

2023 RESOLUTION NO. 1
Amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge
A Resolution Relating to Executive Succession

The Grand Lodge Code Review Committee, as authorized by the Board of Corporate Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, a Corporation, presents the following resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, Chapter II, Article IV, Section C4.02 of the Minnesota Masonic Code vests the executive powers of The Grand Lodge of Minnesota in the office of the Grand Master; and

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Minnesota has a compelling interest in maintaining the performance of its executive powers and protecting the continuity of its governance.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Chapter II, Article V, Section C5.03(b) of the Minnesota Masonic Code is hereby eliminated in its entirety, and Chapter II, Article III, Section C3.10 shall be adopted as follows:

SECTION C3.10 In the case of removal of the Grand Master from office, or his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master shall become the Grand Master. Nothing in this provision shall prevent the Deputy Grand Master from being eligible for future election as a Grand Lodge Officer.

Submitted by:

THE GRAND LODGE CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE

M.W. Bro. Ethan A. Seaberg, P.G.M, Chairman

M.W. Bro. Rolf M. Widstrand, P.G.M.

R.W. Bro. Keith W. Reiersen, Grand Secretary

W. Bro. Adam Ballinger

W. Bro. Theodore Martz

2023 RESOLUTION NO. 2
Amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge
A Resolution Relating to Lodge Formation

The Grand Lodge Code Review Committee, as authorized by the Board of Corporate Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, a Corporation, presents the following resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Masonic Code authorizes the Grand Master, in his discretion, to issue a dispensation between Annual Communications upon the petition of not less than twenty-five (25) Master Masons relating to the formation of a Lodge as more fully described in Chapter II, Article IX, Section C9.02 of the Masonic Code; and

WHEREAS, under Chapter II, Article II, Section C2.03(11), it is the duty of every Mason to be a contributing member of some Lodge.

WHEREAS, the Jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Minnesota extends to both urban and rural communities of varying populations, including communities where fewer than twenty-five (25) Mason Masons may reside and desire to form a Lodge subject to the rules and regulations of the Masonic Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Chapter II, Article IX, Section C9.02 of the Minnesota Masonic Code shall be amended as follows:

Section C9.02 A Lodge can be formed only by the charter or warrant of the Grand Lodge. A dispensation may be issued by the Grand Master between Annual Communications, upon the petition of not less than **fifteen (15)** ~~twenty-five (25)~~ Master Masons of known skill and character, ~~not then elective officers of a Constituent Lodge~~, residing in the jurisdiction of the proposed Lodge and with current receipts for dues, or certificates of good standing, and with the fee for a dispensation as may be fixed by the Grand Lodge, their recommendations for Master and Wardens, **not then elective officers of a Constituent Lodge**, and of their reasons for believing a Lodge is demanded and can be sustained at the place named, which dispensation shall authorize them to elect petitioners, confer the degrees and discharge the duties of Masonry in a constitutional manner until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. The charter for a Lodge formed by the consolidation of two or more Lodges can be issued by the Grand Master.

Submitted by:

THE GRAND LODGE CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE
M.W. Bro. Ethan A. Seaberg, P.G.M, Chairman
M.W. Bro. Rolf M. Widstrand, P.G.M.
R.W. Bro. Keith W. Reiersen, Grand Secretary
W. Bro. Adam Ballinger
W. Bro. Theodore Martz

2023 RESOLUTION NO. 3
Amendment to reorganize the Standing Resolutions

The following is a re-work of the Standing Resolutions as they appear in the 2021 Minnesota Masonic Code. The re-work entails the removal of Standing Resolution S1.22: “**SECTION S1.22 Minnesota Anniversary Lodge No. 150** MINNESOTA ANNIVERSARY LODGE No. 150 shall be established for a limited period from February 15th, 2003 through March 28th, 2004 and that its membership be granted all those privileges which may be fitting this honor. (2002)”. This resolution established an anniversary lodge for the limited period of 2/15/2003 through 3/28/2004. As this time period has passed, it is recommended that this Standing Resolution be removed from the Minnesota Masonic Code.

The re-work also entails re-numbering and placing the remaining resolutions into five (5) sub-categories: Resolutions dealing with Emeritus Status, Resolutions dealing with Masonic information, Resolutions dealing with Minnesota Masonic Organizations, Resolutions dealing with National Masonic Organizations, and Resolutions that are Stand-Alone and not associated with one another. Other than the re-numbering and the grouping of these remaining resolutions, they have not been altered or modified since they were adopted.

CHAPTER IV. STANDING RESOLUTIONS

ARTICLE I. Stand-Alone Resolutions

SECTION S1.01 United States Flag - Banner of Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge hereby adopts the United States Flag as its banner, to be displayed at its communications and carried upon all ceremonial occasions, except funerals; and it recommends the ownership and display of such flag by each Lodge and that the same be carried by it on like ceremonial occasions. (Adopted in 1915).

SECTION S1.02 George Washington's Birthday. The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota designate Washington's Birthday, February twenty-second (22nd) of each year, as a special Masonic holiday and recommend the observance thereof by the Lodges within this Jurisdiction through appropriate open or closed communications. (Adopted in 1947.)

SECTION S1.03 Community Service Recognition. The Grand Master shall appoint a special committee of three (3) members on Community Service Recognition to select a member of the Craft in Minnesota who has served with unselfish and unusual distinction and who has exemplified the best traditions of the Masonic Fraternity in conjunction with his achievements in his chosen profession; and a suitable Certificate of Merit will be awarded to the Brother so selected at each Annual Communication, and that a sufficient annual appropriation be provided to cover the cost of preparing such suitable Certificate of Merit for presentation to the Brother at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. (Adopted in 1955.)

SECTION S1.04 Honorary Rank - Member of Other Jurisdictions. That the Grand Lodge of Minnesota be empowered, in recognition of eminence, ability or service rendered, to confer on a member of another Grand Jurisdiction such honorary rank as it may deem appropriate; that such honorary rank shall be conferred by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting at an Annual Communication. (Adopted in 1955).

SECTION S1.05 Lodge Committee for Masonic Service Association. That from henceforth and until further changed and modified, each succeeding Grand Master, as soon after his installation as possible, appoint as a committee, in each Constituent Lodge, the Senior Warden and Junior Warden to present to the membership of Constituent Lodges the program of raising funds by voluntary contribution for the Hospital Visitation Program of the Masonic Service Association of the United States, such committee to be assisted by the officers and special committees of the Grand Lodge insofar as possible and necessary; that all funds raised in such manner be forwarded to the Grand Secretary not later than February fifteenth (15th) following for transmission to the Masonic Service Association of the United States and that the Grand Master acquaint the officers of each Constituent Lodge with the foregoing program and give his encouragement to the raising of funds as aforesaid. (Adopted in 1955).

SECTION S1.06 Degree Teams. The Worshipful Master of any Constituent Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may, upon approval of the Grand Master, use any Degree Team or other group of Master Masons, the proficiency of which has been attested to in writing by a member of the Board of Custodians, to confer any one (1) of three (3) degrees of symbolic Masonry. The attestation of the Custodian shall be filed with the Grand Secretary each Grand Lodge year, and but one (1) such conferral of each degree shall be permissible within one (1) Lodge in any one (1) calendar year. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit or modify the provisions of the General Regulations Section G13.06. (1963.)

SECTION S1.07 Masonic Cancer Center Fund, Inc. The Grand Lodge will elect nine (9) members of the Board of Directors of Masonic Cancer Center Fund, Inc., three (3) of whom are elected every year for a term of three (3) years, to serve until their successors have been duly elected and qualified. The Grand Master of Masons of Minnesota to be a member of said Board by virtue of his office and with his consent to serve during his term of office. The Grand Lodge shall, at the expiration of the term of each director so elected annually at its Annual Communication, elect his successor for a term of three (3) years or for such term as the Grand Lodge may then determine, but in no event shall any director be elected for a term in excess of three (3) years. That to facilitate the selection of the members of said Board by the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall, prior to each Annual Communication appoint a nominating committee of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) members of the Grand Lodge to present names of nominees to be considered to become members of said Board of Directors. Such nominating committee shall report its nominations to the Grand Lodge at such time as called for by the Grand Master, and further nominations by any member of the Grand Lodge may be made from the floor, and thereupon the Grand Lodge shall proceed with the election of the members of the Board. The Grand Secretary shall certify to the corporation, Masonic Cancer Center Fund, Inc., the names, addresses and terms of office for which each director was elected. (Adopted in 1959.)(Name change adopted 1989.)

SECTION S1.08 Fifty Year Emblem. Any Master Mason, a member of a Constituent Lodge in Minnesota, who has completed Fifty (50) years or more of Masonic membership, shall be entitled to receive from the Grand Lodge a Fifty (50) year Emblem of such design as may be approved by it, evidencing said Fifty (50) years of membership. (Adopted 1970) Provided further that the Grand Master may approve the request of the Master of a Constituent Lodge to present Fifty (50) Year emblems at any time during the calendar year to any and all members who shall during that said calendar year become eligible to receive the same. (See Masonic

Manual of Minnesota for a suggested Ceremony for Presentation of Fifty-Year Emblem.)
(Adopted 1990.)

SECTION S1.09 Formation of Multiple Jurisdiction Fellowship Lodges. The Grand Lodge is hereby authorized to enter into mutual agreements with any number of Sister Grand Jurisdictions for the purpose of granting a Charter or Warrant for a "Fellowship Lodge," subject to the following conditions: **PURPOSE** The purpose of a Fellowship Lodge shall be to promote Masonic fellowship and brotherhood among the several Jurisdictions granting this charter, by means of sharing in the fellowship traditions and ritual work of the chartering Grand Jurisdiction. **BY-LAWS** Prior to the granting of a Charter or Warrant, the by-laws of the Fellowship Lodge shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota for review and approval. **MEMBERSHIP** Membership in the Fellowship Lodge shall be open to all and only Master Masons in good standing from any Grand Jurisdiction in amity with all of the chartering Grand Jurisdictions. An individual's membership in the Fellowship Lodge shall terminate if any of these conditions are not met. **MEETINGS** The meetings of a Fellowship Lodge shall be held in a location approved for Masonic work of the chartering Grand Jurisdictions. The meeting location shall be specified in the by-laws. **WORK** The Fellowship Lodge shall be permitted to host exemplification of the degree work of the several chartering Grand Jurisdictions, when such work is done under the authorization of the exemplifying and hosting Grand Jurisdictions. (Adopted 1993)

SECTION S1.10 Duane E. Anderson Excellence in Masonic Education Award. This lectureship award requires the recipient to come to Minnesota to receive the award; only one award may be given in any Grand Lodge year, even if an award has not been given in a previous year; the award recipient shall be chosen by the Grand Master or those whom he appoints for that purpose and the award shall be given in recognition for excellence in Masonic Education on a national or international level. (2002)

SECTION S1.11 Minnesota Masonic Charities. The Board of Directors of Minnesota Masonic Charities shall be appointed as follows: Except for those persons who shall serve as members of the Board of Directors by virtue of office, the Corporate Board of Trustees of the Grand Lodge shall nominate such persons as it deems qualified to serve as directors for Minnesota Masonic Charities to the Grand Lodge for approval at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. Members shall serve no more than three (3) full, consecutive three (3) year terms. Terms of the Directors, other than the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and the Worthy Grand Matron, shall be staggered so that as nearly as possible, the terms of one-third (1/3) of the Directors will expire each year, and terms may be adjusted by affirmative vote of the Board of Minnesota Masonic Charities as necessary to maintain such staggering of terms. (2013)

SECTION S1.12 Minnesota Masonic Home. The Articles of Incorporation of the Minnesota Masonic Home, originally approved in 1906, now provide that eleven of the fifteen members of the Board of Trustees shall be selected by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, thereby giving the Grand Lodge control of the corporation and its management, with the Grand Master (one of the eleven) as ex-officio member of said board.

ARTICLE II. National Masonic Organizations

SECTION S2.01 Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada. The Grand Lodge subscribes to membership in this organization which is composed of Grand Jurisdictions, Boards of Relief and individual Lodges throughout the United States and Canada, for the philanthropic purpose of systematizing methods of granting relief to worthy distressed sojourning Brethren, their widows and orphans and protecting the Craft against professional Masonic mendicancy and imposture, by facilitating the discovery and exposure of unworthy persons going about the country preying upon the Fraternity. (Adopted in 1913.)

SECTION S2.02 Masonic Service Association of North America. The Grand Lodge of Minnesota heartily sympathizes with, approves and endorses the plan of organization of the Masonic Service Association of the United States of America and pledges itself a member Jurisdiction thereof, cooperating to the utmost in its mission of service to mankind. (Adopted in 1919.)

ARTICLE III. Minnesota Masonic Organizations

SECTION S3.01 Order of the Eastern Star. The General Grand Chapter, O.E.S., together with the Grand Chapter, O.E.S., of the State of Minnesota, and those Chapters existing under and by virtue of its authority, are recognized by the Grand Lodge as being entitled to the use of Masonic halls and temples in its jurisdiction, subject to such stipulations and conditions as may be agreed upon locally by the officers of the Lodge and Chapter. (Adopted in 1917.)

SECTION S3.02 Order of DeMolay. RESOLVED, that the program of the Order of DeMolay is hereby recognized and Constituent Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction may, and are hereby authorized to sponsor and financially support chapters of the Order. The program of the Minnesota DeMolay Foundation, Inc., is also recognized and permission is granted to Constituent Lodges to support said Foundation financially with their own funds. (Adopted in 1963.)

SECTION S3.03 Full Recognition of Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. It is mutually agreed by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Minnesota and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Minnesota, Inc. that we dwell together in peace and harmony and do hereafter fraternally recognize the other as legitimate and regular proponents of Ancient Craft Masonry, practicing the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth within the State of Minnesota, and do accord to the other all the rights and privileges that accompany recognition between Regular Grand Lodges, in Grand Lodge and Constituent Lodges wheresoever assembled, subject to the rights, powers and authority of the Grand Masters and the Masters of the Constituent Lodges to preside over their respective Grand Lodges and Lodges. (Adopted 1995)

SECTION S3.04 International Order of the Rainbow For Girls. The program of the International Order of the Rainbow For Girls is hereby recognized, and the Constituent Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction may, and are hereby authorized to, encourage and support assemblies of the Order, in harmonious relationship for the good of Freemasonry. (Adopted 1997)

SECTION S3.05 International Masonic Widow's Sons Masonic Motorcycle Riders Association. The International Widow's Sons Masonic Motorcycle Riders Association is hereby recognized for membership and association by Minnesota Masons, and the Constituent Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction, and are authorized to establish a Minnesota Grand Chapter and Affiliated Widows Sons Chapter Associations, and Masons are encouraged to support and participate in these efforts for the benefit and promotion of Freemasonry. (2009)

SECTION S3.06 Masonic Motorcycle Club International. The Masonic Motorcycle Club International and its local chapters located in Minnesota are hereby recognized for membership and association by Minnesota Masons, and the Constituent Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction, and are authorized to establish such local chapters as the Masonic Motorcycle Club International allows. Masons are encouraged to support and participate in these efforts for the benefit and promotion of Freemasonry. (2009)

SECTION S3.07 Job's Daughters International - International Order of Job's Daughters. Resolved, that the program of the Job's Daughters International is hereby recognized and Constituent Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction may, and are hereby authorized to sponsor and financially support Bethels of the Order. The Program of the Job's Daughters Foundation of Minnesota, Inc., is also recognized and permission is granted to Constituent Lodges to support said Foundation financially with their own funds. (amended 2010)

SECTION S3.08 The Masonic Society. The Masonic Society and its Second Circle of Minnesota are hereby recognized for membership and association by Minnesota Masons, and Masons are encouraged to support and participate in these activities for the benefit and promotion of Freemasonry in Minnesota.

SECTION S3.09 National Association of Masonic Scouters. The National Association of Masonic Scouters is hereby recognized for membership and association by Minnesota Masons within this Grand Jurisdiction, and are authorized to promote the activities and fellowship events of the National Masonic Scouters Association and all Masons are encouraged to support and participate in these efforts for the benefit and promotion of Freemasonry.

ARTICLE IV. Masonic Information

SECTION S4.01 Freemasonry and Religion.

Basic Principles. Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. It requires of its members belief in a God as part of the obligation of every responsible adult, but advocates no sectarian faith or practice. Masonic ceremonies include prayers, both traditional and extempore, to reaffirm each individual's dependence on a supreme being and to seek divine guidance. Freemasonry is open to men of any faith, but religion may not be discussed at Masonic meetings.

The Supreme Being. Masons believe that there is one God and that people employ many different ways to seek, and to express what they know of, God. Masonry primarily uses the appellation, "Grand Architect of the Universe, " and other non-sectarian titles, to address Deity. In this way, persons of different faiths may join together in prayer, concentrating on a Supreme Being, rather than differences among themselves. Masonry believes in religious freedom and that the relationship between the individual and God is personal, private, and sacred.

Volume of the Sacred Law. An open volume of the Sacred Law, "the rule and guide of life," is an essential part of every Masonic meeting, The Volume of the Sacred Law to a Christian is the Bible; to Freemasons of other faiths, it is the book held holy by them.

The Oath of Freemasonry. The obligations taken by Freemasons are sworn on the volume of the Sacred Law. They are undertakings to follow the principles of Freemasonry and to keep confidential a Freemason's means of recognition. The much-discussed "penalties," judicial remnants from an earlier era, are symbolic, not literal. They refer only to the pain any honest man should feel at the thought of violating his word.

Freemasonry Compared with Religion. Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of religion. (a) It has no dogma or theology, no wish or means to enforce religious orthodoxy. (b) It offers no sacraments. (c) It does not claim to lead to salvation by works, by secret knowledge, or by any other means. The secrets of Freemasonry are concerned with modes of recognition, not with the means of salvation.

Freemasonry Supports Religion. Freemasonry is far from indifferent toward religion. Without interfering in religious practice, it expects each member to follow his own faith and to place his Duty to God above all other duties. Its moral teaching are acceptable to all religions. (1996)

SECTION S4.02 Masonic Clubs. Any group of Masons of this Jurisdiction, who are in good standing, may form a club designated by a name which includes the words "Masonic Club" or "Masonic Association," providing its by-laws are submitted to the Grand Master for approval, and the same are approved by him. Any such group forming such a club may incorporate, provided that the suggested Articles of Incorporation and By-laws be first submitted to and approved by the Chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee and the Grand Master. The same shall only be a voluntary association of the members. Any such club, when formed, shall operate its club and its clubroom or rooms, if any, or their place of meeting with the same decorum as required by a Lodge of Masons, so that no unfavorable reflection will result against Masonry. Be it further provided that all laws, rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge governing the conduct of Constituent Lodges in this Jurisdiction, as contained elsewhere in the Minnesota Masonic Code, will be strictly followed and that it follow all rules and regulations that may be made by the Grand Master in giving such permission and authority. Any violation of the above having occurred, the Grand Master may rescind the permission and authority given by him.

SECTION S4.03 A Standing Resolution Concerning Masonic Intercourse. WHEREAS, ARTICLE II. Masonic Laws, Section C2.03 (17) states: That masonic intercourse with a clandestine, suspended or expelled Mason is a breach of duty and an offense against Masonic law, and WHEREAS the Grand Lodge of Minnesota has not enumerated the meaning of masonic intercourse for purposes of clarification; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that: A Mason shall not have Masonic communication with: A. Any person who is not a member of a Masonic Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota; or B. A Mason under sentence of being expelled or suspended. While outside the State of Minnesota, a Mason may have Masonic communication with any person legally present at the tiled meeting of a Masonic Lodge or Masonic Organization chartered by or holding allegiance to a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. This exception includes the tiled meetings of any such recognized Grand Lodge. During a tiled meeting, a Mason may have Masonic communication with any person legally present even though such a person is not a member of a Masonic Lodge chartered by or holding allegiance to a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. This exception applies only during such a tiled meeting and at no other time. While in any State or Territory or Province outside the State of Minnesota, a Mason shall not have Masonic communication with any person who is a member of a Masonic Lodge which has been chartered by or holds allegiance to a Grand Lodge which is not recognized by the Grand Lodge which we recognize with jurisdiction over that State or Territory or Province. No Masonic Organization in the Jurisdiction of Minnesota may

permit any man suspended or expelled as a Mason in this or any other Jurisdiction to retain membership in it, or attend its tiled meetings. (Adopted 2003)

ARTICLE V. Emeritus Status

SECTION S5.01 Grand Secretary Emeritus. Right Worshipful Brother Douglas J. Campbell, in honor of his long and faithful service to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, and particularly because of his world class service in executing the duties and responsibilities of the office of Grand Secretary, is hereby designated as Grand Secretary Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. (2018)

SECTION S5.02 Grand Treasurer Emeritus. Right Worshipful Brother Brent L. Metcalf, in honor of his long and faithful service to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, and particularly because of his world class service in executing the duties and responsibilities of the office of Grand Treasurer, is hereby designated as Grand Treasurer Emeritus of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. (2018)

Submitted by:

THE GRAND LODGE CODE REVIEW COMMITTEE

M.W. Bro. Ethan A. Seaberg, P.G.M, Chairman

M.W. Bro. Rolf M. Widstrand, P.G.M.

R.W. Bro. Keith W. Reiersen, Grand Secretary

W. Bro. Adam Ballinger

W. Bro. Theodore Martz

2023 RESOLUTION NO. 4
General Regulations Amendment
Resolution to Protect Lodge Property

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge has a vested interest in each subordinate Lodge's ability to be successful and financially solvent; and

WHEREAS, the protection of Lodge property or building assets being sold at under market rates impacts the Lodge memberships ability to survive; and

WHEREAS, the sale of property or building assets to Lodge members can cause disharmony in a Lodge between members;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT SECTION G13.27 be amended to read "No Lodge shall make any commitment for the purchase or lease of land on which to construct its Lodge Building or for the construction of any other building thereon, or the furnishing of the same, until the plans and specifications and the cost of erection thereof in detail, together with a copy of the lease, if acquisition is by lease, and a definite plan for the financing of such purchase, lease and construction has been approved in writing by the Grand Master; provided however, that the above shall not prohibit a Lodge which owns its own building from making repairs to the same where the cost thereof does not exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00).

A Lodge shall not sell its building or any real estate, or personal property with an estimated value over \$1,000, without approval from the Grand Master. Any constituent lodge divesting real or personal property is required to report the same, in writing, with its annual return.

The Grand Master may, in his discretion, appoint a committee of such number as he may desire to advise with him and with Constituent Lodges when so desired by the Grand Master, with reference to the purchase of land by Constituent Lodges for building purposes, construction of buildings thereon or repairs thereto, and the proper and necessary financing of any part of the same."

Fraternally submitted by:

Shawn R. Carrick, Sr. Grand Deacon
Charles S. Brust, Jr. Grand Deacon
Keith W. Reiersen, Grand Secretary

2023 RESOLUTION NO. 5
Amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge
Legislation for the creation of the Grand Master's Lodge

Whereas currently, at the closure of a Lodge without consolidation, Brethren are left without Masonic affiliation; and

Whereas a lack of Masonic affiliation will affect these Brethren negatively; and

Whereas the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, AF&AM desires to retain these Brethren as members and ensure that they are well served;

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Constitution, Article 9, Section C9.01 shall be amended to add part (D) with the following language:

C9.01 (d) GRAND MASTER'S LODGE.

The Grand Master's Lodge is a special classification of Constituent Lodge which shall be subject to all provisions of this Code applicable to Constituent Lodges, except as follows:

1. There shall be only one Grand Master's Lodge in this Jurisdiction, and it shall be chartered with the name "Grand Master's Lodge" and numbered 1853.
2. Membership shall consist only of:
 - a. As ex-officio members, the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Junior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary
 - b. Any Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons who are not dual or plural members of another Lodge at the time that their Lodge's charter is surrendered or revoked.
3. Membership in the Grand Master's Lodge shall cease upon taking a Demit therefrom or by obtaining membership in another Constituent Lodge within the jurisdiction.
4. The Grand Master's Lodge shall hold no meetings nor confer any degrees but may request courtesy work for its Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts in another Lodge.
5. The Grand Master's Lodge shall not be entitled to representation in Grand Lodge or any vote therein.

And that Article 15 Section G15.07 be amended as follows:

SECTION G15.07 Whenever a Lodge surrenders its charter, ~~its members shall be given certificates of non-affiliation by the Grand Secretary, if they are in good standing and clear on the books and no charges have been filed against them; and each member shall be notified at his last known address as to his indebtedness, if any. Upon payment of said indebtedness, said certificate of non-affiliation may then be issued.~~ **the Grand Secretary shall automatically transfer all Brethren, who meet the requirements for membership, to the Grand Master's Lodge.**

(a) Members of the Grand Master's Lodge shall pay annual dues in the amount of the current per-capita plus \$20 per annum. Brethren who had been life members of their Lodge at closure shall retain such membership while members of this Lodge.

(b) Members who owed dues in arrears to their previous Lodge shall be required to pay such obligation to the Grand Master's Lodge.

(c) Members shall retain all rights and benefits of Masonic membership including visitation, Masonic funerals, etc. while members of the Grand Master's Lodge.

Fraternally submitted by:

Charles S. Brust, Jr. Grand Deacon
Shawn R. Carrick, Sr. Grand Deacon
Keith W. Reiersen, Grand Secretary

**2023 Resolution No. 6
General Regulations Amendment
Grand Lodge Annual Per Capita Increase**

Whereas the last increase in the Grand Lodge per capita was approved in 2017. This increase brought the per capita payment to its present \$40.00 per member, and

Whereas the total membership in Minnesota Constituent Lodges has continued to decline every year since 1960, now resulting in yearly declining revenue, and

Whereas Grand Lodge program and operating expenses continue to increase every year due to inflation, and

Whereas a responsible fiscal policy requires that the Grand Lodge operate within annual per capita revenue and earnings from the Reserve Fund; and not spend the principal of the Reserve Fund so that the Reserve Fund remains intact for future generations, and

Whereas it is the desire of the Grand Lodge to continue to provide quality programs and services to its members and constituent lodges, and

Whereas financial projections of the Grand Lodge indicate regular increases in the Grand Lodge per capita are needed to ensure ongoing fraternal operations and responsible financial management.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that beginning with the dues payable for the year of 2024 by every member and reported to be in good standing by a lodge on its 2023 annual return, due at the Grand Lodge office on January 15, 2024, the amount of per capita remitted to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota shall be \$70.00; and

That SECTION G3.01 subsection (d) of the Minnesota Masonic Code shall be amended as follows:

Section G3.01 (d) The per capita dues of the Grand Lodge shall be structured as follows:

1. *From every member reported in good standing by a Lodge in its last Annual Return, ~~Forty Dollars (\$40.00)~~ **Seventy Dollars (\$70.00)**; and*
2. *If the Grand Lodge General Fund financial performance, as reported at the Annual Communication for the previous fiscal year, requires a transfer from the reserve fund in excess of 2% of the reserve fund's average balance as reported in the last three Annual Communications, the amount of per capita remitted to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota will be increased by 10%, rounded up to the next whole dollar, beginning with the dues payable for the ensuing calendar year.*
3. *However, any member, who, being in the armed forces of the United States, has become a prisoner of war or has been declared missing in action, during said period or any part thereof. Refunds or adjustments of overpayment of per capita shall be permitted, but not to exceed two (2) years prior to the date of request. A refund can be requested by a Lodge, from the Grand Lodge, for per capita payments that were made for members who were stricken for non-payment of dues, but not to exceed two (2) years prior to the date of request.*

Respectfully submitted by the
members of the Finance Committee:

Dayton L. Berg, Deputy Grand Master
Foster D. Solem, Senior Grand Warden
Robert S. Davis, Junior Grand Warden

Frank J. Spevak, Grand Treasurer
Keith W. Reiersen, Grand Secretary
Shawn R. Carrick, Senior Grand Deacon
Charles S. Brust, Junior Grand Deacon
Rolf M. Widstrand, Past Grand Master
Bruce A. Carson, Senior Grand Steward