the objector refuses or fails to reduce his objection, or the reasons therefor, to writing as required, his objection becomes of no effect and the candidate may be initiated unless other and valid objections are interposed. In case the elected candidate is stopped as above, the fee must be returned. Objection cannot be made in case degrees are being conferred for another lodge by courtesy.

i) **Advancement of Candidate—How Stopped.** No Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft shall be stopped in his advancement except by charges being preferred; which charges must be heard according to the procedure of this Grand Jurisdiction or because of failure to pass a satisfactory examination in open lodge upon the lecture of the preceding degree

j) **Ceremonies Explained.** The lodge shall, In all cases, when conferring degrees, fully explain to the candidate the meaning of the ceremonies pertaining thereto and such explanation shall be in accordance with the ritual adopted for this Grand Jurisdiction.

k) **Candidate to Receive Apron.** Every lodge In this Grand Jurisdiction shall present to each Entered Apprentice, at the time of his initiation, a lambskin or white leather apron which becomes his personal property.

1) **Age of Candidate.** Any lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may lawfully receive and ballot upon a petition and may confer degrees thereafter upon any male person otherwise qualified who is eighteen (18) years of age. (REV.1972)

m) **Examination of Candidate.** No candidate shall be advanced to the Degrees of Fellow Craft or Master Mason until he shall have (1) passed an examination in open lodge upon the preceding degree, as it now appears in the North Dakota Key, which examination must be satisfactory to the lodge, or (2) have completed the Candidate Education Program that is approved by the Masonic Education Committee and Custodian of the Work Committee. The choice of such examination shall be at the discretion of the Worshipful Master of the particular constituent lodge. (REV.1994, 1998)

n) **Examination of Master Masons Required.** Every Brother raised to the Degree of Master Mason shall be required (1) to learn the lecture of said degree and pass a satisfactory examination within 120 days of said raising, or (2) have satisfactorily completed a Candidate Education Program within 120 days that is approved by the Masonic Education Committee and Custodian of the Work Committee, which fact shall be entered of record and entitles said Master Mason to a Certificate of Proficiency. The choice of such examination shall be at the discretion of the Worshipful Master of the particular constituent lodge. The Worshipful Master shall emphasize the great importance of this section and it shall be his duty to fix a date when such Brother shall appear in Open Lodge for examination on this lecture. If, for any good reason, such Brother cannot appear in Open Lodge, the examination may be conducted by the Worshipful Master or before a committee of three Master Masons appointed by him, who shall report such satisfactory examination in Open Lodge. Until such Brother shall have received such Certificate of Proficiency, he shall not be allowed to hold office except by Special Dispensation from the Grand Master. He shall, however, be liable for payment of his lodge dues and receive a dues card and shall be allowed to demit from his lodge. No Brother raised after July 1st 1948 shall petition any other Masonic Body for further Masonic Degrees until he shall have received such Certificate of Proficiency. Any Brother who refuses or neglects to comply with the above provision shall be reported by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge to the Grand Master, who may order the offending Brother suspended from the rights and privileges of Masonry until such times as he complies with the provision.

(REV.1998)

o) **New Ballot - When.** A candidate failing, for one year after his election, to appear for initiation, shall not be entitled to the degrees without a new petition and ballot; which petition must take the same course as in the first instance.

An Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, as the case may be, failing to apply for advancement for a like period, must submit a written request to continue to receive degrees. A new ballot must be taken at the stated meeting at which his request is presented. If rejected, his name can be presented for advancement at the following or any subsequent stated communication. (REV.1998)

p) **Territorial Jurisdiction - Time Limit.** No lodge shall receive and act upon the petition of any applicant for initiation whose residence may be nearer some other lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction than the one to which application is made, without the consent of such nearest lodge, except as provided in Chapter V, Section 2, of these bylaws. Nor shall any lodge receive and act upon the petition of any applicant within six months from the date of rejection. No other lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction can receive the petition for degrees of an applicant rejected by any other lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction until after the lapse of one year from the date of such rejection.

q) **Rejection - No Bar - When.** The rejection of a petitioner for the degrees by a lodge in any other Grand Jurisdiction, shall be no bar to receiving the petition of such rejected applicant after he has gained a Masonic residence: in this Grand Jurisdiction.

r) **Rejected Non-Affiliate - Application Renewed - When.** A rejected non-affiliate may renew his petition for membership at any stated meeting subsequent to his rejection and in any lodge. (REV.1991)

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s) **Masonic Residence.** No petition for the Symbolic Degree of Masonry shall be received from any person who has not resided within the state and within the jurisdiction of the lodge to which his petition is presented, for a period of three months. When jurisdiction is waived by a lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, the provisions requiring a three month's residence shall not pertain, neither shall there be any requirement as to residence for affiliation, provided, however, that the foregoing requirements as to residence shall not be a bar to residents of any of the bordering Grand Jurisdictions to the Grand Jurisdiction of North Dakota, in case of a Waiver of Jurisdiction or other satisfactory comity agreement between the Grand Jurisdiction of North Dakota and such other bordering Grand Jurisdictions, or between the lodges of the same.

Provided further, however, that a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, while on duty at an established base or station of said Armed Forces within this state, at which is established a Masonic Club or group commonly known as a Square and Compass Club which is recognized by this Grand Lodge, may petition for membership in the proper constituent lodge after residing at said base or station for a period of three months and is sponsored by said Square and Compass Club.

t) **Notice of Rejection Sent—When.** When two or more lodges are located in any city of this Grand Jurisdiction, it shall be the duty of each one of such lodges to communicate to the others within forty-eight hours thereafter, all rejections, giving the names, occupations, etc., of all rejected petitioners.

u) **Petition Cannot Be Withdrawn.** After a petition has been formally received by a constituent lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, it cannot be withdrawn and such petition must be disposed of by ballot within six months after its reception by a lodge.

v) **Life Membership.** Any constituent lodge may make any member who has rendered distinguished and meritorious service to Masonry an Honorary Life Member thereof provided he has been a member of the order in good standing for thirty years or more, and shall have attained the age of 70 years; provided, however, that, by Special Dispensation from the Grand Master, all said limitations may be waived. Any constituent lodge which has granted honorary life membership to any Brother shall, within thirty days, certify such fact to the Grand Secretary -Treasurer, who shall, upon payment of the fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00) issue to said Brother an Honorary Life Membership Certificate bearing the name of the Brother and the Lodge of which he is a member. (REV.1987)

w) **Paid Up Membership.** Any constituent lodge may grant a "paid up" membership for life upon the payment of a definite sum in advance in lieu of annual dues ; said life membership to be on such terms and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by said constituent lodge; provided, however, that such paid up membership for life shall not be transferable to any other lodge in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota or any other Grand Lodge Jurisdiction. No moneys received, for the granting of a paid up membership, shall be refundable and all paid up membership for life -purchase moneys shall be kept in a trust account established for that purpose and shall not be invaded by the constituent lodge until the life member is deceased; provided, however, that the payment of the individual annual dues which would otherwise be payable, may be taken from the interest earned by said trust account. The constituent lodge may deposit all purchase moneys received from individual paid-up membership for life purchase into one trust account. If a holder of a paid-up membership for life is suspended or expelled from the fraternity, under the provisions of the North Dakota Masonic Code, any moneys paid for such membership shall not be refundable. (REV.1980)

x) **Number of Candidates Limited.** The initiation, passing, or raising-of more than five candidates at any one Communication of a lodge is hereby prohibited except in cases of lodges having available two or more lodge rooms and using two or more complete degree teams.

y) **Physical Qualifications.** If the physical disability of any candidate for the degrees does not amount, aided by ordinary artificial means, to an inability to meet the requirements and honestly acquire the means of subsistence, it shall constitute no hindrance to his initiation.

Candidates for Masonic Light should possess qualifications of three kinds: Mental, Moral, and Physical. MENTAL—in that the candidate shall be literate with sufficient education to understand the ceremonies and principles of Masonry. MORAL—in that the candidate should be a man who respects the Moral law and obeys the laws of the state and nation. PHYSICAL—the theory of perfect youth belonged to the age when Masonry was operative and not speculative. It is the mental and moral qualities, not the physical, that determine whether a man is a suitable candidate for Masonic Light; hence, the Grand Lodge of North Dakota does not hold to the rule of physical perfection.

Section 15. Dual—Plural Membership.

a) **Plural Membership** Means being a member of two lodges within the same jurisdiction. A Master Mason in good standing may become, by affiliation or by joining as a petitioner in the formation of a new lodge, a PLURAL member. Such Plural Member shall be liable for the payment of dues in each lodge of which he is a member, but shall not be required to pay with such dues, the amount of the North Dakota Grand Lodge's dues and assessments in more than one lodge. Such Grand Lodge dues and assessments shall be collected by the primary lodge, this being the one in which he holds the oldest membership. A Plural member shall be entitled to vote in each lodge and to hold office therein, except that he shall not hold the Office of Master, Warden, or Secretary, or any of them, in more than one lodge at the same time. Loss of membership in any lodge by suspension or expulsion shall automatically mean loss of membership in all lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction.

b) **Dual Membership** Means being a member of two lodges, each in a different Masonic Jurisdiction. In the case of the affiliating member who indicates a desire to retain his membership in another lodge outside the Jurisdiction of North Dakota, the filing of a demit shall not be necessary under this section and his membership in the North Dakota Lodge shall become effective with his election. The Secretary of the electing lodge shall immediately notify, in writing, every other lodge in which the petitioner holds membership, of his election. The petitioner in this case is liable for full payment of all Grand Lodge dues and assessments in each jurisdiction in which membership is held. The entitlement to vote and hold office is the same as that of a Plural member.

c) **In case of suspension or expulsion** by any lodge of a Brother holding a Dual or Plural membership, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer to immediately notify, in writing, every lodge in which the Brother holds membership and the secretary of such constituent lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, upon receiving such notice, shall immediately record him as so suspended or expelled and shall further note such action in the minutes of the next stated Communication. Like notice shall be given in case of reinstatement and shall immediately automatically restore him to membership in each other lodge.

d) The Grand Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a record of all Brothers holding Dual or Plural membership and shall provide secretaries of constituent lodges with proper forms to cover this section.

Section 16. Degrees Not Conferred in Certain Instances.

a) Without a Waiver of Jurisdiction, no lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, shall confer of Fellow Craft or Master Mason upon any Brother who has been initiated or passed, as the case may be, in any other lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, except upon the request of his lodge that such degree or degrees be conferred as a matter of courtesy.

b) In case of a Waiver of Jurisdiction, the consent, under seal from the lodge in which he was initiated, shall be given. However, when such lodge shall have been dissolved, other proof of his good standing may be received.

c) No lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall confer the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason upon any elected candidate, or upon any Brother who has been initiated or passed, as the case may be, in a lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction until after said lodge has received authority of such action from the Grand Master of this jurisdiction, and after the receipt of proper representation from the requesting lodge, with the approval of the Grand Master or the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, as the case may be, or of the Grand Jurisdiction in which the requesting lodge is located.

Section 17. Demits.

a) Any Brother is entitled to a demit upon application for the same, provided his dues and assessments are paid and there are no Masonic charges pending against him, and further, that no criminal charges involving a felony are pending against him in any court.

b) The application for a demit shall be read at a stated Communication, and whereupon, if there are neither dues no charges against the applicant, the Worshipful Master shall order the demit issued of that date and record made in the minutes of that Communication provided that no lodge under dispensation has authority to issue demits.

c) All constituent lodges shall use the Demit Book heretofore approved by the Grand Lodge and issued from the Office of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer. Each demit shall bear, on its reverse side, the Certificate of Regularity attested by the Grand Secretary-Treasurer.

d) Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts of lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, who remove permanently without the same, and against whom no charges are pending, are entitled to receive a Certificate of Dismissal, setting forth their present standing in Masonry, and recommending them to the favorable consideration of lodges where they may have established permanent residence.

e) Each constituent Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall require every Mason applying for membership to present with such application a Certificate of Good Standing or a Demit and after his election, he shall be required to file within ninety days, his Demit with the Secretary of the electing lodge and until such Demit is so filed, no report shall be made in the annual returns nor shall his name be entered on the membership rolls of the lodge. In case he has no Demit and the lodge of which he was last a member

is no longer in existence, then evidence of such fact must be presented by proper certificate of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer of the jurisdiction in which the defunct lodge was located. The same procedure must be followed in case a Brother desires to reaffiliate with the lodge from which he has demitted.

f) Provided, that in case the petitioner indicates that he desires to retain his membership in another lodge as provided in Section 15, the filing of the Demit shall be dispensed with.

Section 18. Non-Affiliates. An unaffiliated Mason has no right to visit any lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction more than three times nor can he be permitted to join in any Masonic procession or participate in any festivity of the lodge, except by the courtesy thereof. He, or his family, can make no claim for charity upon the funds of a lodge, but the same may be granted when thought just and proper. He is, however, bound to respond, so far as his ability, to the call of distress by an individual Mason and they are in a like manner, bound to him. He has no right to Masonic burial, but the same may be given him by a lodge, at its discretion, if he has shown commendable zeal for the interests and has adhered to the principles of the institution. He is subject to all Masonic obligations as a member of the fraternity at large and for any violation of the moral or Masonic Law, subject to trial and discipline under the provisions of Chapter VI of these bylaws.

Section 19. Visitation—Avouchment. To prevent evil consequences, the Master of a constituent lodge will not permit a Mason to vouch for a Brother when visiting a lodge unless the Mason so vouching has sat in open lodge with the Brother vouched for or has examined him by direction of the Master.

Section 20. Grand Lodge Bylaws and Proceedings for Inspection. Each constituent lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall keep a copy of the Constitution and bylaws of the Grand Lodge, together with its proceedings under the same for the inspection of its members. It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master thereof to observe the same and see that they are strictly enforced.

Section 21. Incorporation of Lodges.

a) No constituent lodge or group of bodies of constituent lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, shall be permitted to become incorporated under the Laws of the United States, of this State, or of any other state or territory, except with the approval of the Grand Lodge or of the Grand Master ad interim between Grand Communications and then, only for the purpose of holding and protecting property interest.

b) If any constituent lodge within this Grand Jurisdiction shall desire to become incorporated as provided in paragraph (a) above, such lodge shall prepare its proposed Articles of Incorporation in legal form and submit the same to the Grand Lodge or to the Grand Master ad interim between Grand Communications, for examination and endorsement of approval thereon. It is hereby made mandatory that the following shall be incorporated in and form, as a basis of such incorporation, one of the articles hereof:

“This Corporation and the members thereof, shall be subject to and under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of North Dakota and, in the event that its charter shall become revoked or arrested by the said Grand Lodge, then the incorporation hereof shall cease and terminate, other than to sell and convey the real estate belonging to said constituent lodge at the time of such revocation or arrest. All the property owned by such lodge, shall be turned over and

delivered up to the Grand Master or his Deputy, of the said Grand Lodge, at the Office of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, to be held and owned absolutely by the said Grand Lodge and disposed of by it in accordance with the Grand Lodge by-laws and the laws and usage's of the said Masonic Fraternity.”

c) No constituent Lodges in this Grand jurisdiction shall undertake the building, construction, or purchase of a Masonic Temple, hall, or meeting place, either directly or through the instrumentality of a building corporation until after a written report showing the plans of such building and the proposed plan of financing the same has been submitted to a committee consisting of the Grand Master, Grand Secretary-Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee and the approval thereof, in writing, by said committee obtained.

Section 22. Annual Election of Officers.

a) The election of officers in constituent lodges shall be held annually not prior to the first stated Communication in December and not after the last stated Communication in March. At the annual election of officers, the vote shall be by ballot in the following order: Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Secretary; provided however, that a constituent lodge may, at its discretion, elect the same Brother as Secretary and as Treasurer.

b) No Brother is eligible to vote at the election of officers in any constituent Lodge unless he is a Master Mason and a member of such lodge, whose dues are paid for the current year, or the time for such payment has been extended by a vote of the lodge.

c) The duties of the Director of Masonic Service and Education shall be as implied in the title. He shall be particularly in charge of the presentation of the bulletins and program prepared by the Masonic Service Association of the United States and the work outlined by the Grand Lodge Committee and Masonic Service and Education. Prior to May 31st of each year, the Secretary of each lodge shall file with the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, a complete list of officers, both elective and appointive, including the Director of Masonic Service and Education.

Section 23. Installation. The installation of officers (except such as are re-elected who need not to be reinstalled) shall take place on or before the first stated Communication in May following their election, provided however, that all officers shall hold their positions until their successors are installed. No public installation shall be held outside the regular lodge hall except by special dispensation from the Grand Master. When any constituent Lodge in this jurisdiction fails to hold its installation as prescribed above, a special dispensation from the Grand Master is necessary to hold such installation at a later date, provided however, in case the Worshipful Master and the major portion of the officers have been regularly installed, the Worshipful Master shall have the power to install any officers who were unavoidably absent at any subsequent stated Communication or at any special Communication called for that purpose.

Section 24. Suspension or Termination of Lodges.

a) Upon the suspension or termination of any lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, the last officers of such lodge are responsible for the prompt delivery to the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, of the charter, all books, papers, records, jewels, emblems, regalia, furniture, funds, and all other property, both real and personal, of such lodge, with all papers and instruments relating or affecting the same, and suitable instruments of

transfer and conveyance to the Grand Lodge, and all such property shall be restored to such suspended or terminated lodge, if it is reinstated to good standing within twelve months after the date of its suspension or termination by proper authority; otherwise the Charter shall be deemed finally revoked and the lodge dissolved. Whenever a lodge desires to vote upon the question of suspension, dissolution and surrender of its charter, the secretary or other officer of such lodge shall be instructed to send an appropriate written notice to all members in good standing and to the Grand Master, at least twenty days prior to a regular lodge meeting; and the suspension, dissolution and surrender shall not be authorized until there has been an affirmative vote of those present at each of the next two successive regular lodge meetings unless the Grand Master determines otherwise. The Grand Master has the authority in all cases to make the final decision or confirmation in the matter of termination and dissolution of a constituent Lodge.

b) The terms “suspension or termination” in this section shall be interpreted in the broadest sense and refer to and include any and all manner of suspension, termination, dissolution, or abandonment of or by a lodge, whether through Grand Lodge action, or by action or inaction of the lodge itself, or by voluntary surrender of its charter and whether or not there has been a formal suspension or surrender of the lodge charter and also includes a general failure to function as a lodge and every other manner or form of termination of the required and normal lodge functions.

c) Whenever a lodge is suspended or terminated in any manner and whenever the suspension or termination of lodge functions are contemplated and planned, whether by action or inaction of the lodge itself or in any other manner, such constituent Lodge and its officers shall thereafter be the trustees of any and all its lodge property and assets, for the use and benefit of the Grand Lodge, and the officers of such lodge shall be responsible to preserve all such assets so that they may be applied, first, in payment of dues and of any necessary and lawful pre-existing obligations; and second, so that all remaining property and assets will be properly delivered to the Grand Secretary Treasurer or to the Grand Lodge as property of the Grand Lodge, to the lawfully applied as the Grand Lodge may determine. All members in good standing shall be entitled to demits providing there are no unpaid obligations or dues owing to the Grand Lodge, which have not been waived.

Section 25. Lodge of Sorrow. A constituent Lodge may, at its option, call a Lodge of Sorrow in one of two ways:

1) Open and close a Lodge of Sorrow at the end of the Masonic Year or at the end of the current term of the sitting lodge officers. All Brothers who have joined the Grand Architect of the Universe during the year will be memorialized in and during the Lodge of Sorrow.

2) Drape the Lodge Charter at the first tiled meeting of the Lodge after notification of the death of a member of the Lodge, and will remain draped until the next tiled meeting of the Lodge. (REV.2002)

Section 27. Membership At-Large Program. Those masons in good standing whose lodge has surrendered their charter may be granted membership-at-large. They will pay dues of \$35.00 to the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of North Dakota. They can remain a member-at-large for 1 year. During that time they will have the option to apply for affiliation with any lodge they choose. (REV.1997)

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CHAPTER VI

MASONIC OFFENSES, TRIALS, PUNISHMENTS AND REGULATIONS

Section 1. Masonic Crimes.

a) Masonic Offenses are:

1) A violation of any of the duties enjoined by the Ancient Charges of Free Masonry.

2) The doing of an act contrary to, or subversive of, any of the three great duties which every Mason owes and is charged to inculcate to God, his Neighbor, and Himself.

3) Conduct which tends to impair the unsullied purity of the order or which is in anywise contrary to the obligations and teachings of the institution.

4) Willful violation of the Grand Lodge bylaws.

5) Neglect to pay Lodge dues.

6) The use of any intoxicating malt, vinous or spirituous liquor in that part of a building used for Masonic purposes which is owned by any constituent Lodge or by the Grand Lodge in this jurisdiction, except for the purposes of holding a Table Lodge, or ritualistic degree work of the Scottish and York Rite Bodies. Table Lodges which include alcoholic beverages shall be held only by dispensation from the Grand Lodge and according to guidelines established by the General Policy and Purposes Committee. (REV.1990)

7) A willful violation of the constitution or criminal statutes of the United States or of the State of North Dakota, or of any other State while sojourning therein.

Section 2. Jurisdiction of Masonic Offenses.

a) The Grand Lodge A.: F.: & A.:M.: of North Dakota shall have jurisdiction over all members of constituent Lodges located within its jurisdiction for all Masonic crimes and offenses as outlined in Section 1 hereof, except paragraph (5) of said Section 1. Each constituent Lodge shall have jurisdiction over its own members for the non-payment of lodge dues. The Grand Lodge has the right to discipline all Masons of foreign jurisdictions for offenses committed within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge while residing therein, provided the Lodge or Grand Lodge which has jurisdiction of the offending Brother fails or refuses to act upon presentation of the facts.

b) Jurisdiction shall be extended over Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts to the same extent as over Master Masons.

c) During his term of office, the Grand Master shall not be subject to trial.

d) The Trial Commission, hereinafter mentioned, shall consist of five members; at least three shall be learned in the law and four of whom shall be Past Masters. All members shall be appointed by the Grand Master. One member shall be appointed each year with each member serving a five-year term. One of said members shall be designated by the Grand Master as Chairman. Any vacancy occurring shall be filled by appoint-

ment of the Grand Master and such appointee shall serve the unexpired term. Meetings of the commission shall be upon call of the Chairman and any three members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Trials.

a) Whenever any Brother shall be accused of any Masonic offense, the trial proceedings shall be made in writing with specifications of the offense under the signature of a Master Mason and delivered to the Master of the Lodge, who, with the Wardens and Deacons of his Lodge, shall constitute a committee which shall make an investigation of the accusation and report thereon to the Chairman of the Trial Commission with their recommendations, either that the charges warrant a trial or that no further proceedings be had.

b) If the report recommends a trial, the Chairman of the Trial Commission shall appoint a time and place at which the Commission shall convene to conduct the trial. The accused shall be served with an attested copy of the charges together with a summons to appear at a time and place to be named in said summons and make such answer to the charges and accusations as he may desire. The summons shall be served upon the accused at least fourteen days before the return day thereof. If the residence of the accused be outside the state or unknown, service may be made by registered mail at his last known post office address, at least thirty days before the time set for his appearance. The service and the return thereof shall be in accordance with such regulations as may be made by the Trial Commission and when so made, shall be conclusive.

c) The accused may appear in person, or by counsel, or by filing an answer, in writing, with the Trial Commission. If he fails to appear or to enter a plea, the Commission shall enter a plea of "Not Guilty" on his behalf.

d) A lodge or a Brother feeling aggrieved by the failure of the Committee to determine that the charges require investigation may appeal to the Grand Master who shall cause the charges to be transmitted to the Chairman of the Trial Commission and the Trial Commission shall then investigate the same and if it believes that the charges warrant a trial, shall proceed in the same manner as above.

e) The trial shall be held at some convenient place and time designated by the Trial Commission of which due notice shall be given. No visitors shall be admitted to the trial except the Grand Master or his personal representative, the Deputy Grand Master, any Past Grand Master, the accuser, the accused, and their counsel. Also, necessary witnesses, the person acting as reporter and the Master of the Lodge or his representative. All counsel shall be Master Masons. Witnesses, if Masons, shall testify on their honor as such. Other witnesses shall be duly sworn by a person qualified by law to administer an oath before their testimony is taken.

f) A report of the proceedings and summary of the facts in each case, including the evidence and findings of facts and recommendations of the Commission, shall be reduced to writing, signed by the Commissioners acting in such case, filed with the Grand Secretary-Treasurer within thirty days, and submitted to the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication. The findings and recommendation of the Commission, if approved, shall stand as the judgment of the Grand Lodge, but a new trial may be directed or such other order be made as shall be deemed just.

g) The expenses and reasonable compensation for services of the Commission and the Reporter shall be paid by the Grand Lodge and any other expenses shall be assessed by the Commission upon the Lodge or the Grand Lodge as may be deemed equitable.

h) If any of the witnesses cannot attend the trial, their depositions may be taken and read as evidence in the customary mode of taking depositions and subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Trial Commission.

I) The manner of conducting all trials shall be under the direction of the Commission, subject to the rules of Masonic Law and practice and such regulations as may be from time to time established by the Grand Lodge.

j) It shall be the duty of every constituent Lodge, upon the conviction and sentence of any member thereof, of a felony by any Federal or State Court, to immediately procure a transcript of the information or indictment, together with the verdict of the jury or a certificate of the minutes of the court, if the plea is guilty, and of the sentence of the court, certified by seal of such court, and to certify the same under the Seal of the Lodge and transmit all of said papers to the Chairman of the Trial Commission, who shall prepare a copy of the same and forward it to the Grand Master, who shall forthwith declare the Brother suspended pending final action by the Grand Lodge. Certified copies of the order suspending the Brother shall be filed with the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, the Secretary of the constituent Lodge and served upon the Brother in the same manner as service of a summons. The Trial Commission shall investigate all the facts and circumstances in the case and submit a report thereof together with its recommendations to the Grand Lodge at its next Annual Communication. No new trial shall be had by the Commission or the Grand Lodge. The conviction of the Brother constitutes a Masonic offense and the sentence shall be such as the Grand Lodge shall determine. Following the action of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall make an order embodying such action, which shall be filed and served as herein before provided.

k) The sentence upon conviction shall be one of the following: (1) Expulsion (2) Suspension (3) Reprimand. When sentence is expulsion, the member so expelled completely forfeits his Masonic membership and cannot be reinstated or restored to membership. An expelled Brother ceases to be a Mason and his restoration is equivalent to the admission of a profane. He shall first secure permission of the Grand Lodge and may then petition any lodge in whose jurisdiction he may reside, for the mysteries of the order and, if elected, shall be re-obligated to the performance of every Masonic duty. When a Mason is suspended, he is, during the time of such suspension, debarred from all rights and privileges of the order and no dues shall be collected from him during such time. Suspensions are indefinite and may be removed at the pleasure of the Grand Lodge upon petition of the Brother who shall not, thereby, be restored to membership within any lodge of which he was formerly a member without such lodge's consent expressed by a two-thirds ballot upon an application for membership, but shall have the status of a demitted Brother. If the sentence be that of reprimand, the reprimand shall be administered in open lodge by the Grand Master or his personal representative at a designated time, due notice of which shall be given the Brother.

CHAPTER VII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments Filed Prior to April 1. Any amendment not conflicting with the Constitution shall be reduced to writing and filed with the Grand-Secretary-Treasurer, in duplicate, no later than April 1, before the opening of an Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. If a majority of the members present at the Annual Communication vote in favor of considering the amendment, it shall be referred to the Committee on bylaws, who shall report the same back with its recommendation, and it shall be part of these bylaws, if approved by at least three-fourths of the total votes of the members present and voting thereon, or if approved by a majority of those present and voting thereon at each of two consecutive Annual Communications after it is filed. (REV.1996)

Section 2. Amendments Filed After April 1. A proposal to amend the bylaws not filed by April 1 may still be considered by Grand Lodge, provided that it is submitted to the Grand Master in writing prior to the referral of bylaws to the bylaw committee by Grand Lodge and that the Grand Lodge agrees, by a vote of three-fourths of the members present and voting, to waive the April 1 filing requirement and permit the referral. If so agreed, the amendment shall be referred to the Committee on bylaws, who shall report its recommendation on the amendment, and the amendment shall be voted on as provided in Section 1, above. (REV.1996)

Section 3. Procedure for Amending of Proposed Amendments. At the time a proposal to amend the bylaws is under consideration by Grand Lodge, it may be amended by a motion from the floor, provided the amendment is germane to the subject matter of the proposal under consideration and it receives a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting. (REV.1996)

CHAPTER VIII

GRAND LODGE PAID UP MEMBERSHIP FUND

Section 1. General.

- a) The title or name of this plan shall be: "GRAND LODGE PAID UP MEMBERSHIP FUND" (hereinafter referred to as the "FUND").
- b) The Fund is to be operated and administered within the framework of such regulations as may be adopted by this Grand Lodge.
- c) A sub-committee will be established for the purpose of supervising the operation of the Fund under the direction of the Policy and General Purposes Committee.
- d) Except as limited hereinafter, this sub-committee is to control all matters concerning investments made in the name of the Fund and accounting procedures and disbursements as such may affect the Fund, subject to the approval of the Policy and General Purposes Committee.
- 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 2 .Eligibility. Any Master Mason who is in good standing in any lodge chartered by this Grand Lodge may become a participant in the Fund unless his lodge has, in effect, its own Paid Up Membership Fund as provided for in Chapter 5, Section 14, paragraph (W) of the North Dakota Grand Lodge Code.

Section 3. Cost of Paid Up Membership.

- a) The entire cost of purchase of a paid up membership is to be established by the application of a factor schedule to be determined by the sub-committee and approved by the Policy and General Purposes Committee.
- b) The factor schedule will provide a number based on the member's age at the time of his final payment into the Fund. This number shall be multiplied times the greater of his lodge's current dues or three (3) times the sum of Grand Lodge per capita tax and assessments. The dollar amount thus arrived at will be the member's fee for entry into the Fund. (If a Brother holding a PLURAL membership should desire to apply for a paid up membership in the affiliated lodge, the number provided by the factor schedule shall be multiplied times the greater of the lodge's current dues less the Grand Lodge per capita tax and assessments or two (2) times the sum of the Grand Lodge per capita tax and assessments.)
- c) The member will be deemed to have joined the Fund on January 1 if the Fund receives his final entry payment on or before December 1st of the previous year. No moneys will be paid out by the Fund for the member until one (1) year after his joining the Fund. Any dues or assessments that become due during the year immediately following the member's having joined the Fund shall be paid by the member.

d) Any Master Mason who is otherwise qualified to join the Fund may elect to pay his entry fee in annual installments. Until such time as the final installment is made into the Fund, the member shall pay all current lodge dues and assessments. No moneys will be paid out by the Fund for the member until one (1) year after his joining the Fund as per paragraph c, above. The total amount required for membership in the Fund shall be based on the member's age, current lodge dues and assessments, and factor schedule in effect at the time of the final entry payment. Any moneys paid on the installment plan shall earn current bank savings passbook interest rates if no withdrawals have been made for the year.

e) If a Mason, paying on the installment plan, allows his dues to become delinquent, the proper sum will be deducted from the amount paid into the Fund and remitted to his lodge upon proper notification of such delinquency. No amount greater than that credited to the Mason's membership shall be paid out.

f) The Grand Lodge shall require each subordinate lodge to include an "Annual Budget" with its annual return. The Grand Secretary shall annually furnish the sub-committee with an updated list of each lodge's yearly dues.

Section 4. Procedures of Application for Paid Up Membership

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.

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

All checks shall be made payable to the Grand Lodge Paid Up Membership Fund, Grand Lodge of North Dakota.

Section 5. Effective Date of a Paid Up Membership Fund membership is to be effective one (1) year after joining the Fund as provided in Section 3, paragraph c.

Section 6. Effect of Paid Up Membership on an Individual Member.

a) Upon the submission to the Grand Lodge of the application and final payment, a Certificate of Paid Up Membership will be prepared in the name of the individual member. Such certificate shall bear the effective date and certify that he is a paid up member as of that date.

b) After the effective date of paid up membership and following receipt of the Annual Returns from the member's lodge, the Fund shall pay the current dues of the paid up member to that lodge or lodges. If a lodge increases its dues, payment from the Fund shall be limited to a ten percent (10%) increase in dues per year until the total increase is reached if the financial condition of the Fund permits. The Grand Master, with the approval of the Policy and General Purposes Committee, may authorize a greater or lesser increase than the ten percent (10%) mentioned.

c) On or before January 1st of each year after the effective date of the paid up 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 paid up membership in his former lodge and pay the regular dues in the affiliated lodge as a PLURAL member; or

2) A Brother holding a PLURAL membership may apply for paid up membership in the affiliated lodge as a new paid up member while retaining his previous paid up membership in his primary lodge; 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 Paid Up Membership Fund and receive a fully paid up membership in the affiliated lodge.

e) No dues shall be paid by the Fund for a paid up member who is not an affiliated member in a lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, nor will payment be made to a lodge that has its own Paid Up Membership Fund.

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

g) In the event that a lodge is consolidated with another lodge, the Fund shall pay the dues of those paid up members in the amount to which they are entitled in the now defunct lodge to such consolidated lodge.

1) In the event the dues in the consolidated lodge are greater than the dues that were paid to the now defunct lodge, the paid up member may pay the difference annually; or

2) The paid up member may pay an additional amount according to the current cost schedule to the Paid Up Membership Fund and receive a fully paid up membership in such consolidated lodge.

h) In the event that a paid up member demits from a lodge and affiliates with another lodge with lesser dues, the Fund shall pay the lesser dues amount to the paid up 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 paid up member of such lodge until such member has affiliated with another qualified lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Section 7. Effect of Paid Up Membership on the Lodge.

a.) The administration of the Fund being vested with the Policy and General Purposes Committee, the subordinate lodges can exercise no control over the Fund.

b) The Fund shall, annually, remit the paid up members' dues and the Lodge Secretary shall, annually, issue the regular and official dues card without any special designation.

c) No paid up member is exempt from a "punitive" action by his lodge. He is, therefore, subject to disciplinary action as is any other member.

d) The lodge is required to pay the per capita tax and assessments on all living paid up membership.

e) A record is to be maintained of all lodge members who have paid into the Fund indicating their status therein.

f) The lodge shall not, gratuitously, pay into the Fund for or on behalf of any Brother or purchase a paid up membership out of its operating funds. However, a lodge may establish a "benevolence" fund for this or other charitable purposes.

g) Upon the death of a paid up member, each year for a period of 20 years following the death, fifty percent (50%) of the annual dues being paid by the member at the time of his death will be returned to the lodge of record as the "member's legacy" to his lodge. The remainder will be retained as the "member's legacy" to Masonry in North Dakota. After the period of 20 years, the Grand Lodge will retain one hundred percent (100%). (REV.1997)

Section 8. Administration of the Fund by the Grand Lodge.

a) All elements of Section 1 are to apply.

b) All amounts received into the Fund must remain segregated from all other moneys of the Grand Lodge.

c) Investments of all moneys are to be made in the name of the Fund and for the sale benefit of the Fund.

d) A record is to be maintained on each individual Mason who has paid into the Fund.

e) All moneys shall be invested only in the following:

1) United States Treasury Bills and other obligations issued or guaranteed as to interest and principal by the United States Government, its agencies, and instrumentality's.

2) Certificates of Deposit and Savings Accounts in domestic banks that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC).

3) Commercial Paper or Stock of Companies rated A-1 at the time of purchase, by Standard and Poor's Corporation or PRIME 1 by Moody's Investors Service, Incorporated.

4) Trust Funds or Investment Funds that restrict investments to those listed in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above. NOTE: When the amount in the Fund is large enough, a diversity of investments should be sought.

f) On or before February 1st of each year, the dues of all living paid up members of record as of December 31st of the previous year are to be paid by the fund to each lodge that has submitted a completed Annual Return for the previous year.

g) No dues shall be paid by the Fund for any paid up member during periods of non-affiliation, suspension, or expulsion.

h) The Policy and General Purposes Committee may deduct certain administrative costs annually. Such costs are to be transferred from the Fund on or before the closing of the year.

i) 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 Mason 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:

(a) To each lodge.

(b) For administration costs.

(c) Other.

j) The sub-committee and Policy and General Purposes Committee 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.

k) The effective date of this amendment is to be the date of passage by the Grand Lodge. (REV.1984)

FACTOR TABLE

Age Factor up to	Age Factor up to	Age Factor up to	Age Factor up to
20 16.60	40 15.29	55 13.37	75 8.50
23 16.48	41 15.19	57 13.16	78 8.15
25 16.40	42 15.08	58 12.94	80 7.78
27 16.30	43 14.96	59 12.71	83 7.38
29 16.20	44 14.84	61 12.46	87 6.94
31 16.02	46 14.70	62 12.20	91 6.48
32 15.96	47 14.57	63 11.93	97 5.99
34 15.89	48 14.43	65 11.64	104 5.45
35 15.74	49 14.27	66 11.33	
36 15.66	50 14.11	68 11.00	
37 15.58	52 13.94	70 10.70	
38 15.49	53 13.76	71 9.12	
39 15.39	54 13.57	73 8.82	

NOTE: This Table to be changed at discretion of Committee.

Summary of Approved Decisions of Grand Lodge A \ F \ & A \ M \

DAKOTA TERRITORY AND STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Any officer or brother temporarily filling an office, is invested for the time being with all the rights and prerogatives of said office. (Best, 1896)

Affiliation. The ordinary residence and jurisdiction requirements do not obtain in the case of a petitioner for affiliation. (Gifford, 1883; Schrader, 1885)

Petition of former member takes same procedure as that of any other application for affiliation (Best, 1896)

A secret objection to petition for affiliation cannot be interposed. (Merrifield, 1929)

Assessment. The failure to pay an assessment legally voted subjects a member to suspension the same as non-payment of dues. (Blatt, 1887)

Ballot. The Master and Wardens alone have the right to inspect the ballot, and when declared, the Worshipful Master should destroy the same. (James, 1901)

Ballot—Illegal Unless Black Cubes in Box. Unless there are black cubes in the ballot box when a ballot is taken, the ballot is illegal and void. (Haig, 1921)

Ballot begins with reading of report of investigating committee and ends with announcement by Master of result. (Forkner, 1935)

Bond. A Lodge may require a bond of either the Secretary or the Treasurer. (Cloes, 1890)

Business at Special Communication. Conferring of degrees, conducting trials, performing Masonic funeral service, and such business as may be specifically mentioned in call for such special communication, can properly be transacted at the same. All members within the jurisdiction of the Lodge must be notified of such special communication. (Schrader, 1885; Best, 1896)

Bylaws-Signing. The signing of the bylaws of a Lodge, while desirable, is not essential to membership. (Thompson, 1891; Keyes, 1899)

Candidate. A candidate has a right to apply for advancement. (McDonald, 1894)

Candidate neglecting to apply for initiation or advancement within one year must be balloted upon again. In case the fault as above is on the part of the Lodge, a new ballot is not necessary. (Perkin 1897; James, 1900)

A knowledge of preceding degrees is necessary for advancement. (Gifford, 1884)

The examination of a candidate for advancement must be in open Lodge. (Thompson, 1891)

An elected candidate may be initiated at the communication at which he is elected. (Schroeder, 1885)

A Lodge holds perpetual jurisdiction over an elected candidate so long as he resides in this Grand Jurisdiction; however, the electing Lodge may waive jurisdiction and may return the fee. (Herrick, 1893)

The symbolic degrees, except the second section of the Master Mason Degree, may be conferred upon more than one candidate at the same time. (Braden, 1889)

A candidate, having been irregularly elected, initiated or passed through inadvertence as to jurisdiction lines, is not entitled to advancement in the Lodge within whose jurisdiction he resides without first petitioning for such advancement and receiving an election for the same. (Keyes, 1899)

Candidate's Qualifications Explained. Candidates for Masonic light should possess qualifications of three kinds: Mental, moral and physical.

First, mental, in that the candidate shall be literate, with sufficient education to understand the ceremonies and principles of Masonry. (Gifford, 1884)

Second, moral, in that the candidate should be a man who respects the moral law and obeys the laws of the state and nation. (Foley, 1905; Jacobson, 1906; James, 1901)

Third, physical, the theory of perfect youth belonged to the age when Masonry was operative and not speculative. It is the mental and moral qualities, not physical, that determine whether a man is a suitable candidate for Masonic light, hence the Grand Lodge of North Dakota does not hold to the rule of physical perfection (bylaws, Chap. V, Sec. 14 (y))

Charges. It is the duty of a Master Mason to prefer charges, or cause the same to be done by the Junior Warden, against any brother whom he knows to be guilty of un-Masonic conduct. (Keyes, 1899)

Charity. The funeral expenses of a deceased brother need not be assumed by a Lodge except when there is absolute need of charity. (Blacklock, 1904)

Charity bestowed voluntarily upon a brother not a member of the contributing Lodge, is not a legal claim against the recipient's Lodge. When aid is given at the request, or with direct consent of another Lodge, it constitutes a legal claim against said Lodge. (Blatt, 1887)

Decision, Effect of. Decisions of the Grand Master during recess of the Grand Lodge have the effect of law, unless modified or revoked by himself or the Grand Lodge. (Gifford, 1882)

Degree on Which Lodge Be Opened. A lodge must never be opened on a degree lower than that in which the work is to be done. Should the Lodge be opened on the Master Mason degree, the other symbolic degrees are technically opened, and work may be done by calling from one degree to the other. (Best, 1896)

Degrees by Courtesy. Compliance to such requests between Lodges in this grand jurisdiction is expected unless good grounds for refusal exist. A majority vote, vive voice, is all that is necessary to warrant such action unless charges are preferred. (Carothers, 1898)

Demits. The Worshipful Master and Wardens of a constituent Lodge cannot demit (Thompson, 1891). (Committee on Jurisprudence, 1896)

A demit issued to an E. A. or F. C. in another grand jurisdiction should be accepted by lodges here. Petition for advancement takes regular course. (Stockwell, 1903)

A diploma does not answer the same purpose as a demit. (Schrader, 1885; Herrick, 1893)

A demit cannot be refused because a brother is owing his lodge for other than dues and assessments. If his dues and assessments are paid and there are no charges pending, he is "clear on the books." (Elton, 1926)

Dues. Filing of charges for non-payment of dues must not be repeatedly delayed. Reasonable time should be given delinquents, after which the regular procedure shall obtain. (Carothers, 1898)

During the time of suspension, dues are not chargeable and cannot be collected against a suspended brother. (Carothers, Acting G.M., 1897)

Irregular suspension for non-payment of dues is not valid. (James, 1901)

A lodge may remit part or all arrearages of a brother suspended N.P.D. applying for restoration. (Merrifield, 1929)

Election. Election of Officers must be by majority vote. A mere plurality is not sufficient. (Bitzing, 1934)

Expulsion. An expelled Mason may be re-instated upon petition, which petition must take the course as any petition. If elected a re-obligation alone is necessary. (See bylaws, Chapter VI, Sec. 3(k) (Blacklock, 1904)

A Lodge loses jurisdiction over an expelled Mason when he moves without its jurisdiction. (Blacklock, 1904)

An expelled Mason remains under the jurisdiction of the Lodge from which he was expelled so long as he remains a resident of this grand jurisdiction.

(Committee Revision, 1916). If expelled after 1927 refer to Chapter VI, Sec. 3(k) of bylaws.

Fees. The full amount of fees set by Lodge bylaws must be collected. No remission is permissible. (Robinson, 1933)

Funds in Defunct Bank. If funds are deposited in a bank in the name of the Lodge as provided by Grand Lodge bylaws, the Treasurer of the lodge cannot be held personally responsible if the bank fails. (Haig, 1921)

Funerals. Every Master Mason in good standing is entitled to Masonic burial. A non-affiliate of known good character may receive Masonic burial by vote of the Lodge and the approval of the Worshipful Master. (Blatt, 1887)

Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts cannot be given Masonic burial. (Forkner, 1935)

The funeral expenses of a deceased Master Mason are not a legal claim against his Lodge unless authorized. However, when such courtesy is extended in the belief that the same was authorized, it is a legal claim and must be paid by the Lodge to which the deceased belonged. (Blacklock, 1904)

The flag of our country, supported by a guard, may precede the lodge in marching. If a lodge participates in the burial of a deceased brother, it must be in complete charge and control of same, but it may consent to another organization participating in the funeral, subject to our regulations and at such time and place as the Master directs. After the Masonic ceremony is commenced, however, nothing can interrupt or follow. The lodge service, including the committal to the grave, shall be the final rite. The single exception to this rule is that by Grand Lodge resolution in case of funerals of ex-servicemen, permission has been granted for the sounding of taps and a volley by a firing squad following the Masonic service. (Murfin, 1928)

Funeral, Participation by American Legion. The American Legion may be permitted by the Master to participate in a Masonic funeral to the extent of firing a volley and sounding taps after the Masonic committal services. (Miller, 1924)

Hall, Use of. A lodge may use its hall for entertainment, lodge banquets or social dances. (Falkenstein, 1927)

Hall, Change of. No dispensation is necessary for lodge to change its place of meeting provided the hall is located in the same municipality. (Braden, 1889; Thompson, 1891)

Hall, Renting of. A Masonic hall may be rented to another organization. (Cloes, 1890)

Jurisdiction. Residence in this grand jurisdiction is not essential to affiliation. (Stockwell, 1903)

Jurisdiction is never lost by a Lodge over an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft even though he moves out of its jurisdiction. (Blacklock, 1904)
(Modified by an approved decision authorizing the issuance of a special demit to an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft moving permanently outside this jurisdiction.)

Invasion of jurisdiction carries with it the relinquishment of candidate, as well as the payment of fees collected, to invaded Lodge. (Keyes, 1899)

Waiver of jurisdiction lies solely within the province of the lodge holding jurisdiction. (Blatt, 1887)

Residence in the jurisdiction of one Lodge is lost by removal therefrom and not gained with another Lodge under six months. (Perkins, 1897)

An elected candidate removing permanently to another grand jurisdiction and remaining there longer than one year, without receiving any degrees, loses his Masonic residence in the original instance. The electing lodge has also lost jurisdiction.

A North Dakota Lodge has no jurisdiction outside the state. (Keyes, 1899)
(See Chapter V, Section 2. 4) Concurrent Jurisdiction with Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Saskatchewan.)

A Lodge which has conferred the Entered Apprentice, or the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Degrees upon a candidate, does not lose jurisdiction. (Carothers, 1898)

(Except as modified by the approved decision permitting the issuance of a special demit to an E.A. or F.C.)

When Master Mason Degree is conferred by request, the usual Investigating Committee is not necessary. (Carothers, 1898)

Jurisdiction, Waiver of. An application for a Waiver of Jurisdiction over rejected material lies over until the first stated Communications in succeeding month. Application can be granted only upon a unanimous, secret ballot. (Blatt, 1886; Cloes, 1890; Perkins, 1897)

Jurisdiction, Waiver of. Rejection of Candidate. When a lodge waives jurisdiction in favor of another lodge, it has no further claim upon the candidate in question. If the candidate is rejected by the lodge in whose favor jurisdiction is waived, he is still the material of the rejecting lodge so long as he continues to reside within the jurisdiction of the lodge which originally had jurisdiction over him. (Haig, 1921)

Life Membership A lodge cannot grant Life Membership except to Masons who have been members of the order thirty years as provided in the Grand Lodge bylaws. It is illegal to grant life memberships upon the payment of a definite sum in advance in lieu of dues. (Elton, 1926). (Modified by Chap. V, Section 14(W) of bylaws.)

Liquor. No portion of a building owned or controlled by a lodge can be rented or used for the sale of beer or liquor. (Forkner, 1935)

The portion of a building that is not owned, controlled, or used for tiled meetings by a constituent Lodge, or the Grand Lodge, is not subject to the restrictions of paragraph (6), Section 1, Chapter VI of the bylaws of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota. (Skogley, 1980)

Lotteries and Gambling. Engagement in lotteries or other games of chance by lodges, or by individuals in Masonic Temples is forbidden. (Merrifield, 1929; Thompson, 1936; Pollock, 1938)

Misrepresentation in Petition. A false statement in a petition subjects the petitioner to discipline. (Blacklock, 1904)

Offenses, Masonic. All offenses against the criminal statutes of the state when committed by a Mason are Masonic offenses. It does not follow, however, that all Masonic offenses are criminal. (Carothers, 1898)

It is not a Masonic offense for a Brother to petition the wrong Lodge through inadvertence. (Keyes, 1899)

Officers of the Lodge. When the Master and both Wardens are absent, Lodge cannot be regularly opened. No business can be transacted, hence no minutes are made. (Schrader, 1885)

In the absence of the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden, the Junior Warden is the legal presiding officer. An acting Senior Warden has no rights of succession. (Foulks, 1902)

The Master of a Lodge assumes the duties of his office upon installation. (Braden, 1889)

The general rule of eligibility for a Worshipful Master is that he must have been installed and served as a Warden in a constituent Lodge previous to his election and installation as Master.

Exceptions: In a new Lodge, the Grand Master may appoint any well-qualified Brother. In an emergency in a constituent Lodge, this general rule may be waived by dispensation from the Grand Master, but consent of those eligible who are residents of town wherein Lodge is located must be secured.

(Schrader, 1885; as modified in 1906)

An elective office may be declared vacant if the Brother elected to such office refuses to be installed or fails to present himself for installation. Such action is by affirmative vote of the Lodge and with the approval of the Grand Master.

(Foley, modified, 1905)

Only Master Masons may act as Master, Wardens or Tyler. (Forkner, 1935)

An elective officer can refuse to serve.

(Cloes, 1890)

The Worshipful Master and Senior Warden of a Lodge cannot demit during the term of their office.

(Best, 1896). (Modified, 1916)

Status of Senior Warden. The permanent removal of the Worshipful Master from the jurisdiction of his lodge makes the Senior Warden the Acting Master until such time as the Office of Worshipful Master shall have been declared vacant and a new Worshipful Master elected. as Acting Master, he must assume all the rights and duties of the office. He cannot avoid responsibility; however, he may invite any Brother to preside temporarily and confer degrees, but the Brother so invited acquires no right or powers beyond those of the moment. The status of the Junior Warden is not affected when the Senior Warden becomes Acting Master. (Jacobson, 1906, as modified by bylaws, 1916; Best, 1896)

Officers, Appointive; May be Removed. The Worshipful Master may declare vacant an appointive office and appoint and install an appointive officer.

(Lenhart, 1920)

Petitions. It is the duty of a Worshipful Master to arrest a petition for degrees and stop further proceedings in case the petitioner does not comply with the qualifications as to residence.

(Gifford, 1883)

Powers of Lodges Under Dispensation. The powers of lodges under dispensation are such as are based in the dispensation, together with that of admitting members by affiliation.

(Thompson, 1891; Jull, 1911)

Residence. As defined by the statutes of this state constitutes Masonic residence. The intent of the interested party is always a determining factor.

(Thompson, 1891; Foley, 1905; Best, 1896; Stockwell, 1903)

After petitioning one lodge for degrees, a prospective candidate has signified his intention to residence and he cannot then petition another lodge (except in cities having more than one lodge) without first having established his residence anew within the jurisdiction of said lodge. (Falkenstein, 1927)

Restoration. Procedure. The petition for restoration following suspension for un-Masonic conduct must follow the same procedure as a petition for affiliation, except that only a two-thirds majority is sufficient (unanimous ballot, if by any other lodge than the one from which suspended.) Petition must be read in open lodge at a stated communication, be referred to Investigating Committee and lie over at least four weeks. Voting must be by ball ballot. (Murfin, 1928)

Trials. Trial commission may employ as stenographer, one who is not a Mason if the testimony is such as may be heard by a profane. (Merrifield, 1929)

Visitor. An unrecognized Brother must satisfy the lodge that he is a Mason in good standing before he can visit. (Approved 1982) (Thompson, 1891)

The right to visit is a Masonic courtesy which may be denied if the visiting Brother is objectionable to a member of the lodge.

Standing Resolutions (REV.1988)

Appeals for Aid. Appeals for aid or charity from one constituent lodge to another, or members thereof, must first have the approval of the Grand Master.

(REV.1917)

Appropriations. No officer or committee of the Grand Lodge charged with the expenditure of appropriated funds of the Grand Body, shall exceed the specific appropriation of any year without having submitted to the Finance Committee every item of proposed expenditure, and having received the written approval of a majority of said committee.

(REV.1900)

Chain Letters Prohibited. The indicting and circulating of so-called Chain Letters by constituent lodges, or members thereof as such, is prohibited.

(REV.1917)

Creating R.W. Fred Crawford an Honorary Past Grand Master.

WHEREAS, R. W. Fred Crawford, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of North Dakota was denied the honor of being elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge due to his untimely death just days before his election, and WHEREAS, Brother Crawford rendered over forty years of dedicated service to the craft having served as Master of his lodge and as District Deputy Grand Master of his district, and WHEREAS, After having been appointed Grand Tyler in 1961, Brother Crawford served as a Grand Line Officer until his untimely death in 1970.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That as a recognition of his exemplary service to Freemasonry, the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, A. F. & A. M., does hereby elect him as an Honorary Past Grand Master.

(REV.1986)

District Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Lecturers. Annual Conferences. A conference of District Deputy Grand Masters of which the Deputy Grand Master shall be the permanent chairman, and a conference of District Deputy Grand Lecturers, of which the Grand Lecturer shall be the permanent chairman, shall be held at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge and shall take the form of round table discussions of problems confronting the District Deputy Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Lecturers.

District Deputies Conferences. District Deputies shall have quarterly meetings under the direction of the Senior and Junior Grand Warden. Time and place will be decided by the Grand Wardens.

(REV.1986)

Flag, United States. There shall be displayed at every Grand Communication, and carried at the head of every Grand Lodge procession, except on funeral occasions, the United States Flag of which this Grand Lodge shall always be possessed. It is earnestly recommended that such flag be displayed in the Lodge room of every constituent lodge and carried at the head of Masonic processions, except as above.

(REV.1914)

Forms, Blanks The various forms, including Petition for Initiation, Petition for Affiliation, Report of Committee on Petitions, Uniform Demits, Uniform Annual Membership Cards, and any other blanks heretofore approved and adopted by this Grand Lodge, shall be continued in use by the several constituent Lodges throughout the state, and said use be made mandatory upon the constituent Lodges.

(REV.1906)

Grand Honors. The Grand Honors of Masonry shall be executed by first clapping the hands three times in front of the left shoulder, then three times in front of the right shoulder, followed by three times in front of the left shoulder, for a total of nine claps of the hands in concert with the presiding officer.

(REV.2002)

Reciprocal Jurisdiction. This Grand Jurisdiction grants to the Grand Jurisdictions of Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, concurrent jurisdiction over persons residing within the State of North Dakota, but near the boundary line and whose residence is nearer and more accessible to a lodge in Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, Manitoba, or Saskatchewan, than in our own state.

(REV.1991)

Jurisprudence. In the absence of expressed provisions in the Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Resolutions or Approved Decisions of this Grand Jurisdiction, Mackey on Jurisprudence shall be recognized as competent authority. (REV.1916)

Lecture M. M. Degree. The Grand Lodge urges the adoption as speedily as possible by the Grand Chapter R. A. M. and the proper authorities in North Dakota of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of a rule requiring proof of proficiency in the Master Mason Degree of all Master Masons petitioning for the degrees in constituent Chapters R.A.M. or Lodges of Perfection A.A.S.R.

(REV.1920)

Manuscripts. In order to provide consistency and ease of obtaining clarification of the ritual for all constituent Lodges; any Lodge, upon request in writing, may obtain from the Grand Secretary a copy of the Manuscript. Each copy will be numbered by the Grand Lodge and will be signed for by the Secretary of the constituent Lodge receiving said document in order to provide a record of possession. The care of the Manuscript shall rest with the Secretary and the Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

(REV.1988)

Masonic Service Association USA The Grand Lodge approves and ratifies the Constitution of the Masonic Service Association of the United States of America. A sum equivalent to ten cents (10¢) per capita is appropriated out of the Grand Lodge dues and fees into a Masonic Service Association Fund of the Grand Lodge.

(REV.1919) (REV.1920) (REV.1990)

Questionnaire. The questionnaire shall not be read as a part of the petition, but shall be for the information of the Investigating Committee and be kept on file in the Office of the Secretary for reference only.

(REV.1923)

Relief. It is the duty of each constituent Lodge to assist in the relief work necessary in this Grand Jurisdiction and to that end, it is the sense of this Grand Lodge that each constituent Lodge shall at once take such steps as may be necessary to provide for and create a relief fund in such manner and in such amount; as it may deem necessary.

(REV.1919)

Rituals—What Kind Prohibited. The use of any ritual other than that containing the authorized esoteric work, adopted by this Grand Lodge in 1895, and issued from the Office of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer, is hereby prohibited.
(REV.1916)

The use of this ritual by officers of the lodges holding allegiance to this Grand Lodge, during the ceremonies of opening and closing of lodge or during the conferring of any of the degrees, is forbidden. It is the duty of the Worshipful Master of each lodge to see that no complete ritual is placed in the hands of any one not a Master Mason. Rituals must not be used in such a way, at any time, as to endanger the secrecy of the esoteric work.
(REV.1912)

St. John's Day. Every constituent Lodge within its jurisdiction should, as a body, attend public worship on the Festival of Saint John the Baptist, June 24th, or if preferred, on the Sunday nearest said day in each year and then offer up its devotion to the Grand Architect of the Universe, our Supreme Grand Master.
(REV.1892)

Scripture Lesson. During the circumambulations during the conferring of degrees, the candidate shall be caused to pause in front of the East after each circuit, at which time the Scripture lesson or a section thereof, shall be read instead of during the actual marching.
(REV.1924)

Visitation of Lodges. A visiting Brother applying for admission to any constituent Lodge in this grand jurisdiction, is required to show his membership card, or receipt for dues, for the current year, or furnish other satisfactory evidence that his dues are paid for the current year; or documentary evidence that he is in good standing in his lodge. Reference shall also be made to the "List of Regular Lodges" to ascertain if the Lodge in which he claims membership is legitimate before the committee proceeds with the further examination of the visitor.
(1916)

Washington Memorial. The Grand Lodge approves the proposed drive for funds with which to complete and endow the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.
(REV.1919)

Yearly Evidence of Good Standing. That all visiting resident Masons shall furnish to the Master of the Constituent Lodge, under whose jurisdiction such sojourning Masons is holden, once each year, documentary evidence to the Master of such Lodge, that he has paid his dues to, or is in good standing in the Lodge from which he hails. It is hereby made the duty of the Worshipful Master in each constituent Lodge within this grand jurisdiction to see that such evidence is furnished to him as above required.
(REV.1893)

Prince Hall Grand Lodge. Recognizing that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Lodge F. & A.M. of Minnesota, Inc. (which governs two lodges within the Jurisdiction of North Dakota), Oregon, and Wisconsin have fraternally recognized the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Dakota A.F. & A.M. and recognizing that we dwell together in peace and harmony recognizing each other as legitimate proponents of brotherly love, relief and truth within the state of North Dakota, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Dakota A.F. & A.M. does accord to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Lodges F. & A.M. of Minnesota, Inc., Oregon, and Wisconsin rights of visitation 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. It is recognized that Prince Hall Grand Lodges F. & A.M. of Minnesota, Inc., Oregon, and Wisconsin and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Dakota A.F. & A.M., shall remain autonomous within themselves.

(REV.2002)

Freemasonry And Religion

a) 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 advocated no sectarian faith or practice. Mason ceremonies include prayers, both traditional and extempore, to reaffirm each individual's dependence on God and to seek divine guidance. Freemasonry is open to men of any faith, but religion may not be discussed at Masonic meetings.

b) 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 God, rather than differences among themselves. Masonry believes in religious freedom and that the relationship between the individual and God is personal, private, and sacred.

c) 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 Judeo-Christian is the Bible; to Freemasons of other faiths, it is the book held holy by them.

d) The Oath of Freemasonry. The obligations taken by Freemasons are sworn on the Volume of the Sacred Law. They are undertakings to follow 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.

e) Freemasonry Compared with Religion. Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of religion.

1) It has no dogma or theology, no wish or means to enforce religious orthodoxy.

2) It offers no sacraments.

3) 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. (REV.1999)

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. (REV.1966)

Selective Invitation.

WHEREAS, the membership of Freemasonry has been declining; and

WHEREAS, when a prospective member completes an application to join Freemasonry, he is attesting that he is coming of his own free will and accord; and

WHEREAS, the constitution has a requirement for proper investigation of a prospective member before a ballot can be taken;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Masonic Grand Lodge of North Dakota be encouraged to make known their pride of membership and invite their worthy sons, friends and co-workers to petition for the degrees of Freemasonry; This process to be known as SELECTIVE INVITATION; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following be adopted as a regularly numbered Regulation.

“There is absolutely no objection to a neutrally worded approach being made to a man who is considered to be a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. After the procedure for obtaining membership in a Masonic Lodge is explained, there is no objection to his being reminded once after the approach was made. The potential candidate must then be left to make his own decision and come of his own free will and accord.”
(REV.1998)

Creating R. W. Gary L. Beske an Honorary Past Grand Master.

WHEREAS, R.W. Gary L. Beske was duly appointed as a member of the Grand Lodge appointed and progressive line, for the Grand Jurisdiction of North Dakota, and

WHEREAS, WR.W. Beske also served as the Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of North Dakota and served his Craftwith dignity and devotion until the time of his untimely death, and

WHEREAS, had R.W. Beske not been called to his Celestial home, he would have presided as Grand Master at this 110th Grand Lodge Communication as our Grand Master of Masons in North Dakota,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That R.W. Beske receive the distinction of being duly accorded the title of Honorary Grand Master for the Jurisdiction of North Dakota.
(REV.1999)

Frontier Army Lodge of Masonic Research.

Be it resolved this 17th day of June 2000, that the Grand Lodge of North Dakota authorizes in cooperation with the Grand Lodge of South Dakota constitute a charter a Lodge of the Dakota Territory Research Lodge to be called the Frontier Army Lodge of Masonic Research 1875, A.F. & A.M.

Be it further resolved that this said Lodge be invested with full powers and authority to assemble upon proper and lawful occasions to admit members, from such Grand Lodges of Masons, as are jointly recognized by the Grand Lodges formed from the original Grand Lodge of Dakota Territory. (REV.June 17, 2000)

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