

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

As Revised October 7, 1972

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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) ^{Rev. 92})X

(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 Priors 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).

Rev. 92

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 Priors 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 Priorities 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. Rev. 92

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 Priories.

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 ^{Rev. 92} ay 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 30th to the Convent General, under the signatures of the Prior and Registrar, on or before the 31st 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.

FEES 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. Rev. 72

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

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