

***GRAND LODGE
MODERN MIXED MASONS***



Manus Multae Cor Unum

CONSTITUTION

Version 2023

Amended 2019

Amended 2017

Amended 2015

Original 2011

(Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine gender).

The Grand Lodge

1. The Grand Lodge consists of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master, Grand Inspectors and Grand Wardens together with the present and past Grand Officers together with all Members of the Order. This body possesses the supreme superintending authority and alone has the power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the Fraternity, and of altering, repealing and abrogating them, always taking care that the Ancient Landmarks of the Order be preserved.

General powers of all substituted authorities

2. Every Brother who shall, in accordance with the laws and procedure of Freemasonry, preside or act in the Grand Lodge, or in any Inspectorate, or in any private Lodge, or on any Board or Committee for, or in the place of, any Officer who may be absent, shall, while so presiding or acting, have all the rights, powers and duties of the Officer or Brother whose substitute he shall be, or in whose place he shall act.

Rank and precedence of members

3. Grand Officers rank in the following order:
 1. Grand Master
 2. Deputy Grand Master
 3. Assistant Grand Master
 4. Senior Grand Warden
 5. Junior Grand Warden
 6. Grand Inspector
 7. Grand Chaplain
 8. Grand Secretary
 9. Grand Director of Ceremonies
 10. Grand Chancellor
 11. Grand Registrar
 12. Grand Sword Bearer
 13. Grand Standard Bearer
 14. Grand Superintendent of Works
 15. Grand Treasurer
 16. Deputy Grand Chaplain
 17. Deputy Grand Secretary
 18. Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
 19. Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
 20. Deputy Grand Standard Bearer
 21. Senior Grand Deacon
 22. Junior Grand Deacon
 23. Assistant Grand Chaplain
 24. Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
 25. Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
 26. Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
 27. Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works
 28. Grand Pursuivant
 29. Grand Tyler
 30. Grand Stewards

Holders of a Past Grand Rank come immediately below the Acting Rank.

All Deputy and Assistant Ranks follow the Substantive Rank pattern

4. The Grand Master and Past Grand Masters are entitled to the appellation of 'Most Worshipful' (M.W.).

The prefix of 'Right Worshipful' (R.W.) is accorded to and should be used only by the Present and Past Deputy Grand Masters, Assistant Grand Masters, Grand Inspectors and Grand Wardens of Grand Lodge.

The prefix of 'Very Worshipful' (V.W.) should be used only by the Present and Past, Grand Chaplain, Grand Secretary, Grand Chancellor, Grand Registrar, Grand Director of Ceremonies, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Superintendent of Works, Grand Treasurer and no others.

The title or address of 'Worshipful' is to be used only by the rest of the Present and Past Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge and by the Present and Past Masters of Lodges. All other members should be styled or designated as 'Brother' only.

5. The Salutes when given shall be as follows:-
M.W. Brethren, eleven;
Past & Present Deputy and Assistant Grand Masters, nine;
R.W. Brethren, seven;
V.W. Brethren, five;
other Grand Officers, Present and Past, three.

Appointments to Grand Lodge

Appointments to Grand Rank will be made Annually by promotion of the Grand Master of newly Installed Worshipful Masters and Wardens of Lodges. Nominations for Appointment and Promotion will be made by each Grand Inspector.

Qualification of Members

7. All Members are members of Grand Lodge.

Cessation of membership

8. A Brother whose subscription to his Lodge is one year in arrears shall cease to be a member of Grand Lodge until he has rejoined a Lodge as a subscribing member.

Visitors to Grand Lodge

9. A visitor can only attend the Grand Lodge by permission of the Grand Master, and, if admitted, he shall not speak to any question without leave of the Grand Master, nor shall he, on any occasion, be permitted to vote.

Regular meetings

10. Grand Lodge Meetings shall be held in locations where our Lodges meet for quarterly communications.

Election of the Grand Master

11. The Grand Master shall be nominated, elected and installed every year. The Grand Master shall not generally serve more than one term.

At the Election meeting, the Grand Secretary places before the Grand Lodge names of those eligible and willing to stand for Grand Mastership. Those eligible are all Right Worshipful and Very Worshipful Brethren. The secret ballot is then taken at the Grand Lodge.

Voting papers for those unable to attend the Grand Lodge Meeting must be returned to the Grand Secretary by the 1st day of the month of the Grand Lodge Election Meeting.

The voting papers will be opened and counted in Grand Lodge by the reigning Worshipful Masters who shall disqualify any papers that are not in order. The Grand Master will then announce the result.

Proceedings on death of the Grand Master

12. Should the Grand Master die or resign during his Mastership, the Grand Wardens, shall summon the Grand Lodge to record the event. The Deputy Grand Master or Assistant Grand Master or a Past Grand Master shall forthwith act as Grand Master for the remaining term of Office.

One Office only

13. No Brother shall hold more than one invested office in the Grand Lodge at one and the same time. Any Grand Office held shall be for a maximum 3 consecutive years. Grand and Deputy Grand Inspector is a Local Rank and can be held in addition to a Grand Rank.

Money and accounts of Grand Lodge

14. All moneys belonging to Grand Lodge shall be deposited in a bank approved by Grand Lodge and accredited to the Grand Lodge accounts.

The accounts shall be annually audited by the appointed Auditors.

These accounts, when audited, shall be presented to the Grand Lodge each year.

Absence of Grand Master

15. If at any meeting of the Grand Lodge the Grand Master be absent, the Deputy Grand Master or Assistant Grand Master or a Past Grand Master may rule.

Voting

16. All matters are to be decided by a majority of votes, each member having one vote, and the Grand Master a second or casting vote.

Confidential ballots shall be conducted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies. Except in secret ballot or voting papers, the votes of the members are to be signified by each holding up one hand, and the motion is then declared carried or lost; but if two members demand that the votes be counted, and such demand appears reasonable to the Grand Master, the counting shall be conducted under the direction of the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Lodge Travellers

17. In order to assist Masons in areas without an active Lodge to join a Lodge within the Grand Lodge, Joining Members and Candidates may do so within the Lodge Travellers. This Lodge is strictly an on-line Lodge and a qualified team of Officers, i.e. Mentors and qualified technicians are responsible for ensuring an active liaison is maintained to all members on the Register.

A member of the Lodge will be entitled to attend any active Craft Lodge where and whenever possible. Members may act as Deputies in a Lodge if attending a meeting, but cannot be invested in any Office. Members are invited to attend Grand Lodge meetings.

Joining from another Order

18. Masons joining from other Orders or Obedience applying to join a Lodge of this Order must apply to the Lodge concerned. Applications must be made in writing to the Secretary for consideration of the Lodge.

Masonic Complaints

19. The Grand Inspector shall hear and determine all subjects of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting Lodges or individual Masons.

In case of any charge or complaint affecting a Member brought by a Lodge to which he belongs (or by a member of that Lodge) such member shall withdraw while the Grand Inspector considers his decision.

If the decision is appealed within 14 days to Grand Lodge, a Sub-Committee of Right Worshipful Brethren will investigate the complaint and make a recommendation to the Grand Lodge.

Admonition, Suspension or Expulsion

20. The Grand Inspector may proceed to admonish a Member or refer the matter to Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge based on the recommendation of a Sub-Committee may proceed to admonish, suspend or expel a Member.

Any Appeal lodged within 14 days of the decision shall be heard by a panel of Most Worshipful Brethren and their decision shall be final.

Ballot for the Grand Master

21. The Grand Secretary is to prepare a ballot paper every year before the designated Election Meeting of Grand Lodge.

Private Lodges

Warrant for a New Lodge

22. Every application for a Warrant to hold a new Lodge must be supported by the Grand Inspector before being addressed to the Grand Secretary for presentation to the Grand Master by at least seven Master Masons, three of whom must be Installed Masters.

Lodges to be regularly Constituted

23. Every new Lodge shall be solemnly Constituted, according to ancient usage, by the Grand Master or, in the absence of the Grand Master, by a Grand Inspector or Past Grand Master or the Grand Master may appoint some other Grand Officer or Master or Past Master of a Lodge to act as Deputy pro tempore. Every new Lodge must be registered in the books of Grand Lodge.

Officers of a Lodge

24. The regular Officers of a Lodge should consist of the Master and his two Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, two Deacons, an Inner Guard and a Tyler. No Brother may be invested as Ruler of more than one Craft Lodge at the same time.

Order of appointment

25. The order of appointment and investiture gives no Brother the right to claim advancement by rotation, except by skill and ability in his last office and regular attendance.

The appointment of all Officers is at the discretion of the Master Elect, in conjunction with the Lodge Committee; except the Treasurer Elect who is usually nominated and approved by a majority vote in open Lodge.

The appointment of the Auditor is usually nominated and approved by a majority vote in open Lodge.

If a Tyler is paid approval of the Lodge must be sought by a majority vote.

Election and Installation of the Worshipful Master

26. Every Lodge shall annually, on the day named in its bye-laws for that purpose, proceed to elect its Master by ballot from among those of its members who have, or previously to the Installation of such Master shall have, served for one year (that is to say from one regular Installation meeting until the next regular Installation meeting) the office of Ruling Master in extenuating circumstances, or Senior or Junior Warden, in a Regular Lodge Warranted under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, the service in case of a Warden to count from the date of investiture.

The ballot shall be declared in favour of the member thus qualified who obtains the largest number of votes recorded by those present.

At the next regular meeting, the first business after the opening of the Lodge shall be the confirmation of the Minutes of the preceding meeting, and if they be confirmed so far at least as relates to the election of a Master, he shall be deemed to be elected and shall be duly Installed in the Chair according to ancient custom. No Master-Elect shall assume the Master's Chair until he has been regularly Installed.

Should the Master-Elect die or find himself unable to accept the office of Master then the presiding Master shall call an emergency meeting for the purpose of electing a new Master from those eligible to stand.

Qualifications for the Chair

27. To be eligible for election to a Chair a Member must have attended ALL Regular Meetings of the Lodge during the year, unless with good reason for absence.

Qualification of Warden for Master's Chair

28. If the investiture of a Warden shall not have taken place at the Installation Meeting, and thereby the member appointed has not served that office for one year as aforesaid, he cannot be installed Master of the Lodge except by special Sanction from the Grand Inspector, which can only be granted on petition, setting forth the circumstances under which the investiture was delayed, the actual service of the member in the Warden's chair, and any special

reason for asking the Grand Inspector's intervention.

The Master's Obligation

29. Every Master-Elect, before being placed in the Chair, shall solemnly pledge himself to preserve the Landmarks of the Order, to observe its ancient usages and established customs, and strictly to enforce them within his own Lodge. A Past Master needs only reaffirm his previous pledge. The Master is responsible for the due observance of the laws of the Lodge over which he presides.

Period of Office

30. No Brother shall continue as Master of a Lodge except by, as aforesaid, extenuating circumstances and granted by the Grand Inspector but he may be again elected after he has been out of office for one year.

Appointment and Election of Officers

31(a) Upon his Installation the Master in conjunction with the Lodge Committee, shall appoint and invest his Wardens and other Officers, and shall invest the Treasurer, who shall be annually elected by ballot on the regular day of election of the Master, and also the Auditor, who is to be appointed by the members of the Lodge.

The Tyler, if paid, is chosen by the members of the Lodge may at any time be removed for cause deemed sufficient by a majority of the Brethren present at a regular meeting of the Lodge.

(b) Regalia of the Master Elect.
The Master Elect is installed with his own
Installed Master's Apron and the Lodge W.M.
Collar.

A Grand Officer being installed as a Worshipful
Master in a private Lodge maintains his own
Grand Lodge apron for Installation.

Immediately upon being Installed in the Chair of
K.S. a Bro. in written communication is entitled to
the prefix of Worshipful Brother. This is recognition
of an Installed Master and not a Past Master.

Master and Wardens to attend Summonses

32. The Master, Wardens and members of
every Lodge, when summoned to do so, shall
attend the Grand Lodge, or any other Board or
Committee authorised by the Grand Lodge.

Death or incapacity of Master

33. Should a Master die or be rendered unable
to discharge the duties of his office, the Senior
Warden should at once direct the Secretary to
inform the Grand Secretary and all the members
of the Lodge, and in conjunction with the Grand
Inspector will recommend a qualified Brother to
occupy the Chair and discharge the duties
thereof until the next regular period of election
within the Lodge, and until a successor shall
have been duly elected and installed.

Grand Master Preside

34. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Assistant Grand Master have full authority to preside over any Lodge and to require any of his Officers to attend him. His Wardens, if present, are also to act as Wardens of the Lodge during the time he presides; but if the Grand Wardens be absent, then the Grand Master may command the Wardens of the Lodge, or any Master Masons, to act as his Wardens pro tempore. Likewise a Grand Inspector within their Inspectorate.

Admission of Visitors

35. No visitor shall be admitted into a Lodge unless he be personally known to and vouched for by one of the Brethren present, or unless he shall be well vouched for after due examination, and no Brother who is not subject to the Grand Lodge shall be admitted unless their certificate shows they have been Initiated according to the ancient rites and ceremonies in a Lodge professing belief in a Supreme Being, T.G.A.O.T.U. and not unless he shall acknowledge that this belief is an essential Landmark of the Order.

In all cases satisfactory proof of identity must be produced if required, and every visitor during their presence in a Lodge is subject to its bye-laws.

Refusal of admission

36. It is within the power of the Master of every private Lodge to refuse admission to any visitor whose presence he has good reason to believe will disturb the harmony of the Lodge.

The Bye-Laws of a Lodge

37. Every Lodge has the power of framing bye-laws for its government, provided they are not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge. The Quorum for a Lodge Meeting is 5 Brethren, one of whom must be an Installed Master.

Submission to the Bye-Laws

38. Every Brother shall be supplied with a copy of the bye-laws of the Lodge when he becomes a member, and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed to be a declaration of his submission to them.

Time and place of Meeting

39. Lodges may set regular days and months of meetings which should be specified in their bye-laws. However, if extra meetings are required and changes of venue, following agreement with the Ruler and Committee, the Lodge Secretary is only required to notify the Grand Inspector and Grand Secretary. Extra meetings should be dealt with as Regular and consecutively numbered accordingly.

When a Lodge shall have resolved to alter its place or day of a Regular Meeting, such alteration shall be forthwith sent to the Grand Inspector and Grand Secretary.

Minutes

40. Every Lodge shall keep a Minute Book of all transactions of the Lodge which must be recorded.

Lodge Subscription

41. A Brother whose subscription to his Lodge is one year in arrears, shall cease to be a member of his Lodge and of Grand Lodge unless he is a member of another Lodge and/or until he has rejoined a Lodge as a subscribing member and paid the Lodge fees.

Treasurer's Accounts

42. An account of all monies received or paid, for or on account of a Lodge, shall be regularly entered in proper books which shall be the property of the Lodge.
Every member shall receive a copy of the annual Audited Accounts before the Business Meeting.

Voting

43. Whenever it shall happen that the votes are equal upon any question to be decided by a majority, either by ballot or otherwise, the Master

in the Chair shall be entitled to give a second or casting vote.

Age and qualification of Candidate

44. No person shall be received as a Candidate for Freemasonry under the age of eighteen years unless they be a Lewis and of the age of at least sixteen years and seeking Initiation into a Lodge of which at least one parent or guardian is a member. In the latter event, permission must first be obtained from the Grand Inspector. Every candidate must be at the time of Initiation in reputable circumstances.

Honorary Membership

45. A Lodge may seek an award of Honorary Membership to Brethren who have given exceptional service to the Lodge. A subscription is not required.

Honorary Membership is not given lightly and requires unanimous agreement from all members in Open Lodge.

Grand Lodge Certificate

46. Every Brother is entitled to a Grand Lodge Certificate on being made a Master Mason.

Behaviour in Lodge

47. If any Brother behaves in Lodge in such a manner as to disturb the harmony of the Lodge he shall be formally admonished by the Master, and if he persists in his irregular conduct he shall be punished by censure or exclusion for the remainder of the meeting, according to the opinion of the majority of the members present, or the case may be reported to the Grand Inspector.

Lewis of the Lodge

48. A Son or Daughter of a member of this Order is considered to be a Lewis and should be admitted ahead of any candidates for Initiation.