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# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I - Names

**Section 1** This Order shall be known as the Knights of the York Cross of Honour and designated by the initials “K.Y.C.H.”

**Section 2** The governing body shall be known as **Convent General**, Knights of the York Cross of Honour.

**Section 3** A subordinate body shall be known as a **Priory**; a member thereof as a **Knight**.

## ARTICLE II - Jurisprudence

**Section 1** Convent General shall have sole and exclusive jurisdiction over the Order. Its Constitution, By-Laws and General Regulations shall be supreme. All Priors must conform to and abide by the same.

## ARTICLE III – Membership of Convent General

**Section 1** Convent General shall be composed of all Past Priors, the Prior, Deputy Prior and Warder of each Priory; the four members of the original Convent General\* and the three Past Presidents of the York Quarto.\*\*

**Section 2** No Knight shall be entitled to serve as a representative of a Priory other than that of which he is a member.

## ARTICLE IV - Officers

**Section 1** The officers of Convent General shall consist of the following stations, who shall take rank in the order named:

1. **Elective Officers:**

Most Eminent Grand Master-General  
Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master-General  
Right Eminent Grand Warder of the Temple  
Right Eminent Grand Treasurer-General  
Right Eminent Grand Registrar-General  
Right Eminent Grand Seneschal  
Right Eminent Grand Marshal  
Right Eminent Grand Sentinel

2. **Appointive Officers:**

Eminent Grand Prelate

\* Rt. Em. Knights Junius S. Stearns, Louis F. Hart, Lee Griffin and J. Ed Stewart

\*\* Established in 1932 (now Knickerbocker Priory No. 3, K.Y.C.H.), namely, M. E. Knight George O. Linkletter, and E. Knights W. Ranney Wilson and Oliver H. LaBarre.

## **ARTICLE V - Eligibility**

**Section 1** Any member of Convent General may be elected to any office, provided however, that the Grand-Master General may not succeed himself nor again serve in that office; providing further that a Grand-Master General, succeeding to that office by the death or permanent disability of his predecessor, may be elected to succeed himself for a period not to exceed one full term.

**Section 2** No Knight shall be, or continue as officer or member of Convent General who is not a member in good standing of a Priory.

**Section 3** Not more than one of the officers (other than the Grand Treasurer-General, Grand Registrar-General and Grand Prelate) of Convent General shall be elected from any one Priory.

**Section 4** The Officers shall be elected and appointed at the Annual Conclave of Convent General. The Grand Prelate shall be appointed by the incoming Grand Master-General.

**Section 5** The elective officers shall be installed either at the Annual Conclave of Convent General at which they are chosen, or by authority of the Grand Master-General, within any Priory. The Grand Master-General shall have power to authorize any Prior or Past Prior to act as his proxy to install a Grand Officer within a Priory.

**Section 6** Every elective officer, previous to entering upon the duties of his office, shall be legally installed and shall make the following declaration: "I \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly promise on my honor as a Knight of the York Cross of Honour, that to the utmost of my ability, I will strictly comply with the Constitution, By-Laws and General Regulations of Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour."

**Section 7** All officers of Convent General, when installed, shall retain their respective offices until their successors are duly elected, or appointed, and installed.

**Section 8** In case of the death or permanent disability of the Grand Master-General, the Deputy Grand Master-General shall succeed to the office of Grand Master-General. If the period thus served by the new Grand Master-General exceeds six months, he will become a Past Grand Master-General. In the event of the death, permanent disability or resignation of any other officer during the interim between Annual Conclaves of Convent General, the Grand Master-General may appoint and install any member of Convent General to fill the vacancy so caused.

## **ARTICLE VI - Conclaves**

**Section 1** The Annual Conclave of Convent General shall be held in the month of September, October, or November of each year at such time and place as Convent General may designate. Special Conclaves may be held at the direction of the Grand Master-General. The Grand Master-General shall call a Special Conclave upon the request to him of ten (10) members of Convent General hailing from ten (10) different Priors.

**Section 2** A representation from 15 Pories shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may meet and adjourn from day to day until a constitutional quorum be present.

## **ARTICLE VII - Powers**

**Section 1** The Convent General has the sole government and superintendence of the several Pories, with authority to settle controversies between them, to assign their limits, to prescribe laws and regulations for their government and to review, confirm or alter their decisions.

**Section 2** Convent General has the power, under its seal and official signature of the Grand Master-General, Deputy Grand Master-General and Grand Registrar-General to issue dispensations for and constitute new Pories. Convent General, when expedient, has the power to suspend or revoke the warrant of any Priory. The Grand Master-General, during the interim between Annual Conclaves of Convent General, may suspend the warrant of a Priory until the next Annual Conclave of Convent General.

**Section 3** Convent General shall have the sole power to prescribe the forms and ceremonies of the Order including the opening and closing of Pories, installation of officers of a Priory and induction of candidates.

**Section 4** Convent General shall have power to require from its Pories such dues and fees, from time to time, as will meet the needs of Convent General.

**Section 5** For violation of any of its laws Convent General may reprimand, suspend or expel any of its members.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Miscellaneous Provisions**

**Section 1** The Grand Master-General shall preside at all Conclaves of Convent General; in case of his absence the Deputy Grand Master-General shall preside; and in case of the absence of both of these officers the Grand Warder of the Temple shall preside, and in the absence of these three officers the Junior Past Grand-Master present shall fill the chair.

**Section 2** The Grand Master-General, in addition to presiding at all Conclaves of Convent General, shall see that the duties of the Grand Registrar-General are faithfully performed. He shall appoint and be ex officio a member of all committees. As sovereign head of the Order, he shall make all decisions, which shall be subject to review at the Annual Conclave of Convent General.

**Section 3** In addition to the Constitutional officers, Convent General may constitute such other officers as it may deem expedient for the dispatch of its business.

## **ARTICLE IX – Legislation**

**Section 1** The legislation of Convent General shall be either by enactment of or amendment to its By-Laws and General Regulations, or by revision thereof or by addition thereto. Decisions of a Grand Master-General when approved by Convent General shall become a part of the legislation and shall be referred to the Jurisprudence Committee for classification and numbering as a part of the By-Laws or General Regulations.

**Section 2** This Constitution may be altered or amended in the following manner only: The proposed alteration or amendment must be offered in writing, at an Annual Conclave; if seconded by a vote of one-third of the members present it shall be entered upon its minutes until the next Annual Conclave, at which time the Grand Master-General shall put the question upon its adoption, and if concurred in by the votes of two-thirds of the members present, it shall from thenceforth be in full force and effect.

**Section 3** This Constitution shall become and be in full force and effect immediately on and after its adoption by this Convent General, and all previous constitutions, provisions thereof, amendments thereto and decisions thereunder, heretofore adopted by this Convent General and not herein contained, are hereby repealed.

**BY-LAWS**  
**OF**  
**CONVENT GENERAL**

As Revised October 7, 1972

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# BY-LAWS

**Section 1** At the time and place selected for the Annual Conclave, the Grand Master-General, having satisfied himself that a constitutional quorum of Convent General is present, shall open Convent General in ample form.

**Section 2** There shall be appointed by the Grand Master-General, a standing Committee on Finance, which shall consist of three members, one appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of two years and one for a term of three years. At the conclusion of each term one member shall be appointed for a term of three years, or until his successor is appointed.

There shall be appointed by the Grand Master-General, a standing Committee on Jurisprudence, which shall consist of three members, one appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of two years and one for a term of three years. At the conclusion of each term one member shall be appointed for a term of three years, or until his successor is appointed.

There shall be a standing Committee on Policy which shall consist of all officers and Past Grand Masters of Convent General. There shall be referred to this committee all matters of policy and such other matters as refer to the growth and well being of Convent General.

Within 30 days after his election, the incoming Grand Master-General shall select the Chairman of each standing Committee named in this Section.

Within 30 days after his election, the incoming Grand Master-General shall appoint his Personal Representatives, sixteen more or less in number, who shall represent him in such districts as he may specify and who shall perform such duties as he may request.

**Section 3** It shall be the duty of the Grand Master-General, within 30 days after his installation, to appoint a Committee on Warrants and a Committee on Time and Place, each of which shall consist of at least three members whose period of service shall continue until their successors are appointed.

**Section 4** The Grand Master-General, at least 30 days before each Annual Conclave of Convent General, shall appoint the following Committees, each of which shall consist of at least three members, to-wit:

1. A Committee on Topical Reference
2. A Committee on Visiting Knights
3. A Committee on Credentials
4. A Committee on Unfinished Business
5. A Committee on Nominations

The Grand Master-General may appoint such other Committees as he may deem necessary, or as may be ordered by Convent General

The members of the Committees on Jurisprudence, Finance, Warrants and Policy shall meet with the Grand Master-General, Deputy Grand Master-General and Grand Registrar-General at the place appointed for the meeting of Convent General on the day previous to such meeting, to consider such matters that appropriately come within the duties of such Committees respectfully.

**Section 5** All Committees and officers shall make due report to Convent General on all such subjects as may be referred to them for consideration.

No report shall be received from any Committee or officer unless the same be reduced to writing and signed by a majority of the Committee, or by the officer.

**Section 6** The Grand Master-General, not less than 30 days prior to the Annual Conclave of Convent General, shall submit all papers, conclusions, decisions or other action taken by him in matters requiring the attention of the Committees on Finance, Jurisprudence, Warrants and Policy to the Chairmen of said Committees.

**Section 7** It shall be the duty of the Grand Master-General, as promptly as possible after the opening of the Annual Conclave of Convent General, to communicate to Convent General a statement of his official acts during the recess of Convent General, which statement shall be in writing. He shall also give information upon subjects of Masonic interest and recommend such measures as he may deem expedient. At its conclusion the address of the Grand Master-General shall be referred to the Committee on Topical Reference for division and report.

**Section 8** The Deputy Grand Master-General shall also report in writing any official acts performed by him during the recess of Convent General.

**Section 9** Immediately after the installation of the Grand Officers at each Annual Conclave of Convent General, and prior to its being closed, the Grand Master-General shall appoint some member as Grand Prelate. He shall perform all the duties incident to his office and shall serve as Necrologist for Convent General, preparing suitable memorials to the Fraternal Dead of this Order and reporting the same to Convent General.

**Section 10** The Grand Treasurer-General shall before any money be paid into his hands and within 30 days after he has been installed, enter into a bond to be approved by the Grand Master-General in the sum of \$5,000.00 payable to Convent General, K.Y.C.H., conditioned that he shall faithfully keep all the monies, securities and other property of Convent General coming into his hands; pay out no monies except upon warrant of the Grand Master-General by vote of Convent General, except for ordinary expenses which may accrue from time to time during the annual recess of Convent General when a vote of Convent General cannot be had thereon. The premium on the bond shall be paid by Convent General. He shall take vouchers for every payment made by him; keep good and sufficient books of account; make a full balance sheet and submit the same, with his books of account to Convent General at its Annual Conclave, and pay over to his successor in office such balance as may remain in his hands so soon as his successor shall have given bond as required by this By-Law.

**Section 11** The funds of Convent General in the hands of the Grand Treasurer-General shall be deposited in such bank or banks as the Grand Master-General, Grand Treasurer-General and Grand Registrar General shall, from time to time, designate, provided such bank or banks shall be located near the residence of the Grand Registrar-General. The funds of Convent General shall be invested in registered United States securities; such surplus funds may also be invested in such securities as receive the unanimous approval of the Grand Master-General, Grand Treasurer General and Chairman of the Finance Committee. In lieu of investments approved by said three officers of Convent General, such funds, whether in the form of cash or securities, may, on the recommendation of the above named officers be placed in the custody of a bank or trust company under an agency agreement under such terms and conditions as may be approved by Convent General.

**Section 12** The Grand Registrar-General shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of Convent General; he shall receive all monies due Convent General and pay them over to the Grand Treasurer-General when that officer shall have given bond as required by the By-Laws, and he shall take proper vouchers for such payments. He shall keep sufficient books of account in which a separate account shall be kept with each Priory; he shall keep the seal of Convent General and affix the same to all official documents; he shall see that the returns of the Priors and the payment of their fees be regularly made; he shall conduct such correspondence with other Masonic bodies as the Grand Master-General may direct; he shall superintend the printing of the proceedings of Convent General and forward to the Grand and Past Grand Officers and Priors sufficient copies of the same so that every knight in good standing in the Order may receive, free of charge, one copy of such proceedings; he shall do and perform all other established duties of his office and shall present his books, accounts and vouchers at the Annual Conclave of Convent General for inspection of the Finance Committee and for report thereon by said Committee to Convent General. He shall notify every Priory that is or shall be delinquent in its annual return or payment of its fees and report the same at the next Annual Conclave of Convent General. For his services he shall be paid such compensation as Convent General may direct. The Grand Registrar-General shall within 30 days after his installation and before any money shall be paid into his hands enter into a bond to be approved by the Grand Master-General in the sum of \$5,000.00, payable to Convent General, conditioned that he shall faithfully account for all monies and property of Convent General that may come into his hands and shall otherwise faithfully perform the duties of his office. The premium on the bond shall be paid by Convent General.

**Section 13** Each Past Prior, if he be present in person, shall be entitled to one vote in Convent General. Each Priory shall be entitled to three votes, to be cast by their representatives or their duly appointed proxies. No Past Prior may be represented by a proxy. Every proxy must file his Certificate with the Grand Registrar-General or Credentials Committee before the opening of Convent General.

**Section 14** No Priory shall be represented in Convent General while delinquent in its annual return or in arrears in its fees.

**Section 15** All questions except amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be decided by a majority of votes. On the demand of 15 members the vote shall be taken by written ballot.

**Section 16** Every resolution or motion contemplating an appropriation from the funds of Convent General shall be proposed by or referred to some Committee of that body before it can be acted upon and no disbursement from its funds shall be made unless by vote of Convent General except as herein otherwise provided.

**Section 17** Each elected and appointed Grand Officer shall be the custodian of his jewel for safe keeping.

**Section 18** Each Grand Master-General shall furnish the Grand Registrar-General a photograph, cabinet size, of himself. The Grand Registrar-General shall safely preserve the same.

**Section 19** Whenever the Grand Master-General or Grand Registrar-General fails within a reasonable time to receive a reply from an officer of a Priory to a communication upon the business of Convent General, the communication shall be once repeated and sent by registered mail. Should no response be received within 30 days the Grand Master-General or his proxy shall summon the Priory to meet him or his proxy at its headquarters to remedy the difficulty. Should the Priory be at fault the Grand Master-General may suspend the Warrant of the Priory until the next Annual Conclave of Convent General.

**Section 20** It shall be unmasonic for any Knight to use any manual in the ceremonies of the Order other than the one prescribed by Convent General.

**Section 21** Six copies of the Manual of Ceremonies shall be issued to the Prior, who annually shall receipt therefore. One copy shall be issued to each Grand and Past Grand Officer. Any Priory may purchase additional copies of the Manual of Ceremonies at the current cost thereof. All manuals shall be and remain the property of Convent General.

**Section 22** Any Knight who loses or fails to produce or satisfactorily account for a Manual of Ceremonies of Convent General which has been entrusted to his care shall be fined the sum of Ten Dollars, and if an officer of a Priory, said fine, if not paid by such officer shall be chargeable to the Priory which he represents. Failure of a Knight to pay said fine shall be unmasonic conduct for which he may be punished as ordered by Convent General. Failure of a Priory to pay said fine may be punished as ordered by Convent General.

**Section 23** All new Pories when consecrated and all Pories when amending their By-Laws shall be required to use the uniform Code of By-Laws prescribed by Convent General. The Grand Master-General may in all such cases approve the adoption of such Uniform Code. No resolution having the effect of a By-Law shall be adopted by a Priory.

**Section 24** No change or amendment to the By-Laws of a Priory shall become valid until it is approved by the Grand Master-General. All amendments

shall be submitted in triplicate. If the Grand Master-General shall approve the same he shall return one copy thereof to the Priory with the notation "Approved", the date of approval and his signature. The Grand Master-General shall forward another copy to the Grand Registrar-General for retention in his files. If the Grand Master-General fails to approve said By-Laws he shall so advise the Priory and report the disapproval and his reasons therefor to Convent General at its next Annual Conclave.

**Section 25** The jurisdiction of a Priory shall be the boundary lines of the state, territory or province within which it is located, except as hereinafter provided and as otherwise provided by Convent General.

**Section 26** The fee for instituting a new Priory shall be Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) which fee shall accompany the petition for dispensation but should a Warrant not be issued the fee shall be returned to the petitioners.

**Section 27** One Priory may be formed in any jurisdiction in which there are less than twenty five councils of Royal and Select Masters, or twenty five preceptories/commanderies of Knights Templar, whichever is lesser. Additional Pories may be formed in the same jurisdiction for each additional twenty five councils of Royal and Select Masters or twenty five preceptories/commanderies of Knights Templar or major fraction of the lesser; however, these prerequisites for additional Pories may be waived, when, in the judgement of the Grand Master-General it is expedient. No new Priory may be established within one hundred miles of an existing Priory in the same jurisdiction. A petition for a new Priory must be accompanied by written consent of the Priory, or Pories, existing in the jurisdiction in which the new Priory is to be located however, Convent General, by a majority vote, may dispense with any such consent and order a warrant of constitution to be issued to the petitioners.

Rev. 83

**Section 28** When more than one Priory is located in any state, territory or province, jurisdiction over candidates shall be concurrent, excepting that in the county where the Priory has its headquarters, its jurisdiction shall be exclusive. If a state, territory or province with more than one Priory should find it to be the advantage of all Pories to divide the jurisdiction for membership proposals that this may be accomplished by unanimous consent of all Pories under the leadership of the Personal Representative come to an agreement. Following this agreement it will be submitted to the Convent General the By-Laws of respective Pories will be amended to reflect such action.

Rev. 92

**Section 29** The Grand Master-General shall have power to issue a dispensation for a new Priory upon petition for the same by ten (10) or more Knights; provided, that the required consent stipulated by Section 27 shall be obtained. All such dispensations and a report of his actions relating thereto, shall be forwarded to the Committee on Warrants by the Grand Master-General at least thirty (30) days previous to the next Annual Conclave of Convent General. The Committee shall make such recommendations relating to the dispensation as it deems proper. In any state or province where no Priory exists, the Grand Master-General, or his representative, shall have authority to communicate the Ceremony of Induction to a sufficient number of Knights to form a Priory.

**Section 30** A Priory warranted and consecrated under Convent General shall not lose its authority as such by the loss or accidental destruction of its Warrant. When such loss shall be discovered or such destruction occur, the Priory shall apply to the Grand Master-General for a duplicate Warrant. If the Grand Master-General be satisfied that the Warrant is in fact lost or destroyed he shall cause a duplicate thereof to be issued to the Priory. The fee for issuing such duplicate Warrant shall be \$10.00.

**Section 31** When the Warrant of a Priory shall be surrendered or forfeited, the Warrant, records and all other property of the Priory appropriate for Masonic purposes only, shall be vested in Convent General and shall be surrendered to the Grand Master-General or his proxy.

**Section 32** The seal of Convent General shall consist of a circular shield having an outer and an inner beaded circle. Between the two circles shall be inscribed the words "Convent General, K.Y.C.H." Within the inner circle shall be inscribed the general emblem of the Order as copyrighted August 24, 1935, Class G, No. 20540, and as shone herein below.



**Section 33** The seal of Convent General shall be kept in the office of the Grand Registrar-General and by him affixed to all Warrants granted by Convent General and to all other official communications issued in behalf of Convent General.

**Section 34** The jewels of the officers of Convent General shall be of the size, design and material described as follows: a Greek Cross of pure gold whose equal bars shall be 1 ½ ” in overall length; the face of the Cross to be enameled in pure blue; the Cross to be imposed upon a golden gavel and golden sword placed between the four arms of the Cross; the whole surrounded by a circle of pure gold. At the center of the Cross shall be the letter “G” radiating light in the form of gold points. The reverse side of the Cross and Circle shall be without device or inscription. The general emblem of the Order, of pure gold, shall be attached to a hinge to the top portion of the circle. The reverse side of the emblem shall have a metal eye through which may pass a cord or ribbon suitable to suspend the jewel from the neck of the officer.

The jewel of the Grand Master-General shall have a wreath of golden laurel leaves 3/16” in width surrounding the golden circle; and the spaces among the York Rite insignia, on the band of the emblem, shall be covered with red enamel. The jewel shall be suspended from a collar of yellow metal resting on a ribbon of red velvet.

The jewel of a Past Grand Master-General shall be the same as the jewel of the Grand Master-General except that the spaces among the York Rite insignia, on the band of the emblem, shall be covered with purple enamel. The jewel shall be suspended from a collar of yellow metal resting on a ribbon of purple velvet.

The jewel of a Prior or Past Prior shall be the same as that of the officers of Convent General except that the general emblem of the Order shall be omitted and the metal eye attached to the top quadrant of the golden circle.

The cord, or ribbon, worn by the Officers of Convent General shall be red in color.

**Section 35** Coat lapel buttons or watch charms designed as follows may be worn by members of Convent General: a solid circle of pure gold with rays or points emanating from the rim of the circle; the face of the circle to be enameled in a color described below and the general emblem of the Order to be mounted in the center of the enameled surface. The enamel color shall be:

Eminent Knights .....	Blue
Right Eminent Knights .....	Red
Most Eminent Knights .....	Purple

A past presiding officer of a York Rite Grand Body not of eminent rank in this Order, shall be entitled to wear such lapel button except that the color of the enamel shall be white.

**Section 36** Any Knight, having served as presiding officer in any Grand Bodies of Symbolic, Capitular, Cryptic or Chivalric Masonry, shall be entitled to the rank and decoration of Knight York Grand Cross of Honour.

**Section 37** The names of applicants for the rank of Knight York Grand Cross of Honour shall be submitted by the applicant to the Grand Registrar-General on forms prescribed by the Grand Registrar-General. A fee of \$2.00 must accompany the application. The Grand Registrar-General, upon receipt of the application, shall issue a certificate signed by the Grand Master-General and Grand Registrar-General attesting the rank of the applicant as a Knight York Grand Cross of Honour.

**Section 38** A Knight York Grand Cross of Honour shall be entitled to wear a quadrant or quadrants on the golden circle of his official jewel, if he possesses one, and within the rays of his lapel button or watch charm as follows:

Past Presiding Officer of Grand Lodge .....	Blue
Past Presiding Officer of Grand Chapter .....	Red
Past Presiding Officer of Grand Council .....	Purple
Past Presiding Officer of Grand Commandery.....	White

**Section 39** Each Grand Master-General, on his installation, shall be invested with the rank and dignity of a Knight Grand Cross.

**Section 40** In all cases where the law of Convent General is silent, the law of the Grand Lodge of Masons of the state, territory or province having jurisdiction over the territory in which the Priory is located should, where applicable, in similar cases, be adopted and followed.

**Section 41** These By-Laws, or any part thereof, may be altered, repealed or amended at any Annual Conclave of Convent General by a vote of two-thirds of the members present. Upon adoption the altered, or amended portion shall become effective immediately and any repealed section shall be null and void immediately.

**Section 42** These By-Laws shall become and be in full force and effect immediately on their adoption by Convent General and all previous General Regulations inconsistent with the same are hereby repealed.

**CODE**  
**OF**  
**GENERAL REGULATIONS**  
**FOR THE**  
**GOVERNMENT OF PRIORIES**

As Revised October 7, 1972

# **ANALYSIS OF CODE**

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## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Section 44 Knight may demit, when
- Section 45 Procedure to obtain a demit
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- Section 47 Disciplinary procedure against member
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# GENERAL REGULATIONS

## MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1** Membership in a Priory shall be limited to freemasons who have been regularly elected and installed as Master of a chartered lodge of Master Masons and as presiding officer of a chartered chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and as Master of a chartered council of Royal and Select Masters and as presiding officer of a chartered commandery, or preceptory, of Knights Templar, and shall have served one full term in each office, and who shall be in good standing in all of said Masonic Bodies.

**Section 2** In those Masonic jurisdictions where no council of Royal and Select Masters exists, presiding in the lodge, chapter and commandery shall constitute full requirement for membership, provided that the degrees of Royal and Select Master are worked in the Royal Arch Chapter over which the petitioner presided.

If a Masonic body and jurisdiction provides that, upon the death of a presiding officer, or upon his permanent removal from the jurisdiction, or upon his expulsion from the Craft, or that his physical or mental condition, or any other condition, precludes his performance of the duties of his office, and another officer is duly installed as presiding officer and serves the remainder of the term, such service shall be accepted as meeting the requirements of Section 1 of the General Regulations for that particular body, if the jurisdiction in which he served officially designates him to be a past presiding officer of the body.

**Section 3** A. Membership in a Priory shall be by invitation. Proposals for membership may be presented at any stated or special conclave and may be acted on at the same or any subsequent conclave. If elected, the candidate may not be inducted into the Priory sooner than at a conclave held the calendar day following the day of his election.

B. By-Laws, containing additional regulations governing proposals, elections and invitations not inconsistent with the general regulations of Convent General, may be adopted by a Priory subject to the approval of the Grand Master-General. These By-Laws may:

(1) Determine the number of members necessary to recommend a proposed candidate.

(2) Determine the manner of electing a proposed candidate including whether by:

(a) No ballot

(b) Secret written ballot

(c) Ballot box

(3) Determine the number of negative votes necessary to reject a proposed candidate.

(4) Determine the requirements, if any, for individual member accountability for casting a negative vote, when three or fewer negative votes are cast when balloting on a proposed candidate.

C. The Registrar of the Priory must certify to the Grand Master-General that any proposed By-Laws relating to balloting are not in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution, rules, regulations, statutes and/or By-Laws of the Grand Lodge in whose jurisdiction the Priory is located.

D. Acceptance of invitation to membership shall be made in duplicate on the form prepared for that purpose by the Grand Registrar-General. Upon induction of the candidate, the date shall be placed on the “acceptance of invitation” form and one copy placed in the archives of the Priory and the other copy forwarded to the Grand Registrar-General accompanied by the Convent General fee of seventy five dollars (\$75.00) U.S.

E. No candidate shall be inducted unless the fee prescribed by the Priory has been paid, but such fee shall not become the property of the Priory unless the candidate is inducted.

Note: Subsection “B” of this regulation as adopted allowed each Priory, by approved By-Laws, to determine the manner of voting; the number of negative votes necessary to reject a candidate; and the requirements, if any, for individual accountability when three or fewer negative votes are cast when balloting on a candidate.

**Section 4** “The ceremony of induction shall not be conferred upon a candidate until he has been elected”.

**Section 5** A brother who was proposed and rejected shall be eligible for proposal at any subsequent conclave of the Priory, where proposals are a part of the business. In a state, territory or province with more than one Priory, the Registrars of other Pories and the Grand Registrar-General will be notified within 14 days following a rejection of a proposee.

**Section 6** Upon receipt of the certification of membership and fee the Grand Registrar-General shall forward to the Knight a certificate of membership.

**Section 7** Duplicate certificates shall be issued by the Grand Registrar-General upon receipt of a fee of One Dollar (\$1.00).

**Section 8** Invitations to membership may be extended to qualified brethren in jurisdictions where no Priory exists, and the formation of a Priory in any such jurisdiction shall not affect the status of such membership; provided, however, that in the Dominion of Canada, invitations to qualified brethren, in those Provinces having no Priory, may be extended by one of the Priories in Canada. If a Knight residing in a state, province or territory having no Priory, wishes to transfer his membership to a Priory subsequently organized in such jurisdiction, he may do so without fee, if elected by the new Priory to be a member thereof.

**Section 9** To remain a Knight in any Priory, membership must be maintained in lodge, chapter, council and commandery/preceptory except where the Council degrees are conferred in the Chapter.

In the event a Knight loses his membership for any cause, in any of the foregoing bodies, he shall forthwith be suspended from membership in his Priory and may be restored to membership only upon proof of restoration to membership in all of the foregoing bodies and upon meeting the present voting requirements in the Priory and upon payment of all dues owing by him to the Priory as provided in Section 42 of the General Regulations.

In the event that a Knight voluntarily obtains a demit from one or more of the foregoing bodies and thereafter fails to affiliate with another similar body or bodies within one calendar year of the date of such demit, his membership in his Priory shall be forfeited.

**Section 10** An invitation to membership can only be extended by the Priory having jurisdiction over the territory where the candidate has his legal residence without regard to the location of the York Rite Bodies over which he has presided, provided, however that if one or more of the bodies over which he has presided were located in a territory over which some other Priory has jurisdiction, the Eminent Prior and/or Registrar of that Priory must determine if the one proposed had completed his term of office and was in good standing at the time, before the invitation can be extended.

Rev. 92

**Section 11** Any other Priory may extend an invitation to membership by and with the consent and waiver of the Priory having jurisdiction over the candidate.

**Section 13** Dual membership is authorized in a Priory having exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction over the area in which the member resides. Such membership shall be by invitation. Proposals for dual membership may be presented at any stated or special conclave and may be acted upon at the same or subsequent conclave. If elected, the registrar must notify the registrar of the parent Priory of the action, sending a copy of such action to the Grand Registrar-General. Dual membership must be continuously maintained in both Priories unless the member obtains a demit from the other Priory. Dual members shall enjoy all rights and privileges of other members, including the right to vote and hold office, provided that no member shall serve as Prior of more than one Priory at one and the same time.

**Section 14** Any member of a Priory may be elected an honorary member of another Priory by unanimous favorable ballot of all members present at any stated or

special conclave of the Priory. Honorary members shall pay no fee or dues and shall not be entitled to vote or hold office in the Priory of which he is an honorary member.

## OFFICERS

**Section 15** The officers of a Priory shall be:

Eminent Prior  
Knight Deputy Prior  
Knight Warder  
Knight Treasurer  
Knight Registrar  
Knight Prelate  
Knight Orator  
Knight Herald

Who shall take rank in the order listed above. All officers shall be elected for a term of one year, provided, however, that if the By-Laws of the Priory so provide, the Knights Prelate, Orator and Herald may be appointed by the newly elected Prior, at the time of his installation, for a term of one year.

**Section 16** A Priory may, by its By-Laws provide for the appointment by the Prior of other officers and for the election or appointment of Trustees. Such officers or Trustees need not be installed.

**Section 17** Any member of a Priory may be elected to office, provided that the Prior may not succeed himself; providing further that a Prior, having succeeded to that office through the death or disability of his predecessor, may be elected to succeed himself for a period not to exceed one full term.

**Section 18** In case of the death or disability of the Prior, the Deputy Prior shall be installed in the office of Prior. If the period thus served by the new Prior shall exceed one half year, he will become a Past Prior.

**Section 19** The elective officers of a Priory shall be chosen at the Annual Conclave of the Priory. The term of office shall commence immediately. If the election be not held at the time specified for the Annual Conclave, the officers last installed shall continue in office until the next Annual Conclave unless the Grand Master-General, for good cause, order an election and installation and set a date for the holding thereof.

**Section 20** All officers named in Section 15, elected, re-elected or appointed, or named in the warrant of a new Priory, may be installed on the day of election or at the time of the consecration of the Priory, in open Priory, or in public by vote of the Priory, by a Prior or Past Prior in good standing. No officer may be installed by proxy or in private. If any officer is not present to be installed, the Prior shall call a special conclave of the Priory at the earliest convenient date for the installation of such officers.

**Section 21** If any officer, other than the Prior, shall die during his term of office, the Prior may by appointment fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term, unless the Grand Master-General, for good cause, shall order an election and installation to fill such vacancy.

**Section 22** No Knight may serve more than one elective office in a Priory at the same time, except that the offices of Registrar and Treasurer may be held by one and the same Knight.

**Section 23** The Registrar, upon the election of officers of the Priory, shall forthwith transmit to the Grand Master-General and Grand Registrar-General, a list of such officers with the post office addresses of the Prior and Registrar within fourteen (14) days. Rev. 92

**Section 24** The Prior of a Priory, when present, shall preside at all Conclaves of the Priory, see that the duties of the Registrar and Treasurer are faithfully and punctually performed, appoint and be an ex officio member of all committees.

**Section 25** The other officers shall perform such duties as are generally considered proper for their offices in Masonic bodies.

## CONCLAVES

**Section 26** The meetings of a Priory shall be known as Conclaves. Stated conclaves are those held at times fixed by the By-Laws. Special conclaves are those called pursuant to Section 29.

**Section 27** It shall be the duty of each Priory to hold at least one stated conclave each year. Should any Priory fail to meet for two successive years it shall thereby forfeit its Warrant and be struck from the register of Priorities.

**Section 28** The Registrar of each Priory, at least ten days prior to the Annual Conclave, shall send to each member of the Priory at his last known place of residence, written notice of the time, place and purpose of the conclave.

**Section 29** Special conclaves may be called at any time by the Prior. Written notice thereof must be given to the members by the Registrar. The notice shall state the purpose of the conclave. No business, other than that stated in the notice, shall be transacted at a special conclave.

**Section 30** The number of Knights necessary to open a Priory and transact business is five. No Priory, without the authority of the Grand Master-General may be opened or business transacted therein unless there be present the Prior, or the Deputy Prior, or the Warder, or a Past Prior.

**Section 31** A Priory cannot adjourn; nor may it be opened or closed in any manner other than that prescribed by the ritual of the Order.

**Section 32** No Priory shall be named after a living person; nor may it change its headquarters from the place named in its Warrant except by authority of the Grand Master-General or Convent General.

**Section 33** No Priory may become a body corporate.

## **ANNUAL RETURNS**

**Section 34** The Registrar of each Priory shall make an annual return as of June 30<sup>th</sup> to the Convent General, under the signatures of the Prior and Registrar, on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> day of July. Such other reports as Convent General or the Grand Master-General may, from time to time require, shall be made as directed.

**Section 35** The Annual Return shall contain the following, and such other information as may be required by Convent General or the Grand Master-General:

1. The names and dates of all Knights deceased.
2. The date of the Warrant and date of last conclave.

**Section 36** No member of Convent General shall be entitled to a seat in that body if his Priory shall have failed to make the Annual Return prescribed in Section 35, or shall have failed to pay any fees or dues required by Convent General

**Section 37** Each Registrar shall spread in full upon the minutes of his Priory, or shall bind in a suitable book provided for that purpose, within 30 days after it has been prepared, a copy of the Annual Return.

## **FEEES AND DUES**

**Section 38** Each Priory, by its By-Laws, shall fix the amount of its Membership fee, which shall be not less than Five Dollars more than the fee paid the Convent General. Plural membership fees shall also be stated in the By-Laws.

**Section 39** Each Priory may, from time to time as provided by its By-Laws, assess such annual dues upon the members, except honorary members, as it shall deem expedient.

**Section 40** The By-Laws of the Priory shall designate the amount of such dues and the time for payment and no further notice thereof to any member shall be required.

**Section 41** The Priory, for good cause, may remit the accrued dues of any member. No member of a Priory shall be exempted from the payment of any dues levied by his Priory other than by remission thereof.

**Section 42** Any member who is in arrears for any dues levied by his Priory, for a period of six months past the date prescribed for the payment of the same shall be suspended from membership in the Priory. The Registrar, within thirty days after expiration of such six months period, shall notify such member, in writing, of his suspension.

**Section 43** The payment to the Registrar, by a member who has been suspended for non-payment of dues, of all dues owing by him to the Priory shall restore him to full membership in the Priory. Rev. 77

**Section 44** A Knight suspended for non-payment of dues cannot be restored to membership by payment of dues or remission thereof, after his death.

**Section 45** A Priory receiving the petition of and inducting an applicant who resides within the jurisdiction of another Priory, without the waiver of such other Priory, shall forfeit and pay the fees of that Priory whose jurisdiction is violated to the Priory which legally held jurisdiction, and be subject to such additional penalty as may be inflicted by Convent General.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Section 46** A Knight may, for reasons satisfactory to himself, and without subjecting himself to Masonic discipline, withdraw his membership from a Priory. Until he voluntarily affiliates, he renounces all rights and privileges of the Order. The dues of a knight applying for a demit must be paid in full before the same can be granted.

**Section 47** Upon application in writing at a stated Conclave of a knight for a demit, it shall be entered on the minutes and if it appears that his dues are paid in full and that he is not subject to charges for unmasonic conduct, the demit shall be granted and no action by the membership of the Priory is necessary.

**Section 48** Offenses set out by the Constitution, By-Laws and General Regulations of this Order and any offense against the moral laws or the statutes of the United States or any State or Territory thereof, the Dominion of Canada or any Province thereof, the Republic of Mexico, or any other State, Province or Territory, shall constitute an offense against this Order.

**Section 49** In the event that a Knight is accused, in a Priory, of an offense against this Order, all proceedings to investigate, charge, try and punish such knight shall be conducted by the Priory pursuant to the applicable disciplinary regulations of the Grand Lodge of Masons having jurisdiction over the territory of the Priory in which the knight resides. Any knight feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of the Priory, may at any time within one year from the date of such decision, take an appeal to Convent General by giving notice thereof to the Grand Registrar-General who shall promptly advise the Grand Master-General of the appeal. The Grand Master-General shall thereupon appoint a Special Committee to review the decision of the Priory and report thereon at the next Annual Conclave of Convent General. The decision of Convent General on the appeal shall be final.

**Section 50** Upon the dissolution of a Priory, from any cause, its members who are in good standing, upon payment to the Grand Registrar-General of back dues to Convent General, if any, shall be entitled to a certificate from that Officer

setting forth their standing in the Order and such certificate shall be recognized by every Priory the same as a regular demit.

**Section 51** This Code, or any part thereof may be altered or amended at any Annual Conclave of Convent General by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided, however, that the member proposing such alteration or amendment shall submit the same to the Grand Registrar-General at least 60 days in advance of the conclave of Convent General. The Grand Registrar-General shall promptly forward such proposed amendment or alteration to the Grand Master-General who shall at once refer the same to the Jurisprudence Committee for report to Convent General.

**Section 52** This Code shall become and be in full force and effect immediately on its adoption by this Convent General and all previous General Regulations and decisions thereunder not herein contained are hereby repealed.

# UNIFORM CODE OF BY-LAWS

“All new Priors when consecrated and all Priors when amending their By-Laws shall be required to use the Uniform Code of By-Laws prescribed by Convent General. The Grand Master-General may in all cases approve the adoption of such Uniform Code. No Resolution having the effect of a By-Law shall be adopted by a Priory.” By-Laws, Section 23)

**Section 1** The name of this Priory is ..... No. ....  
Knights of the York Cross of Honour. Its headquarters shall be at .....  
in the (State, Territory, Province) of .....

**Section 2** The officers of this Priory, shall be those designated by Section 15 of the General Regulations of the Order. The Eminent Prior, Knight Deputy Prior, Knight Warder, Knight Treasurer and Knight Registrar shall be elected at the Annual Conclave. The Knight Prelate, Knight Orator and Knight Herald shall (also be elected at the Annual Conclave) (be appointed by the newly elected Eminent Prior at the time of his installation).

**(Note:** Use one of the above clauses but not both.)

[In this Section Priors may provide for the election or appointment of additional officers, or trustees , and prescribe the term of office for such additional officers or trustee.]

**Section 3** The stated conclave(s) of this Priory shall (be held on the ..... day of ..... of each year) (be held at the time of the Annual meeting of the Grand ..... of ..... ) (be held on the day specified by the Eminent Prior, Knight Deputy Prior and Warder, or by any two of such Knights) (be held at the time specified by a majority vote of the Knights present at the conclave immediately preceding such stated conclave).

**(Note:** Use one of the above clauses or a combination of them, but not contradictory clauses.)

The hour of assembly and the place of the same shall be specified in the notice of the conclave which must be sent to each Knight as provided by the General Regulations of the Order.

**Section 4** The Annual Conclave for the election of officers shall be held (specify a time, or the time, if only one stated conclave per year be named in Section 3).

**Section 5** The fee for reception of candidates into this Priory shall be ..... Dollars (\$.....) payable in full when the proposal is accepted. The fee for dual membership or for membership by affiliation shall be ..... Dollars (\$.....).

**Section 6** The annual dues shall be ..... Dollars (\$.....) payable at the Annual Conclave, in advance.

**(Note:** If no dues are to be charged, omit this Section and adjust numbering of following Sections accordingly.)

**Section 7** Each Prior, at the time of his installation, shall appoint a Finance Committee of three (3) members whose duties shall be to examine and report on all fees and dues received by the Priory and who shall annually, at the time of the Annual Conclave, audit and report in writing on the books of the Registrar and Treasurer. They shall also examine all demands or claims for payment presented to the Priory and report upon the same.

**Section 8** Unless otherwise ordered by the Prior, the order of business at all stated conclaves shall be as follows:

1. Reading of Minutes
2. Reading of Proposals
3. Balloting on Proposals
4. Unfinished and New Business
5. Conferring ceremony of induction

**(Note:** Pories may adopt any other By-Laws which they deem proper so long as the same are not inconsistent with the Constitution, By-Laws and General Regulations of the Order. Should such By-Laws be adopted, they should be inserted at this point and numbered consecutively, changing the number of the following Section accordingly.)

**Section 9** These By-Laws may be amended: (1) by introducing the proposed amendment in writing at a conclave of the Priory, which Resolution shall be read, entered on the minutes and laid over to the next or a subsequent conclave, when it shall be acted upon and if two-thirds or more of the members present vote for its adoption and if it is subsequently approved by the Grand Master-General, it shall be declared adopted and shall become a part of these By-Laws; or (2) by introducing the proposed amendment in writing at a conclave of the Priory and, if unanimous consent of all present be given, it may be acted upon and if two-thirds or more of the members present vote for its adoption and if it is subsequently approved by the Grand Master-General, it shall be declared adopted and shall become a part of these By-Laws.

**(Note:** Pories should not include provisions of the Constitution, By-Laws or General Regulations of the Order in their By-Laws.)