



Martin O. Weddington Papers.

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CONSTITUTION  
AND  
BY-LAWS



M. W. GRAND LODGE  
F. & A. M.

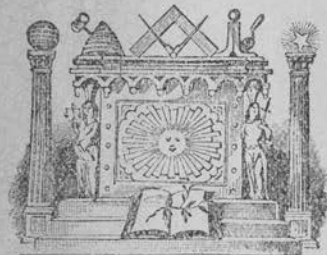
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
AND JURISDICTION

FUNERAL SERVICE

# CONSTITUTION

AND

## BY-LAWS



M. W. GRAND LODGE

F. & A. M.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

AND JURISDICTION

FUNERAL SERVICE

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
**Most Worshipful Grand Lodge**  
Free and Accepted Masons  
FOR THE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

ARTICLE I.

This Grand Lodge so organized, shall be styled and known by the Name of "The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota and its Masonic Jurisdiction."

ARTICLE II.

The Grand Lodge shall consist of a Grand Master, a Deputy Grand Master, a Senior Grand Warden, a Junior Grand Warden, a Grand Treasurer, a Grand Secretary, a Deputy Grand Secretary, a Grand Chaplain, a Grand Recorder, Two Grand Deacons, Two Grand Stewards, a Grand Tyler, a Grand Marshall, a Grand Lecturer, a Grand Sword Bearer, a Grand Pursuivant, a Grand Standard Bearer, and also the Masters and Wardens, for the time being of the several lodges under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and all past Grand Officers of this Grand Lodge and Past Masters, members of any Subordinate Lodge under this Jurisdiction.

Section II.

No brother shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Dist. D. Grand Master, or Grand Warden, who is not a past Master by service.

ARTICLE III.

The Grand Lodge shall hold a communication annually on the third (3rd) Tuesday in August, and

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in such place as may from time to time be selected, and the session may continue two or more days if necessary. The Grand Master or his Deputy, in case of his absence from the State, may, on very urgent occasions call special meetings.

### ARTICLE IV.

A quorum shall consist of no less than nine (9) representatives or proxies thereof of three (3) regular chartered lodges, and in no case shall the Grand Lodge be opened or any business transacted unless such representatives are present. A less number may assemble, however, until noon of the second (2nd) day, when if less than a quorum appears, the Grand Master shall declare the Grand Lodge closed until the next Grand Annual Communication, and in such case the Grand Officers shall hold over for another term.

### ARTICLE V.

#### STYLE AND RANK OF GRAND OFFICERS.

Most Worshipful Grand Master—In the East head of Grand Lodge.

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master—In the East, next to and on the left of the Grand Master.

Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden—In the West.

Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden—In the South.

Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters—In the East at the right of G. M.

Dist't. Grand Masters—In the East at the right of the Past Grand Masters.

Right Worshipful Past Deputy Grand Masters—In the East at the right of the Dis't. Grand Masters.

Right Worshipful Past Grand Wardens—In the East at the Past Deputy Grand Masters' right.

Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer—On the right in front of the Grand Master.

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary—On the left in front of the Grand Master.

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Secretary—At the right of the Grand Sec'y.

Worshipful Grand Chaplain—In the East in front of the Grand Master.

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Worshipful Grand Marshall—Upon the left of the Grand Master in front of the Grand Secretary.

Worshipful Grand Lecturer—On the right of the Senior Grand Deacon.

Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon—Upon the right of the Grand Master in front of the Grand Treasurer.

Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon—In the West at the right of the Senior Grand Warden in front.

Worshipful Grand Stewards—In the South, one upon the left, the other on the right of the Grand Junior Warden.

Worshipful Grand Sword Bearer—At left of the Grand Marshall.

Worshipful Grand Standard Bearer—At left of the Grand Sword Bearer.

Worshipful Grand Pursuivant—Near the door of entrance to the Grand Lodge, and whose duty it is to receive all reports from the Grand Tyler, to announce the names and Masonic rank of all who desire admission, and to see that none enter without wearing their appropriate decoration.

Worshipful Grand Recorder—At the left of the Grand Secretary.

Worshipful Grand Tyler—Outside of entrance to the Grand Lodge.

### ARTICLE VI.

#### Section I.

The Master and Wardens when unable to attend the communication of the Grand Lodge, shall nominate and send their Proxies, who shall be Past Masters, with their Jewels (who have served in this Jurisdiction) as their representatives. If no representative appears, the Grand Master shall appoint a proxy for the lodge, who must be a member of the lodge for which he is appointed.

#### Section II.

Past Grand Officers may hold offices in Subordinate Lodges, but this shall not deprive them of any privileges in the Grand Lodge as Past Masters.

#### Section III.

The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand

Wardens, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, shall be elected annually by ballot. The Grand Secretary shall appoint his Deputy and the Grand Master shall appoint all other officers. The election shall take place on or before the second (2nd) day of the regular communication.

Section IV.

The Grand Master may nominate for his successor the (deputy.) He and such other candidates as may be nominated shall be balloted for and the person having a majority of all votes cast shall be considered duly elected.

Section V.

In all elections before the Grand Lodge, each Lodge shall be entitled to three (3) votes, viz.:—Worshipful Master one (1) Senior Warden one (1) and Junior Warden one (1). The Grand Master one (1) except in case of a tie and then two (2), and each Past Master one (1).

ARTICLE VII.

POWERS OF THE GRAND LODGE.

Section I.

The Grand Lodge is the Supreme Masonic power in the State, possessing legislative, executive and judicial attributes of government, limited by a strict adherence to the ancient Landmarks of the Order, and by the provisions of this Constitution.

Section II.

Its Legislative authority extends to the enactment of such laws and regulations as will meet the utmost needs of the Craft in the Jurisdiction.

Section III.

Its Executive powers are such as will enable it to carry the legislation into complete effect, by the granting of dispensations or charters to establish and perpetuate lodges in the Jurisdiction. The revocation or suspension thereof for just cause, the granting of dispensation for all purposes permitted by the Constitution and laws of the Jurisdiction, and the doing of other acts, not forbidden by law and essential to the welfare of the Craft.

Section IV.

All the executive powers of a Grand Lodge, when not in session are reposed in its GRAND MASTER.

Section V.

Its Judicial Powers are:—

1. Original—Including the decision of all controversies between Lodges or between a Lodge and a member of another Lodge, and the enforcement of discipline on its own members and the members of the Craft, for unmasonic conduct within the State where subordinate Lodges have not Jurisdiction or fail thru neglect or otherwise to enforce discipline where they have Jurisdiction; and

2. Appellate—Embracing the revision of all matters of controversy or discipline proper for masonic investigation, which has arisen in any of the Lodges, provided that the Lodge shall not have the right to appeal from its own decision upon the trial of a brother for unmasonic conduct.

ARTICLE VIII.

To establish a uniform mode of working thruout its Jurisdiction, and to establish and maintain a fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of deceased masons of Lodges in its Jurisdiction.

ARTICLE IX.

And in furtherance of this object it shall be the duty of the Grand Master and the Grand Lecturer to visit, at least once a year, the Subordinate Lodges under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, to lecture and instruct the brethren, and to correct such errors as may exist among them.

ARTICLE X.

To make such By-Laws as may be necessary for their good government, and not inconsistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE XI.

No alteration shall take place in this Constitution except in the following manner:—Every amendment shall be proposed in writing at a regular communication of the Grand Lodge, and, if concurred in, a fair copy shall be sent by the Grand Secretary to each subordinate lodge under this jurisdiction, who shall pass or reject the same and certify their proceedings thereon, without any unnecessary delay, to the Grand Secretary, and, at the next regular communication, if it be found that two thirds (2-3) of the subordinate lodges approve, it shall then become a part of this Constitution.



**BY-LAWS**  
OF THE  
**Most Worshipful Grand Lodge**  
FOR THE  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**QUALIFICATIONS OF GRAND OFFICERS.**

**Section I.**

No brother shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, or Dis't Deputy Grand Master, unless he be a Past Master of a Subordinate lodge or has heretofore held one of the aforesaid offices in this Grand Lodge, or unless he can produce written evidence that he has held aforesaid offices in some legal Grand lodge, and has been a member of a Lodge in this Jurisdiction for two years. And neither of the officers here especially enumerated shall during his continuance in office in Grand Lodge, be a Master or Warden of a Subordinate Lodge.

**Section II.**

No brother shall be eligible to an office in this Grand Lodge except he be a permanent member thereof, and a member of a subordinate lodge under this Jurisdiction.

**Section III.**

In case the chair of the Grand Master shall become vacant by death or otherwise, it shall be filled by the Deputy Grand Master until the next annual communication, or upon his death resignation, or inability to be present, by the Senior Grand Warden or Junior Grand Warden in succession. But in case any other office becomes vacant by death, resignation or otherwise, the Grand Master for the time being shall fill such vacancy by appointment.

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**Section IV.**

The Grand Master shall at the opening of each Grand Lodge Annual Communication, submit a written address setting forth an account of his official acts during the recess of the Grand Lodge, and such suggestions as he may deem advisable to the fraternity and proper for the consideration of the Grand Lodge.

**Section V.**

The Grand Master may cause the work and Lecture of the first three (3) degrees in masonry to be exemplified before the Grand Lodge at each Grand Annual Communication.

**Section VI.**

The Grand Master shall, at each annual communication of the Grand Lodge, appoint the following standing Committees, to consist of three (3) each, except the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, which may consist of not to exceed five (5).

Standing Committee.

Committee on Credentials.

Committee on Grand Masters Address.

Committee on Work of Lodges under dispensation and Petitions for charters.

Committee on chartered Lodges and their returns.

Committee on Grievances and Appeals.

Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence.

Committee on Finance.

Committee on Grand Lodge Library.

Committee on Mileage and per Diem

Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

Committee on Unfinished business.

Provided that the Grand Master may, at any time, appoint the Committee on Grievances and appeals and authorize it to meet before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence may be appointed annually to serve until the close of the next annual communication

**Section VII.**

The Grand Master has power within this Jurisdiction:—

1st. To convene any Lodge; to preside therein; to inspect the proceedings and require full conformity to masonic law.

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2nd. To require the attendance of any Grand Officer in his visitations to Lodges.

3rd. To make masons at sight, and he may by written dispensations, delegate this power to a Lodge.

4th. To convene the Grand Lodge in Special Communication by giving twenty days notice.

5th. To suspend a Lodge or brother until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge when he shall present the reason for such suspension in writing.

6th. To grant dispensation for new Lodges (when the Grand Lodge is not in session) or for public processions or assemblies, funerals excepted or for the election of Master or Wardens of Lodges.

7th. To exercise all such other powers as are warranted or required of him by the Ancient Regulations or Customs of the craft, provided always that he shall have no power to suspend the operation of any By-Law of this Grand Lodge.

### GRAND TREASURER.

#### Section VIII.

The Grand Treasurer shall have charge of all funds, securities, vouchers and other property and jewels of the Grand Lodge. It shall be his duty to lay before the Grand Lodge on the first day of each Grand Annual Communication all his accounts for inspection and adjustment, and he shall immediately pay over to his successor any balance which may be found due from him to the Grand Lodge together with all the books, papers, and documents belonging to his office. Upon the election of a Grand Treasurer, before he shall enter upon the duties of this office, he shall execute to the Grand Master for the time being for the benefit of the Grand Lodge a bond with such security and in such a sum as shall be approved by the Grand Lodge, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duty.

#### Section IX.

No brother of this Grand Lodge shall be elected Grand Treasurer more than three (3) years in succession.

### GRAND SECRETARY.

#### Section X.

It is the duty of the Grand Secretary to re-

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cord all transactions of the Grand Lodge proper for record, to receive, duly file, and safely keep all papers and documents of the Grand Lodge; to prepare, sign and certify all charters, dispensations and other instruments from the Grand Lodge, and when necessary to affix the seal of the Grand Lodge thereto. Also to sign and affix seal to individual membership diplomas that are square at the time of signing. To receive and keep a proper account of all moneys of the Grand Lodge and pay them over to the Grand Treasurer, and at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to report an account thereof; to conduct the correspondence of the Grand Lodge; to attend with all necessary books and papers, all communications of the Grand Lodge and to perform such other duties as are, or may be by law prescribed.

His fee shall consist of the following:

Writing a letter of dispensation for forming a new Lodge three dollars (\$3.00); and to any matter and all cases where necessity requires the affixing of the seal of the Grand Lodge fifty cents (\$0.50) and he shall receive a yearly salary of \$25.00. For his non-attendance at a Grand Lodge meeting a fine of \$5.00 shall be required of him for each days absence. He shall also before entering upon his duties execute to the Grand Master a bond for the benefit of the Grand Lodge with such necessary security and in such sum as shall be approved by the Grand Master, conditioned upon the faithful discharge of his duties.

#### Section XI.

The Grand Secretary shall when publishing the annual proceeding of the Grand Lodge, cause to be published all amendments to the Constitution and by-laws, and a full list of suspensions and expulsions in the Jurisdiction.

#### Section XII.

The Grand Secretary shall annually have printed the Grand Lodge proceedings, and distribute two copies to each Lodge in the Jurisdiction, and two copies to each Sister Grand Lodge, which furnish theirs to us. Each individual member to purchase copies from the secretary at ten cents (\$0.10) for each year.

#### Section XIII.

The Grand Secretary by virtue of his office is



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hereby constituted Grand Lodge Librarian and shall have charge of the Grand Lodge Library.

### Section XIV.

All officers and committees appointed to act during recess, having reports to make to the Grand Lodge, are required to present them on the first day of Communication.

### Section XV.

Members of the Grand Lodge not officers therein, but representatives of subordinate lodges, shall appear at its sessions clothed with Jewels which it is proper for them to wear when in their Subordinate Lodge.

### Section XVI.

Brethren of the Grand Lodge having questions involving masonic Jurisprudence to be propounded to the Grand Lodge, shall present the same in writing.

### Section XVII.

No delegate from any Subordinate Lodge shall be allowed per diem at any session where his subordinate lodge has failed to forward to the Grand Secretary their returns and the funds in payment for the Grand Lodge dues on or before the 10th day of July, unless they present satisfactory reasons and are excused by vote of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary will close his report July 20th and report all lodges that have not made returns and paid their dues, delinquent.

### Section XVIII.

#### OF THE WORK OF THE JURISDICTION.

This Grand Lodge recognizes the cypher work, "Ecce Orienti," Standard Masonic Monitor and Mackey's Jurisprudence, as the proper works to be disseminated under such rules and regulations as may be by law prescribed.

### Section XIX.

In conferring the degrees of Masonry the Subordinate lodges are enjoined to a strict adherence to the work as authorized and taught in this Jurisdiction.

### Section XX.

No dispensation for a lodge shall be granted ex-

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cept on the petition in writing of seven (7) Master masons in good standing, which petition must be accompanied by their certificates of demission from a regularly chartered Lodge in this or some other recognized Jurisdiction. Such petition must also be recommended by some chartered lodge of this Jurisdiction, which shall certify that the first three officers named in the petition have appeared before them in open lodge and exemplified the work of the three degrees, and that they are competent to confer the same in a creditable manner.

### Section XXI.

Nor shall a dispensation be granted to form a new lodge until the chartered lodge nearest the proposed location be given an opportunity to make a statement for or against the granting of such dispensation. Nor then unless the population exceeds two thousand (2,000) Afro-Americans.

### Section XXII.

For every letter of dispensation for the formation of a new lodge, a fee of \$20.00 is to be paid into the Grand Treasury, and three dollars (\$3.00) to the Grand Secretary, before the delivery of the letters of dispensation.

For every charter twenty dollars (\$20.00) shall be paid into Grand Treasury. No charter shall be issued to a lodge that has not worked under dispensation, without the consent of the Grand Lodge, and the full fee of forty dollars (\$40.00).

### Section XXIII.

In no case shall the amount paid to representatives of any subordinate lodge by this Grand Lodge, for mileage or per diem, exceed the amount such subordinate lodge shall have paid into the Grand Treasury as fees and dues for the past preceding year.

### Section XXIV.

During his term of office an elective officer of this Grand Lodge is not amenable to trial and sentence except by this Grand Lodge or a commission deriving its authority therefrom.

### Section XXV.

The masters of the several lodges in this Jurisdiction are instructed to have the constitution and

the By-Laws read in open lodge at least once in every three (3) months.

Part II.

**SUBORDINATE LODGES.**

ARTICLE I.

Section I.

A lodge under dispensation being a temporary body, with powers limited to the making of Masons only, shall not have or use a lodge seal.

Section II.

A lodge under dispensation in this Jurisdiction has no authority to grant demits.

Section III.

Every lodge under dispensation shall return its letter of dispensation to the next Grand Annual Communication after the date of said letter, together with an abridged transcript of their work, stating the following facts:

1st. The transactions of each meeting, the name and location of the lodge, and the day of the week, month and year.

2nd. The names of the officers and number of members and visitors present.

3rd. Whether the communication be a stated or special one, and in what degree the lodge is opened and closed.

4th. What work is done and a statement showing what moneys have been received and disbursed and for what purpose. All lodges under dispensation shall pay annual Grand dues the same as chartered lodges.

5th. A certificate of the correctness of the abstract shall be appended, signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary.

6th. The abstract shall be made on cut paper, the leaves fastened together, carefully folded, with the name and location of the lodge endorsed upon the back. No charter shall be issued until such abstract is made and approved. Nor shall representation be given such lodges in the Grand Lodge until such requirements have been met and the lodge duly constituted. Provided that no lodge be named after a living person.

ARTICLE II.

Section I.

A subordinate lodge shall consist of a Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Warden, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Senior and Junior Deacon, a Senior and Junior Steward, a Chaplain, a Marshall and a Tyler, also three Trustees if the lodge deem it necessary.

Section II.

The election of all officers of a subordinate lodge shall take place at the first stated meeting in June and they shall be installed on or before June 24th of each year. The Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary to be elected by ballot, the remaining officers to be appointed by the Master Elect.

Section III.

No one is eligible to vote at the election of officers in any subordinate lodge unless he be a Master Mason and a member of such lodge. And his dues and assessments are paid up to the time of the election, or the time of such payment extended by a vote of the lodge.

ARTICLE III.

Section I.

Worshipful Master. His Duties and Powers.—It being the sense of this Grand Lodge that the honorary degree of Past Master is properly a part of the installation ceremony, and should be conferred by the installing officer upon a Master elect when first installed Master of a symbolic lodge, but no one but an installed Master or Past Master of a symbolic lodge is qualified to install a Master elect or take part in investing him with the degree of Past Master. And it shall be the duty of the Secretary to collect two (\$2.00) dollars from said elect Worshipful Master and forward the same with the annual returns to the Grand Lodge.

Section II.

No officer shall enter upon the discharge of his duties until he has been regularly installed, and the former officers shall hold over until such ceremony is performed.

Section III.

The ancient charge requiring the Master to have

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served as a Warden shall be strictly enforced under this Jurisdiction.

### ARTICLE IV.

#### Section I.

It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to open and preside over the lodge when present, and to make all necessary provisions for the faithful performance of that duty when absent.

#### Section II.

He shall preserve the charter of the lodge with unflinching care, and to see that it is in the lodge when it is opened and at labor.

#### Section III.

To see that the By-Laws of the lodge, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge and the ancient constitution of Free Masonry are duly observed and obeyed by all the members.

#### Section IV.

To see that the minutes and financial records of the Treasurer and Secretary are carefully kept.

#### Section V.

To see that the funds and other property of the lodge are handled with sound judgment and justice to all.

#### Section VI.

To sign all orders upon the Treasurer but not without the consent of the lodge.

#### Section VII.

To convene the lodge in called meetings whenever there shall appear to him a necessity therefor.

#### Section VIII.

To appoint the standing committee of Trustees on the day of his installation, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of Treasurer and Secretary and inspect all other property of the lodge.

#### Section IX.

To read and expound to the lodge the proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

#### Section X.

To decide all questions of order.

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### Section XI.

To see that the annual returns to the Grand Lodge are properly made out and forwarded by the Secretary in the time required by the Grand Lodge.

### ARTICLE V.

#### Section I.

A Master Mason only can be a Warden of a lodge. In case the chair of the Master becomes vacant, by death or otherwise, the Senior Warden succeeds to and exercises all the powers of the Worshipful Master. He represents the lodge in conjunction with the Worshipful Master and Junior Warden at all the Grand Communications of the Grand Lodge, and is to act on the standing committee of Charity.

#### Section II.

The Junior Warden to succeed to and exercise all the powers of the Worshipful Master in the absence of the two officers above him.

#### Section III.

To represent the lodge in conjunction with the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden at all the Grand Communications of the Grand Lodge.

#### Section IV.

To act on the standing committee of charity.

#### Section V.

To take charge of the craft during the hours of refreshment; also to take cognizance of all complaints made by the brethren of unmasonic conduct and irregularity in members, and bring in the same before the lodge, if in his opinion necessary, provided this shall not be a bar to any brother bringing his complaint directly before the lodge.

### ARTICLE VI.

#### Section I.

The Treasurer—to receive all moneys from the hands of the Secretary. Keep a just and regular account of the same. Pay the same on orders drawn upon him by the consent of the lodge, signed by the Master and Secretary.

#### Section II.

He is to keep a regular register of receipts and

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disbursements and make a financial report of the same at the regular communication of June, September, December, March of each Masonic year.

### Section III.

To prepare annually an official statement of his accounts with the lodge and deliver it to the Master at the close of his term.

### Section IV.

To promptly deliver to his successor in office all the funds of the lodge, together with all the books, vouchers, or other matter having any reference to the financial business of the lodge. He shall if required give a bond in such sum as the lodge may determine.

## ARTICLE VII.

The Secretary—To observe the Masters will and pleasure; to record the proceedings of the lodge; to receive all moneys, pay them over to the Treasurer and take his receipt therefore.

### Section II.

To attend trials and meetings for taking evidence.

### Section III.

To furnish copies of all evidence taken on trials where an appeal to the Grand Lodge is demanded.

### Section IV.

To furnish diplomas, demits, certificates, etc., duly signed and sealed by order of the lodge.

### Section V.

To keep a register of members and record their initiation, passing, raising, admission, withdrawal, suspension, expulsion, restoration, death and rejections and send a copy to Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication, also any other Masonic history relative to the members of the lodge.

### Section VI.

To keep an account with each member and promptly collect all dues.

### Section VII.

After each election he shall send a certificate showing the result of the election to the Grand Secretary.

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### Section VIII.

He shall preserve the seal with care and shall affix or cause it to be affixed to all lodge documents and at the close of his term deliver it to the Worshipful Master.

### Section IX.

He shall make a quarterly financial report at the same time designated for the Treasurer.

### Section X.

He shall enter in the records of each stated meeting the amount of money received from each person since last stated meeting and for what it was received.

### Section XI.

He shall also make his annual returns to the Grand Lodge upon the forms furnished by the Grand Secretary, duly certified and forward one copy thereof to the Grand Secretary.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### Section I.

The Senior Deacon—To act as the proxy of the Worshipful Master in the active duties of the lodge.

### Section II.

To give fraternal attention to visiting brethren.

### Section III.

To receive and conduct candidates in the different degrees of Masonry.

### Section IV.

The Junior Deacon—To act as proxy of the Senior Warden in the active duties of the lodge.

### Section V.

To have special care to the security of the lodge.

## ARTICLE IX.

### Section I.

The Stewards—To have charge, subject to the direct order of the Worshipful Master, of the furniture, jewels and other property of the lodge.

### Section II.

To provide light, fuel and refreshment for the comfort of the brethren.



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### Section III.

To have special care to cleanliness in the hall and the ante-rooms.

### Section IV.

The Tyler—To tyle the lodge subject to the direct orders of the Worshipful Master.

### Section V.

To serve notices, summons, citations, etc., and also to heat and open hall under the authority of the Master.

### Section VI.

The Tyler and Secretary are to be exempt from all dues except death assessments and Grand Lodge dues, and to receive whatever compensation the lodge may see fit to allow.

## ARTICLE X.

### Section I.

Supernumerary Officers—The lodge may at its discretion appoint a physician and one or more Masters of ceremonies, whose duties shall correspond with their title.

## ARTICLE XI.

### Section I.

#### Revenue.

Every Subordinate Lodge under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge shall pay into the Grand Treasurer thru the proper channel dues as follows:

Each member to pay Grand Lodge tax.....	\$0.50
For initiation, passing and raising each degree .....	.50
Dispensation to enter, pass and raise at same communication .....	6.00
Passing the chair from Master elect.....	2.00
For dispensation for festival at discretion of Grand Master .....	5.00

### Section II.

The charity fund shall be dispensed in such sums as the necessity may demand to such widows and orphans in need of charity as are presented to the Grand Lodge thru the representatives from the

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various Subordinate Lodges to the Committee on charity.

### Section III.

During the recess of the Grand Lodge the Grand Master and two Grand Wardens shall constitute a standing committee to dispense charity from the Widows and Orphans fund, where it is shown from evident facts that such charity is needed. All charity so dispensed shall be reported by the Grand Master under head of Official Acts at the Annual Communication.

### Section IV.

Every Subordinate Lodge may require from each member fifty cents (\$.50) monthly dues, death assessment of one dollar (\$1.00), more or less to meet the necessity, and any assessment which may be levied according to the requirements of each Subordinate Lodge.

### Section V.

No Master, Wardens or representatives of any lodge shall take their seats in the Grand Lodge until their dues are paid.

### Section VI.

In case of neglect or refusal of any Subordinate Lodge to pay, at or before the next annual communication thereafter, unless a reasonable excuse is offered, such lodge shall be suspended from further labor and its charter reclaimed by the Grand Lodge.

### Section VII.

Such lodge, however, may upon proper application to the Grand Lodge, and upon making its returns and the payment of its dues, be restored to its former rank and privileges by the majority vote of the Grand Lodge.

## ARTICLE XII.

### Petitions for Degrees, Balloting, etc.

#### Section I.

Qualification—The qualification for an initiate are: Faith in God, hope in immortality and charity toward all mankind. An applicant shall furthermore have attained to the age of twenty-one years, that he be of good report, a free man, sound in

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

mind and body, and that he be able to gain for himself and family a livelihood. He must apply for admission by petition, stating his age, occupation, residence, and must be recommended by two Master Masons, members of the lodge petitioned.

### Section II.

No lodge shall receive a petition for the degrees of Masonry except at a stated meeting, and no ballot shall be taken on such petition except seven members of the lodge are present. Nor until (30) thirty days after its presentation.

### Section III.

A committee of three (3) Master Masons shall be appointed by the master, who are members of the lodge and not named on the petition, to inquire into the facts as stated on petition of applicant, the inquiry is to be obtained thru the candidate or otherwise, but in all cases the committee must see the applicant. Should they, then report favorably, the candidate shall be balloted for. If the ballot is reported clear, the candidate is elected to receive the three (3) degrees of Masonry.

### Section IV.

One black ball is sufficient to reject, and if so reported by the Master, no re-ballot can be had.

### Section V.

If only one black ball appear, from fear of a mistake a second ballot may be called for, provided however the Worshipful Master withholds his report until the re-ballot has taken place.

### Section VI.

Re-ballot.—If a petitioner for the degrees shall be rejected by ballot, and so declared, there shall be no other ballot on said petition except as otherwise provided herein and except by a dispensation from the Grand Master which dispensation shall be requested any time within sixty days (60), and shall contain a proviso that all members present at the time of the rejection shall be notified to be present at the reballot.

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### ARTICLE XIII.

#### Section I.

##### Fee.

No lodge shall confer the first three (3) degrees of Masonry for a less sum than twenty (\$20) dollars. Five (\$5) dollars shall accompany the petition, five dollars (\$5) for the first, five dollars (\$5) for the second, and five dollars (\$5) for the third degree.

#### Section II.

The 1st Section shall not be so construed as to deprive any lodge of a dispensation to make a class of no less than five (5) for fifteen dollars (\$15.00) each, if within the judgment of the Grand Master, after investigation, that the condition of lodge warrants it, provided however the membership is less than forty-five.

#### Section III.

No lodge in this Jurisdiction shall confer any degree of Masonry on credit, nor upon a person who is known to be directly or indirectly a gambler, keeper of a gambling house, dealer in policy or lottery tickets, a saloon keeper or a drunkard, or an employee in a house of ill repute, or gambling house.

#### Section IV.

Any applicant who thru lack of education, is unable to read or write, is not eligible to receive the degrees of Masonry.

#### Section V.

No lodge shall receive and act upon the petition of any applicant whose residence may be nearer some other lodge in this Jurisdiction than the one in which said application is made, nor shall any lodge act upon the petition of any applicant who has been rejected within one year of such rejection. Nor shall the petition for the mysteries of Masonry be received from any person who has not resided one year in the state and six months near the lodge to which he applies under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. This section as to nearness to lodge does not apply to lodges in the same city.

#### Section VI.

A petition may be withdrawn by the unanimous consent of the lodge, before it is referred to an in-



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vestigation committee, but not afterwards, as it then becomes the property of the lodge and the application shall be balloted for. Any brother presenting an application from any one known to be directly or indirectly a gambler or keeper of a gambling house, dealer in policy or lottery tickets, a saloon keeper or a drunkard, or an employee of a house of ill repute, or gambling house shall be considered to have committed a Masonic crime, and if so proven his penalty shall be suspension, limited or unlimited, or expulsion.

### ARTICLE XIV.

#### Section I.

##### Objecting to and Stopping a Candidate.

After the committee has made a favorable report, the candidate may be stopped as follows:

1st. By casting a black ballot when the ballot is spread.

2nd. By making a secret objection to the Master or Warden acting as such, the reason or grounds thereof need not be stated.

3rd. Filing written objections and assigning the reasons therefore with the Secretary and when made shall be entered on the records of the proceedings without the name of the objector, and shall have the same effect as a rejection by ballot. It shall be unmasonic for the Master or Secretary to disclose the name of an objector or for the objector himself to disclose his identity.

#### Section II.

The advancement of a candidate can be stopped as follows, viz.:

1st. By calling for ballot and casting a black ball.

2nd. By secret objection in which case the reason must be given.

3rd. Filing objections and reasons with the Secretary.

### ARTICLE XV.

#### Section I.

No lodge shall receive or act upon a petition for initiation, membership, or for the advancement of a brother initiated or passed as the case may be in

## M. W. GRAND LODGE.

any other than a stated meeting, and a ballot shall not be taken unless there be seven members present, without a dispensation from the Grand Master. The stated meeting shall be held at such times as the lodge may prescribe by its By-Laws or its proceedings entered of record, but not oftener than once in each lunar month. Called meetings may be held at any time at the discretion of the Worshipful Master, as provided by law and the usages of the craft.

#### Section II.

No lodge working under this Jurisdiction shall confer the degree of Fellow Craft or Master Mason upon any brother who has been initiated or passed (as the case may be) in any other lodge, unless the brother applying shall produce the consent, under seal, of the lodge in which he was admitted. However, when such lodge shall have been dissolved, other proofs of his good standing and worthiness may be received.

#### Section III.

An entered apprentice or a Fellow Craft, unless resting under charges for unmasonic conduct is entitled to advancement on making suitable proficiency therefor, which must be ascertained by examination in open lodge in the highest degree to which he has attained. The determination may be by show of hands, in answer to the inquiry of the Master. "Are you satisfied with the proficiency of the brother?" No prerogative of the Grand Master can avail to defeat the provision of this section.

#### Section IV.

No brother can be advanced until after the expiration of four (4) weeks, except by dispensation of the Grand Master.

#### Section V

If a candidate fails for six (6) months after his election to appear for initiation, he shall not be entitled to such initiation without a new petition and ballot, which petition must take the same course (which includes a new fee) as in the first instance, and a candidate who having been initiated or passed, fails to apply for advancement for a like period, a new ballot must be had.

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### ARTICLE XVI.

#### Section I.

##### Order of Business.

1. Reading the minutes of last stated and intervening meeting.
2. Unfinished business.
3. Reading communications and action thereon.
4. Bills of account.
5. Applications for examination.
6. Reports of Committees on Petition.
7. Balloting.
8. Reception of Petitions.
9. Reports of standing and special Committee.
10. New Business.
11. Payment of dues.
12. Reading Minutes for correction.

The minutes of a stated meeting should be corrected before the lodge is closed. The reading of the record at the next meeting should not be for approval, but to bring forward unfinished business and for the general information of the lodge.

13. Inquiry by the Master: Has all moneys received by the Secretary been paid to the Treasurer and a receipt taken therefor?

14. Work. Close in the Third, ("or call off") and open (or "call on") in the degree required, if simply "called off" the lodge must again be "called on" in the third degree before closing.

15. Closing.

#### Section II.

All business of a subordinate lodge must be done when open on the third degree, except examination for advancement which must be in the highest degree the brother attained.

### ARTICLE XVII.

#### Lodge Government.

##### Section I.

All business of a particular lodge except that of conferring degrees, or giving instruction therein, shall be transacted in the lodge opened in the third degree; provided that upon the trial of an E. P. or F. C. the lodge may be opened in the highest degree to which the accused has attained, until the ceremony has been concluded and the

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accused heard by himself or counsel in his defense.

#### Section II.

Each Subordinate lodge shall procure a seal and file an impression of the same in the office of the Grand Secretary, to be carefully preserved.

#### Section III.

Upon the suspension of any lodge under this Jurisdiction the last Secretary and Treasurer of such lodge shall, within three (3) months thereafter, forward to the Grand Secretary, all the boxes, papers, jewels, funds and furniture of the lodge so suspended, to be retained by them until disposed of by the Grand Lodge.

### ARTICLE XVII.

#### Section IV.

Every lodge in this Jurisdiction shall exercise all the rights of discipline over all of such masons who may reside in the Jurisdiction of such lodge, so far as may relate to the conduct and behavior of such Masons while residing within the Jurisdiction of such lodge.

#### Section V.

Each Subordinate lodge under this Jurisdiction shall require every mason applying for membership therein to present satisfactory evidence to such lodge that he has taken a regular demit from the lodge of which he has been a member or that such lodge is no longer in existence.

#### Section VI.

Representatives from lodges under dispensation shall be allowed to take seats in the Grand Lodge and also to participate in the discussions but not to vote, or serve on committees or hold office therein.

#### Section VII.

Representatives from chartered lodges may be instructed by their Subordinate lodges, as to the action of their lodge votes upon any question or matter, concerning the interest of the lodge.

#### Section VIII.

Representatives of Subordinate lodges shall be governed by the instruction given them upon which to act in the Grand Lodge where specified, but in

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

all other cases they are to use their best judgment, having always in view the interest of the craft.

### Section IX

The election of officers in the Subordinate lodges shall take place on the first stated meeting in June and the installation shall take place on or before the 24th day of June (St. John's Day).

### Section X.

Lodges under the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge are not allowed to hold public celebrations or appear in public processions as Masons, except on funeral occasions and the festivals of St. John's Day in June and December, without first obtaining a dispensation from the Grand Lodge or from the Grand Master.

### Section XI.

To prevent evil consequences the Masters of Subordinate lodges 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 so vouched for or has examined him by direction of the Master.

### Section XII.

Any Master Mason under this Jurisdiction in good and regular standing upon the presentation of a certificate to that effect to the Grand Secretary, and upon the payment of fifty cents (\$.50) shall be entitled to have his diploma authenticated in due form.

### Section XIII.

In cases of suspension, expulsion, or restoration of members, the lodge so acting shall within ten (10) days notify each lodge in the same county, and also forward a list thereof to the Grand Secretary, and he shall once in three (3) months send a circular containing a list thereof to each lodge in the Jurisdiction, but the Grand Lodge alone has the power to publish the same to the profane.

### Section XIV.

In any case of expulsion or suspension, the Secretary of any Subordinate lodge shall keep an exact record of the proceedings in his order, and at the time of their occurrence. Let the record show each step taken, if by trial including the bal-

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lotting, number of votes cast for and against conviction, for and against each grade of punishment and the final order. And immediately transmit the same to the office of the Grand Secretary, together with all evidence taken in the case.

### Section XV.

When a Mason is expelled or suspended for any cause whatever, an appeal may be taken at any time within thirty days (30) after the punishment is imposed by a vote of the lodge, or by order of the Master where the law fixes the punishment, but not thereafter, and must be taken by filing with the Secretary of the lodge a notice of appeal.

### Section XVI.

No service of the notice of appeal is necessary more than to leave it with the Secretary who shall file the same and enter it on record, on the date delivered.

When a Mason is under suspension he is debarred from all the privileges of the order and no dues shall be collected during the time of suspension.

### Section XVIII.

In all cases of expulsion or suspension of a member from any lodge under this Jurisdiction, two thirds (2-3) of the votes of the members present shall be required; and in all cases of the restoration of a suspended mason, the same proceedings as for admission and a vote of two-thirds (2-3) of all the members of the lodge present shall be required. But this rule does not apply to the case of suspension for non-payment of dues. In cases of suspension for non-payment of dues the full payment by the brother suspended of the amount due at the time of his suspension, together with the expenses incurred by giving notice of the same and by a vote in favor of restoration by two-thirds (2-3) of the members present at a stated meeting, shall restore him to membership. All applications for restoration by brothers suspended for non-payment of dues must be presented at a stated meeting preceding the one at which action is taken.

### Section XIX.

Whenever a brother becomes delinquent in dues and assessments to the amount of three dollars, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to give notice to

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

the brother and to the lodge. If within sixty (60) days the brother fails to make himself financial or crave Masonic charity in open lodge, he shall thereby become suspended for the amount due, at the time of suspension, and be so declared by the Master without further ceremony, provided however that the lodge does not waive its right by a majority to extend the time for payment.

### ARTICLE XVIII.

#### Affiliation.

##### Section I.

The Master of a lodge shall not allow a brother to affiliate who has not visited the lodge. The committee to whom the petition is referred can, however, under the direction of the Master, examine the brother and if satisfied beyond the shadow of a doubt that he is a worthy Mason can instruct him so that he can visit the lodge. This should be done under the direction of the Master and should be very precise, as we cannot encourage such a brother who, thru his own incompetency and lack of knowledge, is unable to visit a lodge.

##### Section II.

A lodge has the right to receive the petition of a brother for affiliation, altho he does not reside in their local Jurisdiction, provided he resides in this Grand Lodge Jurisdiction if they so desire.

##### Section III.

An unaffiliated Mason is subject to all the obligations of a Mason, as a member of the fraternity at large, and, for any violation of the moral or Masonic law subject to trial and discipline by the lodge near which he sojourns or resides.

##### Section IV.

He shall not, however, have the right to visit any one lodge in this Jurisdiction more than three (3) times, nor can he be permitted to join in any Masonic procession or participate in any festivity, except by the courtesy thereof.

##### Section V.

He or his family can make no claim for charity upon the funds of the lodge, but the same may be granted when thought just and proper. He is how-

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ever, bound to respond as far as his ability permits to the call of distress by an individual Mason, and they are in like manner bound to him.

##### Section VI.

He has no right to a Masonic burial, but the same may be given him by the lodge at its discretion if he has shown commendable zeal for the interests and has adhered to the principles of the institution.

### ARTICLE XIX.

#### Dimits.

##### Section I.

A Master Mason in good standing whose dues are paid, and is under no charges, is entitled to a dimit. His motive in asking for it cannot be inquired into.

##### Section II.

A dimit given a brother residing in this Grand Lodge Jurisdiction, shall not be recognized by a sister Grand Lodge Jurisdiction, unless the brother presents himself within the Jurisdiction where he petitions for membership. The dimits must so read on margin.

##### Section III.

A Master Mason who is regularly dimitted from a legally constituted lodge, is a man of good habits and character and presents himself within this Jurisdiction, may still be admitted to the membership of any lodge in this Jurisdiction in the usual manner as prescribed by these by-laws on admission.

##### Section IV.

A keeper of a saloon cannot by dimit join a lodge in this Jurisdiction.

### ARTICLE XX.

##### Section I.

No business except the conferring of degrees can be transacted at a special meeting unless such special communication has been regularly called for a particular purpose, and the brethren notified by summons, at which no other business can be transacted save that for which the lodge was convened.



## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

### Section II.

When a lodge bestows charity upon a member of another lodge the amount so expended cannot be legally claimed of the lodge of which the named recipient is a member, unless such expenditure has been made at the request and with the direct consent of the lodge in which he holds membership.

### Section III.

It is not necessary for a lodge to secure a dispensation to change its place of meeting from one hall to another in the same town or city.

### Section IV.

A special assessment, when legally voted for should be immediately charged up to each member, the same as if he owed the sum for dues, when such assessments equal six (6) months dues, charges of non-payment of dues may be brought against him. The first moneys paid after an assessment is voted shall be applied thereon.

## ARTICLE XXI.

### Funeral.

#### Section I.

A lodge cannot as such attend a funeral unless the same is under the immediate control of, and the ceremony conducted by, a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

#### Section II.

Every Master Mason in good standing is entitled to Masonic burial and non-affiliate Master Masons of known good character may receive Masonic burial by the vote of the lodge.

The proper clothes to be worn at funerals are black hat, coat and trousers with white gloves and aprons. Officers wear their jewels and the Marshal a star.

## ARTICLE XXII.

### Section I.

In all cases of appeal the Grand Lodge (upon examination of all evidence, and a full transcript from the Secretary of a Subordinate lodge and the party aggrieved) has power to affirm, reverse or modify the judgment appealed from, and may award

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a new trial in a proper case, and retains original concurrent Jurisdiction in all cases of its own members, and exclusive original Jurisdiction of Masters of Lodges while in office.

### Section II.

No brother shall be recognized as a Past Master except one who has been duly elected and installed, and has served a term as Master of a Masonic Lodge.

## ARTICLE XXIII.

### Section I.

All the Subordinate lodges will be required to make the necessary changes in their By-Laws and seal to conform to the ones adopted by the Grand Lodge.

### Section II.

These Regulations or By-Laws may be amended at any Annual Communication, by a vote of two-thirds (2-3) of all the members present.

## ARTICLE XXIV.

### Section I.

All moneys received from Dispensations belong to the Grand Lodge and must be paid to the Grand Treasurer.

FUNERAL SERVICE  
OF THE  
**Most Worshipful Grand Lodge**  
Free and Accepted Masons

FOR THE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

None but Master Masons are entitled to Masonic Burial, and none can receive it save those who are known, while living, to have desired it.

Black or dark clothes should be worn with black hat, white gloves and apron, a band of crape above the left elbow and a sprig of evergreen on the left lappel of the coat.

The most profound solemnity and decorum must be observed in a Funeral Lodge and in the public exercises.

The Master fixes the day and hour and place for the Funeral Lodge to assemble and issues his command to summon the Lodge.

The hour for assembling the Funeral Lodge having arrived, the Lodge is opened punctually.

The Master then states the purpose of the meeting, and appoints his assistants for the occasion. The chief of these is the Marshall, upon whom the preliminary arrangements of the service and the entire care of the Craft in public will devolve. This officer receives his orders from, and makes his reports to, the Master alone. His badge of office is a baton. If more than fifty Brethern are expected to be in the procession, a Deputy Marshall, in the proportion to one to each fifty Brethern, is necessary.

The preliminary arrangements being thus made, the Funeral Service begins, the Master leading off, and all the Brethern uniting as one man in the responses.

\* \* \*

MASTER—What man is he that liveth and shall

not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?

RESPONSE—Man walketh in a vain shadow. He heapeth up riches, and can not tell who shall gather them.

MASTER—When he dieth, he shall carry nothing away. His glory shall not descend after him.

RESPONSE—Naked he came into the world, and naked he must return.

MASTER—The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

The private Grand Honors are then given, which cannot be explained in print.

The Master then taking the Sacred Roll, or Catalogue of the Dead, in his hands, says:

MASTER—Let us die the death of the righteous, and let our last end be like his.

RESPONSE—God is our God forever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death.

The Master then records the name and age of the deceased upon the Sacred Roll, and says:

MASTER—Almighty Father! into thy hands we commend the soul of our loving Brother.

RESPONSE—The will of God is accomplished! Amen. So mote it be.

The last response is repeated three times, accompanied each time with the Private Grand Honors as above. The Master then deposits the Sacred Roll in the archives of the Lodge, and repeats the following prayer:

MASTER—Most glorious God! author of all good, and giver of all mercy! pour down thy blessings upon us, and strengthen our solemn engagements with the ties of sincere affection! May the present instance of mortality remind us of our approaching fate and draw our attention toward thee, the only refuge in time of need! that when the awful moment shall arrive that we are about to quit this transitory scene, the enlivening prospect of thy mercy may dispel the gloam of death; and after our departure hence in peace, and in thy favor, we may be received into thine everlasting kingdom, to enjoy, in union with the souls of our departed friends, the just reward of a pious and virtuous life. Amen.

RESPONSE—So mote it be.



## FUNERAL SERVICE

A procession is then formed, which moves to the house of the deceased, and from thence to the place of interment. The different Lodges rank according to seniority, excepting that the Lodge of which the deceased was a member walks nearest the corpse. Each Lodge forms one division, and the following order is observed by each:

### ORDER OF PROCESSION AT A FUNERAL.

Tyler, with drawn Sword.  
Stewards, with white rods.  
Musicians, if they are Masons, otherwise they follow the Tyler.  
Master Masons.  
Senior and Junior Deacons, with rods.  
Secretary and Treasurer.  
Senior and Junior Wardens with Columns.  
Past Masters.  
The Holy Writings, on a Cushion covered with Black Cloth, carried by the oldest member of the Lodge.  
The Master  
Clergy.

The		Body
with the insignia	BODY.	placed thereon
and two		Swords crossed
Pall Bearers		Pall Bearers.

The Marshall and his Deputies march on the left of the procession, the Marshall moving continually from one end of the procession to the other, to give directions and supervise the Brethern. Martial music is useful to give accuracy to the step. The files march two and two, each right hand man touching the elbow of the Brother on his left. Promptness in obeying the orders "March!" "Halt!" etc. is essential. The Brethern must not desert the procession, or change places, and none must enter the procession after it has left the place of its formation, without special permission from the Master, obtained through the Marshall.

The grave should be approached from East to West. When the head of the procession has arrived within ten paces of the foot of the grave, the Marshall orders a halt, and separates the files so as to form a lane about ten feet in width. Through this avenue he approaches the Master, and conducts

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him, as the head of the procession, about the grave, leaving it on the right, the Brethern closing in two and two behind the Master, thus reversing the former arrangement. The coffin is carried directly to the grave, and laid upon trestles above it, the mourners and family of the deceased at the foot. The procession passes one and a half times about the grave, and halts when the Master has reached, for the second time, the head of the grave. Then a halt is commanded, and the Brethern close their ranks, forming an oblong square, or a circle, at the direction of the Marshall, all facing inward. None are permitted within the inclosure save the mourners. The Senior Warden stands on the right, and the Junior Warden on the left, of the Master, the Chaplain, with the mourners, at the foot of the grave. The great Lights are placed at the head of the grave; the Senior Warden's column nearby, and erect; the Junior Wardens column is at the foot of the grave and prostrate.

The service is now resumed by the Master, as follows:

MASTER—Here we view a striking instance of the uncertainty of life, and the vanity of all human pursuits. The last offices paid to the dead are only useful as lectures to the living. From them we are to derive instruction, and consider every solemnity of this kind as a summons to prepare for our approaching dissolution.

Notwithstanding the various mementoes of mortality with which we daily meet; notwithstanding death has established his empire over all the works of nature, yet, through some accountable infatuation, we forget that we are born to die. We go on from one design to another, add hope to hope, and lay out plans for the employment of many years, till we are suddenly alarmed with the approach of death, when we least expect him, and at an hour which we probably conclude to be the meridian of our existence.

What are all the externals of majesty, the pride of wealth, or charms of beauty, when nature has paid her just debt? Fix your eyes on the last scene, and view life stripped of her ornaments, and exposed in her natural meanness: you will then be convinced of the futility of these empty delusions.

## FUNERAL SERVICE

In the grave, all fallacies are detected, all ranks are levelled, and distinctions are done away.

While we drop the sympathetic tear over the grave of our deceased friend, let charity incline us to throw a veil over his foibles, whatever they may have been, and not withhold from his memory the praise that his virtues may have claimed. Suffer the apologies of human nature to plead in his behalf. Perfection on earth has never been attained. The wisest, as well as the best, of men have erred.

Let the present example excite our most serious thoughts, and strengthen our resolutions of amendment. As life is uncertain, and all earthly pursuits are vain, let us no longer postpone the important concern of preparing for eternity, but embrace the happy moment, while time and opportunity offer, to provide against the great change when all the pleasures of this world shall cease to delight, and the reflections of a virtuous life yield the only comfort and consolation. Thus our expectations will not be frustrated, nor we hurried, unprepared, into the presence of an Allwise and Powerful Judge, to whom the secrets of all hearts are known.

Let us, while in this state of existence, support with propriety the character of our profession, advert to the nature of our solemn ties, and pursue with assiduity the sacred tenets of our Order. Then, with becoming reverence, let us supplicate the Divine Grace to insure the favor of that Eternal Being whose goodness and power know no bound; that when the awful moment arrives, be it soon or late, we may be enabled to prosecute our journey, without dread or apprehension, to that far distant country whence no traveller returns.

The following invocations are then made by the Master:

MASTER—May we be true and faithful! And may we live and die in love!

RESPONSE—So mote it be!

MASTER—May we profess what is good! and always act agreeably to our profession!

RESPONSE—So mote it be.

MASTER—May the Lord bless us and prosper us! and may all our good intentions be crowned with success!

RESPONSE—So mote it be.

MASTER—Glory be to God on high! On earth,

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peace! Good-will toward men!

RESPONSE—So mote it be, now, from henceforth, and forevermore.

The Master, Wardens, and Chaplain then fall into the ranks, and, with Brethern, move thrice about the grave, leaving it on the right. As they journey they sing the following Ode:

Solemn strikes the funeral chime,  
Notes of our departing time,  
As we journey here below,  
Through a pilgrimage of woe.

Mortals, now indulge a tear!  
For Mortality is here;  
See how wide her trophies wave  
O'er the slumbers of the grave!

Here another guest we bring,  
Seraphs of celestial wing!  
To our funeral altar come,  
Waft a Friend and Brother home!

Lord of all below, above,  
Fill our hearts with truth and love!  
As dissolves our earthly tie,  
Take us to thy Lodge on High.

Each brother takes off his sprig of evergreen worn on the left lappel of his coat, and, as he passes the head of the grave the third time, he casts it therein. The three circuits being completed, the Marshall orders a halt. The Master then directs the Brethern to unite with him in giving the Public Grand Honors of Masonry as a testimonial of respect to the departed Brother. This should be performed with absolute precision, each Brother fixing his eyes upon the Master, and taking the movement from him. The manner of giving the Public Grand Honors is as follows:

Both arms are crossed on the breast, the left uppermost, and the open palms of the hands sharply striking the shoulders. They are then raised above the head, the palms striking each other, and then made to fall smartly upon the thighs. This is repeated three times, each of the honors being accompanied by the words, "The will of God is accomplished. Amen." So mote it be." Audibly pronounced by the Brethern.

Then the Master continues his remarks as follows:

## FUNERAL SERVICE

MASTER—From time immemorial it has been a custom among the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons at the request of a Brother, to accompany his corpse to the place of interment, and there to deposit his remains with usual formalities.

In conformity to this usage, and at the special request of our deceased Brother, whose memory we revere, and whose loss we now deplore, we have assembled in the character, to resign his body to the earth whence it came, and to offer up to his memory, before the world, the last tribute of our affection; thereby demonstrating the sincerity of our steady attachment to the principles of the Order.

The great Creator having been pleased out of his mercy, to remove our Brother from the cares and troubles of a transitory existence, to a state of eternal duration, and thereby to weaken the chain by which we are united, man to man, may we, who survive him, anticipate our approaching fate, and be more strongly cemented in the ties of union and friendship, that, during the short space allotted to our present existence, we may wisely and usefully employ our time, and, in the reciprocal intercourse of kind and friendly acts, mutually promote the welfare and happiness of each other.

Unto the grave we resign the body of our deceased friend, there to remain until the general resurrection, in favorable expectation that his immortal soul may then partake of joys which have been prepared for the righteous from the beginning of the world. And may Almighty God, of his infinite goodness, at the great tribunal of unbiased justice, extend his mercy toward him and all of us, and crown our hope with everlasting bliss in the expanded realms of a boundless eternity! This we beg, for the honor of his name; to whom be glory, now and forever. Amen.

Thus the service ends, and the procession returns in form to the place whence it set out, where the necessary duties are complied with, and the business of Masonry is renewed. The insignia and ornaments of the deceased, if an officer of the Lodge, are returned to the Master, with the usual ceremonies, after which the charges for regulating the conduct of the Brethern are rehearsed, and the Lodge closed in the third degree.