

CONSTITUTION, LAWS, and REGULATIONS  
of the  
**THE GRAND COMMANDERY  
of  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR of FLORIDA**

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## **PREFACE**

This updated edition of the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations includes legislation adopted at the 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida held on April 23, 2012 at Lake Mary, Florida.

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CONSTITUTION  
of the  
GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR of FLORIDA

**PREAMBLE**

WE, THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR of the State of Florida, in order to secure unity and better government and to increase the Prosperity and influence of Templary, which is declared to comprise the Orders of Christian Knighthood known as Red Cross, Knight of Malta, and Knight Templar, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

**ARTICLE I**

**Style, Jurisdiction, and Powers**

**Section 1. Style.**

This Body shall be designated and known as "The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida;" shall be a body corporate; and shall have a Seal bearing suitable devices and inscriptions which shall be affixed to all instruments issued by or under its authority. The Members of this Grand Commandery, and members of its Constituent Commanderies, may be known and recognized as "Knights Templar" and "Chivalric Masons." The ceremonies, forms, and teachings of this organization shall be known as "The Orders of the Temple."

**Section 2. Jurisdiction Generally.**

This Grand Commandery is a legal, independent body. It has supreme legislative, judicial, and executive power and jurisdiction over all of its Constituent Commanderies and supreme authority over Chivalric Masonry within the boundaries of the State of Florida. It has sole and exclusive jurisdiction over the Orders of Red Cross, Knight of Malta, and Knight Templar within the State of Florida, insofar as there is no conflict with the laws of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

**Section 3. Concurrent Jurisdiction.**

This Grand Commandery recognizes the Concurrent Jurisdiction of the Grand Commanderies of Alabama and Georgia over such material as resides at or near the boundary line of those States, inasmuch as the Statues of the Grand Encampment provide that an applicant for the Orders of the Temple may petition the Commandery nearest his place of residence, irrespective of Grand Commandery boundaries.

**Section 4. Powers and Duties.**

The Grand Commandery has the following powers and prerogatives, but this enumeration shall not be construed to be a limitation thereof:

- a) It shall review at its Annual Conclave all reports of its officers and may review the proceedings of its Constituent Commanderies.
- b) It may adopt such Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Regulations as are not inconsistent with the laws of the Grand Encampment and as it may deem necessary for the good of the Order.
- c) It shall, within its jurisdiction, have exclusive power (with or without the consent of existing Commanderies) to form new Commanderies and to fix the fee thereof. The fee shall be as established from time to time by legislation.

- d) It may prescribe regulations for the government of Constituent Commanderies and may revoke any Charter. It may approve or order the relocation or consolidation of any of its Constituent Commanderies. It shall consider at each Annual Conclave the conditions as to the proper and adequate location of Constituent Commanderies as related to residential and Masonic Membership changes
- e) It may require its several Constituent Commanderies to pay such portion as it may deem proper of its sums received by them for conferring the Orders; and, in addition, such sum annually from each Member of such Commanderies as it may deem necessary for the support of the Grand Commandery.
- f) It shall examine the accounts of its Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, supervise the state and condition of its finances; and adopt such measures in relation thereto as it may deem necessary to increase, secure, and preserve the same and to ensure the utmost punctuality on the part of every accounting officer in the safekeeping and delivery of the funds and property of the Grand Commandery.
- g) It may fix the territorial limits of its Constituent Commanderies and settle all controversies that may among them rise.
- h) It shall, on or before July 1 of each year, pay to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment such amount as may be prescribed by the Grand Encampment as dues for each members of the Constituent Commanderies, as shown above the returns of this Grand Commandery at its Annual Conclave next before that date.
- l) It may require each members of its Constituent Commanderies to be provided with a Templar uniform; and, to that end, it may prescribe such uniform and change the same from time to time.
- j) It may provide for Dual Membership within its jurisdiction on in connection with other Grand Commanderies whose law so provides.
- k) It shall generally exercise all such powers and perform all such acts as are usually exercised and performed by a Grand Commandery within the Landmarks and Customs of the Order.

**Section 5. Appeal to the Grand Encampment.**

An appeal may be taken to the Grand Encampment from any decision or action of a Grand Commandery on questions arising as to the construction or effect of the Constitution, Statutes, or Rituals of the Grand Encampment.

**ARTICLE II  
Grand Officers, Members, and Titles**

**Section 1. Grand Officers.**

This Grand Commandery shall have the following Grand Officers:

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| The Grand Commander        | The Grand Senior Warden   |
| The Deputy Grand Commander | The Grand Junior Warden   |
| The Grand Generalissimo    | The Grand Standard Bearer |
| The Grand Captain General  | The Grand Sword Bearer    |
| The Grand Treasurer        | The Grand Warder          |
| The Grand Recorder         | The Grand Sentinel        |
| The Grand Prelate          |                           |

The Grand Commander may appoint Administrative officers to serve during his term in office. These officers are:

- 1) Aide de Camp
- 2) Judge Advocate General
- 3) Drill Master General
- 4) Inspector General
- 5) Deputy Inspector General. The Grand Commander may appoint up to 5 Deputy Inspectors General to assist the Inspector General in his duties.
- 6) Any other officer he may consider needed during his year.

### **Section 2. Members.**

This Grand Commandery is and shall be composed of the following members:

- a) All Past Grand Commanders, Past Deputy Grand Commanders, Past GrandGeneralissimos, and Past Grand Captains General.
- b) The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each Constituent Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction.
- c) The Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery.
- d) All Past Commanders of its Constituent Commanderies.
- e) All Past Commanders who may have Demitted from another jurisdiction and who shall have been elected to membership in this Grand Commandery, after having presented satisfactory proof of their former membership in a Grand Commandery; together with proof of their rank in same; or who have become Dual Members of a Florida Constituent Commandery.
- f) All Knights Templar of other Grand Commanderies who have been elected Honorary Members. Such Honorary Membership may be conferred by majority vote of this Grand Commandery upon distinguished Chivalric Masons regardless of affiliation, but shall not confer the right to vote.
- g) Membership in this Grand Commandery is contingent upon a sustained membership in a Constituent Commandery hereof.

### **Section 3. Proxies.**

Proxies shall be held to be lawful in the Grand Commandery of Florida. Any voting member of this Grand Commandery may be designated by one or more of the three Principal Officers of the Commandery to which he belongs, to act as his or their proxy. No person may act or vote for another unless he shall present to the Grand Recorder, or Committee on Returns and Credentials, a Proxy duly signed by the absentee voting member, and attested by the seal of the Commandery which is being so represented. Pursuant to this, the representative will be entitled to cast his own vote plus one vote for each duly executed and filed proxy, as provided above.

**Section 4. Titles.**

- a) The honorary title of the Grand Commander is "Right Eminent," and his official title is "Grand Commander." The honorary title of the Deputy Grand Commander is "Very Eminent," and his official title is "Deputy Grand Commander." The honorary title of the remaining officers of the Grand Commandery is "Eminent."
- b) The honorary title shall be used when an officer is addressed and shall immediately precede the official title, thus: "Right Eminent Grand Commander" (not Right Eminent Sir), "Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander," "Eminent Grand Senior Warden." When referring to an officer, the honorary title shall immediately follow the name, thus: "Sir Knight John Doe, Right Eminent Grand Commander," "Sir Knight Peter Roe, Eminent Grand Senior Warden." The official title shall be used by an officer only when necessary to designate his rank or official station, thus: "I am Sir Knight John Jones, Grand Commander."
- c) Chivalric Masons from other Grand Jurisdictions may be recognized by such Titles of Honor as may be appropriate to their Grand Jurisdictions.

**Section 5. Elective and Appointive Officers.**

- a) The Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Recorder shall be elected. All other Grand Officers shall be appointed by the incoming Grand Commander.
- b) All officers, elective or appointive, shall be installed except as provided in Section 142 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.
- c) All officers shall hold their respective offices (unless duly removed) until their successors are installed. A majority of all votes cast (excluding blank ballots) shall be necessary to a choice.

**Section 6. Vacancies in Office; How Filled.**

All vacancies in office, as shall not otherwise be provided herein and as may occur, shall be filled by appointment of the Grand Commander for the unexpired term of such office.

**Section 7. Absence or Incapacity of Grand Commander.**

- a) In the event of the absence, death, or disability of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General shall preside according to the laws and regulations pertaining to each officer.
- b) In the event that none of the aforesaid officers shall have capacity to preside, the Junior Past Grand Commander (according to Seniority of Service) if not incapacitated; and, if incapacitated, the next ranking Past Grand Commander, shall assume the office and discharge the duties of the Grand Commander.

**ARTICLE III  
Grand Conclaves****Section 1. Annual Conclave, Time, Place, and Duration.**

This Grand Commandery shall hold its Annual Conclave in a Grand York Rite Convention, together with the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida and Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida, at a time and place to be determined by the persons who are expected to be the three Grand Presiding Officers at that convention time. The order of meeting will be on a rotating basis. Nothing herein contained is

intended to preempt any Grand Presiding Officer from taking emergency action to change the time, date, or place of such meetings for his Grand Body.

### **Section 2. Special Conclaves.**

Special conclaves may be called by the Grand Commander at his discretion; upon the written request of at least a majority of the Constituent Commanderies, the Grand Commander shall call such conclaves. No business shall be transacted at such conclaves save that specified by the Grand Commander in his summons or set out in the request.

### **Section 3. Quorum.**

Nine members entitled to vote in the Grand Commandery, including an officer authorized to convene the same, shall constitute a quorum, provided that three or more Constituent Commanderies are represented.

### **Section 4. Presiding Officer; Order of Precedence.**

The Grand Commander shall preside when present. In his absence, the Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, or Grand Captain General, in the order named, shall preside according to Law otherwise provided herein. In the absence of all three aforementioned officers, the Junior Past Grand Commander present shall preside, consistent with Article II, Section 6.

### **Section 5. Votes and Manner of Voting.**

- a) Each member of the Grand Commandery present, in person or a proxy for a Constituent Commandery representative, will be entitled to cast his own vote plus one vote for each duly executed and filed proxy as prescribed above.
- b) All questions before the Annual Conclave, unless otherwise provided by Grand Encampment Law, shall be decided by a majority vote of those present. Affirmative votes are to be signified by verified voters extending the sword arm; Negative votes are to be signified by verified voters extending the bridle arm. In case of a tie, the Presiding Officer shall cast the deciding vote.

### **Section 6. Rulings from the Chair; Appeals.**

During an Annual Conclave, any member may appeal to the Grand Commandery from a decision of the Grand Commander, save on Points of Order. At all other times, the decisions of the Grand Commander shall have full force and effect, but they must be reviewed by the Grand Commandery at its next Annual Conclave. If such decisions involved the construction of the Laws of the Grand Encampment or the Laws of the Grand Commandery, an appeal lies to the Grand Commandery.

### **Section 7. Deleted**

### **Section 8. Honors and Recognition.**

The Presiding Officer shall, at his discretion, extend such honors and privileges to Past Grand Officers; Distinguished Capitular and Cryptic Companions; Chivalric Fraters and Sir Knights; Grand Officers of sister Grand Jurisdictions; Recipients of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor; Knight Commanders of the Temple; Grand Officers of Symbolic Masonry; and other distinguished Masons as custom and circumstance require.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**Grand Officers; Election and Qualifications**

**Section 1. Qualifications for Grand Office.**

No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Commandery, save that of Grand Prelate, unless he shall be at that time a permanent member thereof; moreover, before assuming the duties of such office, he must be willing to assume the "Vow of Office," as prescribed by the Grand Encampment.

**Section 2. Election; Order and Manner.**

- a) The Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Recorder shall be elected in that order.
- b) The election shall be by secret written ballot, and when more than two members are voted for the same office, the name or names having the lowest number of votes shall be dropped.
- c) The practice of making nominations for office prior to the Annual Conclave shall not prevail in this Grand Jurisdiction. Provided, however, that a nomination may be made from the floor for each office; and, where there is no objection, a member may be designated to cast the unanimous ballot of the Grand Commandery for the member nominated for such office. Further, with unanimous consent, the Grand Commander may order one written ballot be cast for all Elected Officers.

**ARTICLE V**  
**District Deputy Grand Commanders**

**Section 1. Appointment and Duties.**

The Grand Commander shall appoint a District Deputy Grand Commander for each Chivalric District. Such District Deputies shall have such powers and duties as this Constitution and the Regulations of the Grand Commandery may provide.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**Duties of Grand Officers**

**Section 1. The Grand Commander.**

The Grand Commander shall exercise a careful supervision of the Constituent Commanderies in this jurisdiction. He shall take such measures as may be necessary to stimulate interest and promote Chivalric Masonry. He shall have the following specific powers and duties, but the enumeration shall not be deemed a limitation thereof:

- a) To maintain a watchful supervision over all the Constituent Commanderies in this Grand Jurisdiction; to see that the Constitution, Statutes, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment and the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery are duly and promptly observed; and to approve Amendments to the Bylaws of each Constituent Commandery during the recess of the Grand Commandery, which action shall be subject to review at the next succeeding Conclave of the Grand Commandery.
- b) To appoint all committees and all officers not made elective and to fill all vacancies, such appointees to serve at his pleasure or until their successors have been elected or appointed and installed.



- c) To grant (during any recess of the Grand Commandery) Warrants, under the title of Dispensations, for the formation of new Commanderies, provided that no such Warrant shall be issued unless the following requirements are met:
  - (1) A petition by nine or more duly qualified Knights Templar.
  - (2) The consent and recommendation of the newest Commanders in that jurisdiction, provided that if the new Commandery is to be located in a city or county having more than one Commandery, two of such Commanderies must consent and recommend; and provided further that if the Commanderies in such city or county have concurrent jurisdiction, then all the Commanderies therein stationed must consent and recommend.
- d) During any recess of the Grand Commandery, to arrest the Charter or Warrant of a Commandery, or to place a Commandery under probation under such conditions as he shall determine until the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery. Also, to suspend from his office any Officer of the Grand Commandery or of a Constituent Commandery; but in no case shall such suspension affect the Commandery nor the standing in the Order of such officer or his membership in the Commandery. The Grand Commander shall report his action in full to the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery for its final action.
- e) To visit and preside in any Commandery within this Jurisdiction and to give such instructions and directions as the Good of the Order may require, always adhering to the Constitution, Statutes, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment and the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.
- f) To grant Warrants and Dispensations to Constituent Commanderies, including Dispensations to hold Special Conclaves for the conferring of the Chivalric Orders at places within their jurisdiction other than those named in the Charters.
- g) To appoint Past Grand Commanders, Officers of the Grand Commandery, or Past Commanders of Constituent Commanderies to represent the Grand Commandery within sister jurisdictions, such appointees to be known as "Grand Representatives" who shall serve at the pleasure of the Grand Commander or until their successors are appointed.
- h) To conduct official visitations for the purpose of inspection or evaluation of each Constituent Commandery in this Jurisdiction, either personally or by his personal representative; and to report the same (together with any recommendation he may have) at the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

### **Section 2. Grand Commander's Annual Report.**

At the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, the Grand Commander shall report all of his official acts and make such recommendations as he may deem of value to the Grand Commandery. An itemized listing of all vouchers approved by the Grand Commander will be made an integral part of his report with such comments on same as he may deem appropriate.

### **Section 3. The Deputy Grand Commander.**

The Deputy Grand Commander, in the event of the absence of the Grand Commander or his inability to perform the duties of his office, shall act as Grand Commander. In the event of the death, permanent removal from this jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent disability of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander shall succeed to the office and be regularly installed. At all other times, he shall perform such duties as may be assigned him by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander.

**Section 4. The Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General.**

In the case of the temporary absence or disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall perform the duties of their respective superiors. In case of the advancement, death, permanent removal from this jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of the office; or the permanent disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and the Grand Captain General shall severally succeed to the office of such superiors and be installed therein.

**Section 5. The Grand Treasurer.**

It is the duty of the Grand Treasurer:

- a) To take charge of all the funds and securities of the Grand Commandery and deposit same in the name of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida. Furthermore, unless otherwise directed by the Grand Commandery, to invest, with the approval of the Grand Commander, from time to time, all funds not needed for current expenses in securities as recommended by the Investment Committee, except the funds of the Education Loan Foundation Division of the Grand Commandery of Florida.
- b) To pay out the funds of the Grand Commandery upon Warrants drawn pursuant to this Constitution and the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, charging such disbursements to the proper appropriations therefor.
- c) To render to the Grand Commander, annually, a true and correct detailed account of all receipts and disbursements, with vouchers for all amounts disbursed, together with an inventory covering all funds and property of the Grand Commandery in his hands; to submit his books and accounts for inspection by the Finance Committee on such a day preceding the Annual Conclave as the Grand Commander may designate.
- d) To give bond in such form and amount and with such Corporate Surety as shall, from time to time, be required of him by the Grand Commandery. If the Grand Treasurer shall fail or refuse to give such bond, he shall forfeit his office, and the Grand Commander shall appoint his successor.
- e) To receive such salary as may be set by the Grand Commandery by proper vote at an Annual Conclave.

**Section 6. The Grand Recorder.**

It is the duty of the Grand Recorder:

- a) To perform such duties as are prescribed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, Section 52.
- b) To record the transactions of the Grand Commandery and cause the same to be printed under the direction of the Committee on Printing.
- c) To receive, duly file, and safely keep all papers and documents of the Grand Commandery.
- d) To prepare and attest all Charters, Warrants, and other instruments emanating from the Grand Commandery.
- e) To have charge of the Seal of the Grand Commandery, which he shall affix to all papers requiring such Seal.
- f) To give notice of Annual Conclaves, which notice shall issue two months in advance of the time fixed for such conclave, and shall set out all proposed amendments to the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations. To give at least five days notice of Special

Conclaves, which notice shall contain a statement of the business to be transacted. To issue Summons when required to do so by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander. Notice in the *Florida York Rite Light* or other official Florida York Rite publications and the Florida Supplement of the *Knight Templar* magazine shall be deemed "Official Notice" and "Notice of Conclave."

- g) To collect all revenues (except income from investments) of the Grand Commandery, paying same over to the Grand Treasurer.
- h) To render to the Grand Commandery, annually, a statement of the financial condition of his office, together with an inventory and schedule of depreciation of the equipment, furniture, and supplies in the Office of the Grand Recorder.
- i) To perform such other duties as shall be required of him by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander.
- j) To receive such salary as may be set by the Grand Commandery by proper vote at an Annual Conclave.

### **Section 7. General Duties.**

Pursuant to Section 47, Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the duties of the officers of the Grand Commandery shall be such as appertain to their respective stations, conforming as nearly as may be to the corresponding officers of the Grand Encampment. The Grand Commandery may require other service and the Grand Commander may assign to his subordinate officers duties conformable to Templar law and usage. In addition to these general duties, certain specific duties are herein set out for specific officers.

### **Section 8. Vacancies in Office; How Created.**

Vacancies in the elective offices of Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General of this Grand Commandery may occur only by:

- a) Death;
- b) Permanent removal from the jurisdiction;
- c) Suspension or expulsion by any prerequisite body;
- d) Suspension or expulsion; or
- e) Permanent disability or mental incapacity.

When a vacancy occurs in the elected dais line, all of the officers shall advance as prescribed in the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations, except that the office of Grand Captain General shall remain vacant until the next Annual Conclave reconvenes, at which time elections shall take place and the office of Grand Captain General shall be filled.

Upon the death of an elected dais officer, the Grand Commander may call a Special Conclave of the Grand Commandery to elect an officer to fill the station of Grand Captain General; or he may appoint a Past Grand Commander to fill the station of Grand Captain General until the next Annual Conclave.

### **Section 9. Assumption of Grand Commander's Duties by Past Grand Commander.**

In the event of the absence, death, or disability of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General, the Junior Past Grand Commander (according to Seniority of Service), if not incapacitated and, if incapacitated, the next ranking Past Grand Commander, shall assume the office and discharge the duties of the Grand Commander.

**Section 10. General Duties Regarding Unity.**

The Grand Commandery further evidences its belief in York Rite Unity by appointing the Grand Dais Officers and Grand Recorder to join together with like appointees of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida to form a Grand York Rite Association.

- a) The Association shall meet quarterly or as may be necessary, for the furtherance and betterment of York Rite Masonry in Florida.

**Section 11. Southeastern Regional Meetings.**

The National Commission on Unity having recommended that the three National Grand Bodies of the York Rite, viz.: General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International, and Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, join together in holding joint meetings of the three Grand Bodies in each of several areas of the Nation; the Grand Commandery of Florida is included as a Member of the Southeastern Region.

- a) The Grand Dais Officers of this Grand Commandery, and the Grand Recorder, shall attend, in their official capacities, all Southeastern regional meetings.
- b) A sum shall be placed in the Annual Budget toward defraying the expense of each such officer attending Southeastern regional meetings, with a limit of \$100 per authorized officer attending the meeting.

**Section 12. Deleted**

**ARTICLE VII**  
**Grand Commandery Committees**

**Section 1. Grand Commander to Appoint.**

The incoming Grand Commander, prior to the adjournment of each Annual Conclave, shall appoint the Standing Committees of this Grand Commandery, who shall perform such duties as the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations prescribe and be subject at all times to the direction of the Grand Commandery and the Grand Commander. The Grand Commander shall also appoint such Special and Annual Conclave Committees as may be necessary, at his discretion, to administer the affairs of the Grand Commandery.

**Section 2. Standing Committees.**

The following constitute the Standing Committees of this Grand Commandery:

- a) A Committee on Returns and Credentials
- b) A Committee on Templar Jurisprudence
- c) A Committee on Finance and Budget
- d) *–This section deleted–*
- e) A Committee on Auditing
- f) A Committee on Printing
- g) A Committee on Necrology
- h) A Committee on Grand Encampment Triennial
- i) A Committee to be known as The Knights Templar Educational Foundation, Division of Florida

- j) A Committee for raising funds for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation
- k) A Committee on Membership
- i) A Committee on Religious Activities
- m) A Committee on Patriotic and Civic Activities
- n) A Committee on the *Knight Templar* Magazine
- o) A Committee on Work
- p) A Committee on Perpetual Membership
- q) A Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage
- r) A Committee on Grand Commandery History
- s) A Committee on Investments
- t) A Committee on Lodge Representatives
- u) A Committee on Technology

The constitution and duties of each committee shall be as provided by Regulation.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Orders**

#### **Section 1. Chivalric Orders.**

The Orders recognized and controlled solely by the Grand Commandery are those of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta (including the Degree of Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass), and the Order of the Temple. All must be conferred in the order named and only upon one who is a Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason, and a Select Master affiliated in a Lodge, Chapter, and Council; and who shall otherwise conform to the Laws and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

#### **Section 2. Order of Knights Crusader of the Cross.**

The Grand Commandery holds authority over and recognized the Florida Order of Knights Crusaders of the Cross, which may confer such Order upon all present or Past Commanders of Constituent Commanderies under the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Constituent Commanderies**

#### **Section 1. Definitions and Powers.**

- a) A Constituent Commandery of this jurisdiction is a corporate body and an assemblage of Knights Templar, regularly constituted and acting under a lawful Charter or Warrant, and having such membership as is provided under the Laws of the Order.
- b) A Knight Templar is a Master Mason, upon whom shall have been regularly conferred the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta (including the Degree of Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass), and the Order of the Temple; such conferral having been occasioned under the jurisdiction of an organization recognized by the Grand Encampment as having authority to confer the same and one who affiliated with a particular Lodge of Master Masons, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and a Council of Royal and Select Masters (Cryptic Masons).

**Section 2. Minimum Membership.**

A Commandery consists of at least three Knights Templar, hailing from three separate Commanderies, and acting under a lawful Warrant; or nine or more Knights Templar acting under a lawful Charter or Warrant.

**Section 3. Reception of Petitions, Conferral, Visitation, Fees, and Dues.**

- a) A Commandery has the exclusive right to receive petitions from those, within its Territorial Jurisdiction, possessing the necessary qualifications to elect Petitioners by unanimous vote only, and to confer the Orders upon those Elected.
- b) The Order of Knighthood shall be conferred only upon candidates who possess the qualifications for membership fixed by the Statutes of the Grand Encampment and this Grand Commandery.
- c) Petitions for the Orders or for Membership may be received and balloted upon at Stated or Special Conclaves.
- d) No Commandery may confer the Orders for a lesser fee than as prescribed by Regulation of this Grand Commandery, of which the Commandery shall set apart such sum as it may consider necessary for a Uniform Fund.
- e) No Commandery may confer the Orders, or any one of them, upon any Sojourner unless the consent of the Commandery having Territorial Jurisdiction is first obtained; provided, however, that it shall be lawful for any Commandery to receive the petition of and confer the Orders upon any person belonging to the Active Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Public Health Service, Coast Guard, Coastal Geodetic Survey, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States, who shall have been stationed within the territorial jurisdiction for at least six months prior to the presentation of his petition.
- f) Insofar as he be not properly vouched for, a Visitor must be examined by a committee of one or more Members, and the committee must report that it is convinced that the Visitor is a member in good standing of a recognized Commandery or Priory of Knights Templar before the Visitor may be admitted to the Asylum.
- g) If a member objects, no member of another Commandery can be admitted into any Asylum unless he visits in an Official Capacity. The objection may be made openly in the Commandery or privately to the Commander; and in neither case can the objector be required to disclose the reasons for his objection.
- h) The Orders shall be conferred in the following succession: the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta (including the Degree of Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass), and the Order of the Temple. The Orders of the Red Cross and Malta may be conferred either in full or short form.
- i) A Commandery has the right to levy and collect such annual dues and per capita assessments as it may deem necessary to defray its expenses.

**Section 4. Formation and Naming.**

Before a Commandery can be formed or opened, full compliance must be made with the prerequisites set forth in Section 60 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. as well as the requirements of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida. Such Commandery shall be styled a "Constituent Commandery," and shall be known by a name selected by the Knights Templar forming said Commandery; and further designated by a number assigned thereto by this Grand Commandery.

**Section 5. Uniforms.**

- a) The Order of Knights Templar is declared to be a Uniformed Order.
- b) The purchase of a uniform by a candidate shall be optional.
- c) Each and every officer of any Constituent Commandery shall be required to possess a dress uniform prior to Installation and retain possession during his incumbency in office.
- d) Each Constituent Commandery shall maintain a unit or units, equipped with a Full Templar uniform as prescribed by the Rules and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, to be worn at Full Form Openings and Conferring of the Order of the Temple.
- e) The Summer Uniform as approved by the Grand Encampment may be worn during the months of June, July, and August except for Installation of Officers and the conferring of the Order of the Temple.

**Section 6. Allegiance.**

All Commanderies within the territorial jurisdiction of Florida must enroll under this Grand Commandery, and shall respect and obey the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations thereof.

**Section 7. Composition.**

A Commandery consists of:

- A Commander
- A Generalissimo
- A Captain General
- A Senior Warden
- A Junior Warden
- A Prelate
- A Treasurer
- A Recorder
- A Standard Bearer
- A Sword Bearer
- A Warder
- A Sentinel
- Three Guards and such other Knights Templar as may be Members thereof.

The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer, and Recorder shall be elected and the remaining officers shall be appointed.

**Section 8. Titles.**

- a) The honorary title of the Commander is "Eminent" and the official title is "Commander."
- b) The honorary title of all Officers and individual members of the Order is "Sir Knight."
- c) The honorary title shall be used in addressing or referring to an Officer; and when so used, shall immediately precede the official title (e.g.: "Eminent Commander; Sir Knight Captain General; Sir Knight Warder).
- d) The title of each and every Knight Templar, when addressed or referred to by either his Christian or surname, is "Sir Knight," without any prefix thereto; and "Sir Knights" is the title to be applied to any assemblage of Knights Templar.

**Section 9. Conclaves.**

The Conclaves of a Commandery shall be:

- a) Stated – which shall be held at least Quarterly, at such places as may be specified in the Charter or Warrant, or otherwise provided for by Law; and at such time as may be designated.
- b) Special – which may be called by the Commander or set by action of the Commandery. Such conclave shall be held for the conferring of Orders or for such business as may be prescribed by Law, and at the place for Stated Conclaves; provided that the Grand Commander may authorize the holding of such conclaves (for the conferring of the Orders) at a place other than that specified in the Charter or Warrant. The notice or summons for all Special Conclaves shall specify the business to be transacted and none other shall be considered at such conclave.
- c) A Commandery that fails to hold a conclave for twelve consecutive months, or to knight a single candidate within such period, shall be placed on Probation for the period of one year; if, thereafter, it fails to hold a conclave for the next twelve consecutive months, or to knight a single candidate within such period, its Charter may be arrested.

#### **Section 10. Quorum.**

A quorum of a Commandery consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to Open the same.

#### **Section 11. Duty of Officers to Attend Annual Conclaves.**

It is the duty of the Commander, Generalissimo, and the Captain General of each Constituent Commandery to attend the Conclaves of the Grand Commandery.

#### **Section 12. Appeals from Commander's Decision.**

No appeal shall lie to the Commandery from a decision of the Commander. When the decision involves the construction or effect of the Constitution, Statutes, or Rituals of the Grand Encampment or the Laws of the Grand Commandery, or Bylaws of the Commandery, an appeal may be taken to the Grand Commandery by a Constituent Commandery; pending the decision of the appeal, such ruling of the Commander shall be in full force and effect.

#### **Section 13. Term of Office.**

Officers of Commanderies shall hold office and discharge the duties thereof for the term of which they are elected or appointed and until their successors are duly installed. Each Officer of a Commandery, before entering upon the discharge of the duties of his office, shall assume the Vow of Office as prescribed in the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.

#### **Section 14. The Commander.**

It is the duty of the Commander of a Constituent Commandery to see that the Officers and Members of his Commandery duly observe the Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of his Commandery; the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery; and the Constitution, Statutes, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment.

#### **Section 15. Succession to the Office of Commander.**

In case of the temporary absence, disability, removal, or mental or physical incapacity of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall act as Commander. In case of like disability of both Commander and Generalissimo, the Captain General shall so act. In cases of death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent mental or physical disability of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall succeed to the Office and be installed. In case of like disability of the Generalissimo or his advancement as above provided, the Captain General shall succeed to the Office and be installed. In case of like



disability of the Captain General or his advancement as above provided, the Office shall be vacant and the Grand Commander shall issue a Dispensation for an election to fill vacancies and any others than may result therefrom, pending which the Junior Past Commander able to serve shall act as Commander. The Grand Commander may vary this procedure for reasons he may deem sufficient, and may issue a Dispensation to fill any vacancy.

#### **Section 16. The Treasurer.**

It is the duty of the Treasurer of a Constituent Commandery to perform such duties as are prescribed by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Commandery, and the Bylaws of his Commandery. When the funds of the Constituent Commandery are deposited in a bank, the account must stand in the name of: "[Name] Commandery, No. [Number]," and not in the name of the Treasurer, either officially or individually.

#### **Section 17. The Recorder.**

It is the duty of the Recorder:

- a) To give Notice of all conclaves; Notice of Special Conclaves shall state the business to be transacted.
- b) To issue Summons when directed by the Commander or the Commandery.
- c) To record correctly all transactions of the Commandery.
- d) To collect all dues and assessments and other monies due to the Commandery; and promptly turn over the same to the Treasurer.
- e) To have in charge the Seal of the Commandery and to affix it to all papers requiring the same.
- f) To report annual to the Grand Recorder the Roll of Officers and such other information as may be prescribed by the Grand Commandery, and with said report, remit the dues and fees dues the Grand Commandery; to transmit promptly to the Grand Commander and Grand Recorder copies of all Bylaws adopted by the Commandery.
- g) To submit his books for examination when required by the Commandery, or when required by the Grand Commander or his Deputy.

#### **Section 18. Fidelity Bonds.**

Recorders and Treasurers of Commanderies shall give bond for the faithful performance of their duties under such regulations as the Grand Commandery may enact for Constituent Commanderies.

#### **Section 19. Special Elections.**

Subject to the provisions of Section 15 of this Article, the Grand Commander may authorize a Special Election to fill vacancies in Commandery Offices.

### **ARTICLE X Amendments**

#### **Section 1. Amendment.**

Amendments to the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery shall be made in the following manner:

- Each proposed amendment shall recite in detail the section number and full title of the section proposed to be amended.
- Each proposed amendment shall be filed with the Grand Recorder in writing not later than December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

The Grand Recorder shall have same duplicated and a copy mailed to each Grand Commandery Officer, each Past Grand Commander, each District Deputy Grand Commander, and the Recorders of all Constituent Commanderies at least forty-five days prior to the next Annual Conclave. Said proposed amendment shall be read at the next Stated Conclave of each Constituent Commandery, and after consideration, the Commandery may instruct its delegates as to how they shall vote on the subject. Any proposed amendment so made shall be read and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence. Said Committee shall report thereon, and, if the amendment is carried by a two-thirds vote of the Grand Commandery, the same shall be declared adopted.

**Section 2. Repealing Clause.**

All Constitutional provisions not included in this Constitution, or in conflict therewith, are hereby repealed.

LAWS and REGULATIONS  
of the  
GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR of FLORIDA

**CHAPTER 1**  
**Tradition and Policy**

**1.01. Supreme Chivalric Law.**

The Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Florida, as set forth and contained in this document, together with the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, are hereby adopted, ratified, confirmed, and declared to be the Supreme Chivalric Law of this Grand Jurisdiction.

**1.02. Traditions and Landmarks.**

The Traditions and Landmarks of Antient York Masons, as set forth in the Regius Manuscript and as evolved therefrom through the Ages by Necessity, are adopted by this Grand Commandery; provided, however, that the Supreme Chivalric Law shall govern where in conflict therewith.

**1.03. Rulings and Decisions.**

The Rulings and Decisions of the Grand Commanders of this Grand Commandery, when approved by the Grand Commandery in Annual Conclave convened, and as printed in its *Proceedings*, are declared to be in full force and effect; and may be relied upon as binding, unless contrary to later-enacted Laws of this Grand Commandery or further Rulings and Decisions of the Grand Commander.

**1.04. Grand Lodge Law – Effect.**

Wherever not in direct conflict with the spirit and plain intent of the Supreme Chivalric Law, the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida – as published from time to time in its *Digest of Masonic Law* – shall govern in all matters of Chivalric Law. Provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall imply that this Grand Commandery presumes any control or jurisdiction over any element of Antient Craft Masonry, save those particular traditions and legends contained in the Chivalric Orders and over which the Grand Lodge asserts no jurisdiction.

**1.05. General Definitions.**

As used in the Constitution and these Laws and Regulations:

- a) *Adjourn* – The Grand Commandery “Adjourns,” it does not “Close.”
- b) *Chapter* – Such term means a “Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.”
- c) *Close* – Constituent Commanderies “Close,” they do not “Call Off” or “Adjourn,” but they may close to meet on a certain day to finish business that is pending.
- d) *Council* – Such term means a “Council of Royal and Select Masters.”
- e) *Commandery* – Such term means a constituent, subordinate body of this Grand Commandery or an equivalent such body of jurisdictions by it recognized.
- f) *Conclave* – Commanderies hold “Conclaves,” not “meetings.”

- g) *Frater* – Such term means an Initiate of the Order of the Temple, equivalent to “Brother” or “Companion” in the other Bodies of the Antient York Rite. It shall not be preferred to “Sir Knight” in referring to a Knight directly or by name. The plural form is “Fratres.”
- h) *Grand Chapter* – Such term means “The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida,” as incorporated by Chapter 28326, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1953. In reference to any Grand Chapter outside the State of Florida, said term shall mean a Grand Chapter in fraternal accord with – and recognized by – the aforementioned Grand Chapter.
- i) *Grand Council* – Such term means “The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida,” as incorporated by Chapter 38324, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1953. In reference to any Grand Council outside the State of Florida, said term shall mean a Grand Council in fraternal accord with – and recognized by – the aforementioned Grand Council.
- j) *Grand Commandery* – Such term means “The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida,” as incorporated by Chapter 28327, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1953. In reference to any Grand Commandery outside the State of Florida, said term shall mean a Grand Commandery or Great or Grand Priory of Knights Templar in fraternal accord with – and recognized by – this Grand Commandery.
- k) *Grand Encampment* – Such term means “The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.”
- l) *Grand Lodge* – Such term means “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida,” as incorporated by Chapter 4231, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1893. In reference to any Grand Lodge outside the State of Florida, said term shall mean a Grand Lodge of Freemasons in fraternal accord with – and recognized by – the aforementioned Grand Lodge.
- m) *Healing* – Such term means re-obligating any Knight Templar and correcting what was amiss in his Creation.
- n) *Insignia of Rank* – Such term means the Emblem prescribed by Section 241 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment to denote the rank of the officer or member using or wearing the same.
- o) *Jewel of Office* – Such term means the Emblem prescribed to be worn by any officer to designate the office held by him. It is to be worn by an officer only during his incumbency.
- p) *Lodge* – Such term means a regular “Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.”
- q) *Notice* – Such term means a written notice.
- r) *Open* – Commanderies “Open;” the Grand Commandery “Convenes.”

- s) *Permanent Members* – Permanent Members of the Grand Commandery are properly affiliated Past Commanders.
- t) *Representative Members* – Representative Members of the Grand Commandery are those Knights Templar (or their lawful .. Proxies) who, by virtue of the offices which they hold at the time, are entitled to seats in the Grand Commandery.
- u) *Sojourner* – Such term means either one who is eligible to petition for the Orders of Knighthood and who presents his petition to a Commandery having no territorial jurisdiction over the petitioner or a Sir Knight who is a member of another Commandery.

#### **1.06. Non-Profit Policy.**

The declared policy of this Grand Commandery is that it is not a profit-making business nor profit-making activity for itself nor for its membership. No solicitations of a non-Masonic nor non-charitable character shall be made, except upon authority of this Grand Commandery and by specific vote of the members thereof in Annual Conclave convened. Provided, however, that nothing herein shall prevent support of programs of a generally charitable and benevolent nature, such as the Knights Templar Educational Fund or Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

#### **1.07. Educational Fund; Assets.**

The assets and funds of the Knights Templar Education Foundation, Division of Florida, shall not be invested, but shall be used exclusively for the purpose for which they were originally intended. Loans from the funds shall be made only to collegiate Juniors or Seniors.

#### **1.08. Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund; Assets.**

The assets and funds of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund, Division of Florida, shall be invested and separate from all other funds, and shall be used exclusively for the purpose of sending Christian Ordained Ministers to the Holy Land.

### **CHAPTER 2**

#### **Grand Commandery Name and Style**

##### **2.01. Name and Style.**

The Official name and style of this Grand Commandery shall be as set forth in Article I of its Constitution, and as set forth in Chapter 28327, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1953. Provided, however, that the term “Chivalric” may be used, with propriety, in reference to its Orders and Districts, and in all, save legal documents.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **Grand Commandery Membership**

##### **3.01. Grand Commandery Membership.**

Membership in this Grand Commandery shall be as set forth in its Constitution; Honorary Membership or Rank shall not confer the right to vote on matters before the Grand Commandery.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **Grand Commandery Jurisdiction and Powers**

#### **4.01. Jurisdiction and Powers.**

This Grand Commandery shall have such jurisdiction and powers as are set forth in its Constitution and these Regulations.

#### **4.02. Jurisdiction over Orders and Degrees.**

This Grand Commandery holds exclusive control and jurisdiction over the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta (including the Degree of Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass), the Order of the Temple, and the Order of Knights Crusaders of the Cross. The Grand Commandery has other jurisdiction and powers as set forth in its Constitution.

#### **4.03. Jurisdiction of Adjoining States.**

The Grand Commandery of Florida recognizes the Concurrent Jurisdiction of the Grand Commanderies of Alabama and Georgia over such material as resides at or near the boundary line of those States, whereby any such Applicant for the Orders of Knighthood may petition the Commandery nearest his place of residence, inasmuch as the Statutes of the Grand Encampment provide that an applicant for the Orders of the Temple may petition the Commandery nearest his place of residence, irrespective of Grand Commandery boundaries.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **Grand Commandery Officers**

#### **5.01. Grand Commandery Officers.**

The Officers of this Grand Commandery shall be as set forth in its Constitution.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **Right Eminent Grand Commander**

#### **6.01. Chief Executive Officer.**

The Grand Commander, whose title is Right Eminent, shall be the Chief Executive Officer of this Grand Commandery, with such powers, duties, and prerogatives as set forth in its Constitution and these Regulations.

#### **6.02. Grand Commander's Annual Address.**

The Grand Commander is requested to file in the Office of the Grand Recorder forty days in advance of the Annual Conclave, a copy of his Annual Address together with all necessary papers and correspondence relating thereto. The Grand Recorder shall file copies of said Address with members of the Jurisprudence Committee thirty days prior to the beginning of the Annual Conclave. An itemized listing of all vouchers approved by the Grand Commander will be made an integral part of his Address together with such comments on same as he may deem appropriate.

#### **6.03. Inspection and Instruction.**

This Grand Jurisdiction shall be divided into Chivalric Districts by the Grand Commander. The Grand Commander shall promulgate such rules as he may deem necessary for instruction and inspection, provided such rules conform to the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.

**6.04. Official Visitations, Reports.**

All Official Visitations to Constituent Commanderies shall be reported, by the Officer making same, to the Grand Commander on Returns furnished for that purpose by the Grand Recorder, who shall have prepared and keep on hand such blank Returns.

**6.05. Grand Commander's Allowance.**

The newly elected and installed Grand Commander may receive an advance on his allowance. The advance shall only be one-third (1/3) of the total dollar amount budgeted. The remaining two-thirds (2/3) shall be paid out in two (2) separate increments of one-third (1/3) each. Further, the remaining balance shall not be paid until the Grand Commander has submitted receipts to the Grand Recorder's office equal to or exceeding the amount of the advance and any future disbursements.

**CHAPTER 7****Deputy Grand Commander,  
Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General****7.01. Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General.**

The Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General shall preside in the absence of the Grand Commander; they shall have such other powers and duties as its Constitution and these Regulations provide.

**CHAPTER 8****Grand Treasurer****8.01. Chief Financial Officer.**

The Grand Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of this Grand Commandery, and shall have such powers and duties as its Constitution and these Regulations provide.

**8.02. Report of the Grand Treasurer.**

The Grand Treasurer shall close his accounts and make his Preliminary Annual Report up to and including the last day of the calendar month preceding that in which the Annual Conclave is held. He shall then make his Final Annual Report to the Grand Commander no later than 45 days following the conclusion of the Annual Conclave.

**CHAPTER 9****Grand Recorder****9.01. Chief Clerical Officer.**

The Grand Recorder shall be the Chief Clerical Officer of this Grand Commandery, and shall have direct supervision of all clerical staff; he shall have such other powers and duties as its Constitution and these Regulations provide.

**9.02. Report of the Grand Recorder.**

The Grand Recorder shall close his accounts and make his Preliminary Annual Report up to and including the last day of the calendar month preceding that in which the Annual Conclave is held. He shall then make his Final Annual Report to the Grand Commander no later than 60 days following the conclusion of the Annual Conclave.

**9.03. Proper Record Required.**

All fees, reports, donations (except donations to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation), and all registrations shall be sent through the Grand Recorder's office, who shall keep a proper record thereof and provide copies to the Grand Commander and the necessary Grand Commandery committees, as required.

**9.04. Office Inventory.**

The Grand Recorder shall maintain an inventory of equipment, furniture, and fixtures in the Grand Recorder's office, together with a depreciation schedule of such; and shall include this information and the financial conditions of his office in his Annual Report.

**CHAPTER 10****Chivalric Districts and District Deputy Grand Commanders****10.01. Chivalric Districts.**

The Grand Commander shall divide this Grand Jurisdiction into such number of Chivalric Districts as to him may seem desirable and appoint a Deputy to each of said Districts. Such Deputies shall be Present or Past Commanders of a Commandery under this grand jurisdiction, and shall be charged to use all proper effort to increase the interest in Chivalric Masonry in their respective districts. The Deputies shall make such reports and at such times as the Grand Commander may direct. They shall have such other duties and powers as are provided in the Constitution of the Grand Commandery and these Regulations.

**10.02. District Deputies; Powers and Duties.**

The powers and duties of such District Deputies are:

- a) District Deputy Grand Commanders, while in office, are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Grand Commander.
- b) The honorary title of a District Deputy is "Eminent," and his official title is "District Deputy Grand Commander."
- c) A District Deputy may hold a District Festival without Dispensation; but when a Commandery is Opened, it must be under the auspices of a Commandery in the District. When the Orders are conferred, they must be upon a Candidate regularly elected by a Constituent Commandery.
- d) When the Commander, Generalissimo, or Captain General are absent, the Commandery may be opened and presided over by the District Deputy Grand Commander, provided the necessary nine members entitled to vote are present.
- e) The Ceremonies for the Reception of a District Deputy Grand Commander making official visits shall be those as prescribed in the Manual of Knights Templar of Florida Asylum Tactics.
- f) Each District Deputy Grand Commander shall visit every Commandery in his District, at a Stated or Called Conclave, at least once during his term of office; and of such intended visit he shall give notice to the Commander or Recorder of the Commandery.



- g) The District Deputy Grand Commander shall inquire into the condition of the Commandery, point out errors he may observe in the condition or manner or working; instruct the Commandery in every particular wherein he may conceive them to require information; recommend attention to the moral and benevolent principles of Templary; and urge upon them a punctual representation of their Commandery in every Grand Commandery conclave.
- h) The District Deputy Grand Commander shall, so far as it is proper to be done, submit in writing a full report of his activities and of the state of each Commandery in his District and forward to the Grand Commander. All reports must be made to the Grand Commander at least thirty days before the first day of the Annual Conclave, and such reports shall not be made to the Grand Commandery; the Grand Commander shall take such cognizance of such reports as he may deem proper.
- i) When a District Deputy Grand Commander answers a Question on Templar Law, his answer is advisory-only and must be referred to the Grand Commander at once for confirmation.
- j) It shall be the duty of the District Deputy Grand Commander to aid the Grand Recorder in obtaining reports and replies from Commanderies in their Districts, when requested to do so by the Grand Recorder.
- k) It shall be the duty of the District Deputy Grand Commander, when unable or unwilling to attend his duties, to resign his office as such and, upon such resignation, the Grand Commander shall appoint another District Deputy Grand Commander to fill such vacancy.
- l) In all matters concerning joint meetings of the three York Rite Bodies in a District (such as District Joint Festivals), the three District Deputies may meet together and elect a Chairman to take charge, promote, and develop the meeting, such Chairman being assisted by his fellow Deputies of that particular York Rite District; the District Deputy Grand Commander shall cooperate with his counterparts in the other Grand York Rite Bodies toward the harmony and success of such joint enterprise.
- m) The District Deputy is the representative of the Grand Commander in his designated District. As such, he shall observe all propriety in his behavior and language during his term.
- n) The Grand Commander may impose additional duties as he may seem fit.

## **CHAPTER 11**

### **Constituent Grand Officers**

#### **11.01. Constituent Grand Officers.**

The Constituent Grand Officers of this Grand Commandery shall be as provided in its Constitution and these Regulations, together with the powers and duties therein provided.

## **CHAPTER 12**

### **Grand Commandery Conclaves and Proceedings**

#### **12.01. Annual Conclave.**

The Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery shall be held at such time and place as the Grand Commandery shall select and shall not be for less duration than one day.

**12.02. Per Diem.**

⌘) *–This section deleted–*

- a) *Triennial Conclave Expenses* – The Dais Officers, Grand Recorder, and Past Grand Commanders shall be allowed travel expenses computed on airfare at economy rate, including limousine service to and from airport, registration fee, banquet ticket, room based on single rate, computed one day prior to and for the days in attendance at the official program incident thereto; and actual cost of meals. Funds for such expense shall be appropriated by the Finance and Budget Committee each Triennial year from the special Triennial Conclave Fund and included in the budget for each Triennial year. No expenses shall be allowed for any Dais Officer or Grand Recorder Proxy. No representative or Past Grand Commander in attendance upon a Grand Encampment Conclave shall be paid in two capacities. No expenses shall be allowed for wife or members of family. Request for payment shall be made no later than December 1st of said Triennial year in order to be honored. Expenses only to a maximum of Four Hundred Dollars for each Sir Knight covered by this Section shall be allowed.

**12.03. Proceedings; Approval and Adoption.**

- a) The Grand Commandery, being convened at the time appointed for each Annual Conclave, the printed *Proceedings* of the preceding Annual Conclave, and any intervening Annual Conclaves, shall be ready for adoption, unless a motion prevails that the reading be dispensed with and that the *Proceedings* be adopted as printed and distributed. The minutes shall be read for approval at the resumption and conclusion of business at each successive sitting of an Annual Conclave, provided any one or more of such readings may be dispensed with by Order of the Grand Commander.
- b) Final reports and other such material of record to be included in the *Proceedings* shall be submitted to the Office of the Grand Recorder no later than thirty days following the conclusion of the Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery.
- c) That the *Proceedings* be printed and distributed to the proper Sir Knights no later than October 1st following the Annual Conclave.

**12.04. Past Grand Officers.**

The Grand Recorder is required to annex to the *Proceedings* a list of all Past Grand Officers living, with correct post office address.

**12.05. Representatives of Constituent Commanderies.**

It is the duty of the Commander, the Generalissimo, and the Captain General of each Constituent Commandery to attend the Conclaves of the Grand Commandery.

**12.06. Proxies.**

Proxies are declared to be lawful in this grand jurisdiction and may be used as necessary.

**12.07. Failure of Representation.**

A Constituent Commandery, failing to be represented at the Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery for two or more successive years, may be subjected to Forfeiture of Charter.

**12.08. Reports of Grand Officers.**

Reports of Grand Officers, as may be required by these Regulations, may be printed, distributed, and adopted by reference rather than read in full; excepting only the Report of the Grand Commander.

**12.09. Motions in Writing.**

All motions made in an Annual Conclave shall be reduced to writing by the maker and placed by him on the desk of the Grand Recorder.

**12.10. Voting.**

All questions before the Annual Conclave, except otherwise provided, shall be determined by a majority vote. Affirmative votes are to be signified by verified voters extending the sword arm; negative votes are to be signified by verified voters extending the bridle arm. In case of a tie, the Presiding Officer shall cast the deciding vote.

**12.11. Nominations.**

The practice of making nominations for office shall not prevail in this grand jurisdiction; nor shall it be lawful to publish and circulate a list or lists of prospective candidates for any office, either in the Constituent Commanderies or the Grand Commandery. Provided, however, that nominations for elective offices of the Grand Commandery may be made from the floor during Grand Commandery elections. A fair distribution of officers shall be made at all times in regard to sectional territory and numerical strength of the Constituent Commanderies. In the Constituent Commanderies, the Past Commanders and the three Dais Officers shall be in agreement in regard to prospective officer material.

**12.12. Elections.**

Election of Elective Officers in this Grand Commandery shall be by secret written ballot. When more than two members are voted for the same office, the name or names having the lowest number of votes shall be dropped; provided that, with unanimous consent, the Grand Commander can order one written ballot to be cast for one or all Elected Officers.

**12.13. Determination of Electors.**

The voters and the number of verified votes shall be determined prior to a ballot.

**CHAPTER 13**  
**Grand Commandery Committees and York Rite Convention Board**  
**(General Provisions)**

**13.01. Standing Committees.**

The Standing Committees of this Grand Commandery shall have the following constitution and general duties:

- a) *Committee on Returns and Credentials* – This committee shall consist of three members, of which committee one shall be appointed to serve for three years; thereafter, one member of said committee shall be appointed to serve for three years. It is recommended that the Committee shall consist of Sir Knights of this grand jurisdiction who also belong to the Chapter and Council, and be appointed in conjunction with these two Bodies. They shall make their report up-to-date, as soon as practicable after the reconvening of the Annual Conclave, as to those present entitled to participate in the proceedings thereof.
- b) *Committee on Templar Jurisprudence* – This committee shall consist of five Past Grand Commanders, one of whom shall be appointed as Chairman, which committee shall serve until the adjournment of the next Annual Conclave. The Grand Commander shall furnish this Committee with five copies of his address for their examination, and it shall meet the day prior to the Divine Service held at the Annual Conclave. It shall consider all

decisions upon questions of Templar Law and usage reported by the Grand Commander; and such other matters as may be referred to it by him or the Grand Commandery. The Committee, when called upon, shall give opinions on the legislative, judicial, and executive functions of the Grand Commandery and Constituent Commanderies, and on the prerogatives, powers, and duties of the officers and members thereof. It shall advise upon all questions of Templar Law and report upon all proposed amendments of the Constitution, Laws, Regulations, and Edicts.

- c) *Committee on Finance and Budget* – This committee shall consist of three members, which committee shall serve until the adjournment of the next Annual Conclave. It shall recommend such appropriations as may be necessary for the current expenses of the ensuring Grand Commandery year. No appropriation of funds shall be made until the proposal therefor has been referred to this Committee and its report thereon made. The Committee will:

(1) Formulate, coordinate, establish, and publish Policy Procedures to cover all facets relative to invitations of official guests to the Annual Conclave, the sharing of costs of such guests with the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida and Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida, when appropriate.

~~(2)~~ –*This section deleted*–

(2) Set allowable expenses for members of the Official Family of the Grand Commandery for the ensuring year.

(3) Retain the Master Copy File and will furnish appropriate officers and committees with copies of these procedures.

The Grand Commander (incumbent at the time the procedure is established) will sign all such policies authenticating same. The Grand Commandery may, in Annual Conclave, review all policies when deemed necessary.

~~(4)~~ –*This section deleted*–

- d) *Committee on Auditing* – This committee shall consist of three members, which committee shall serve until the adjournment of the next Annual Conclave. It shall audit all accounts and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Recorder, and such committees, officers, and members of the Grand Commandery as may have custody of funds or property of the Grand Commandery.

e) *Committee on Printing* – The committee shall consist of the Grand Recorder, immediate past Grand Commander, and the Grand Commander. It shall determine, unless otherwise directed by the Grand Commandery, what portion of the *Proceedings* shall be printed, and supervise publication.

f) *Committee on Necrology* – This committee shall consist of one member, preferably the Grand Prelate, which committee shall serve until the adjournment of the next Annual Conclave. It shall report at each Annual Conclave the death of each member of the Grand Commandery occurring since the last Annual Conclave, with a suitable Memorial to the Templar dead.

g) *Committee on Grand Encampment Triennial* – This committee shall consist of the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo, the Grand Captain General, and the Grand Recorder. It shall perform such duties as may be required for any Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment as the Grand Commander may request.

- h) *Committee on the Knights Templar Education Foundation, Division of Florida* – This committee shall function in conformity with the Regulations and Standard Practice for the Knights Templar Educational Foundation of the Grand Encampment. This committee shall consist of five members, which committee to serve five-year terms of which one will expire each year; one member to be appointed each year at the time of the Annual Conclave by the incoming Grand Commander. The Grand Commander serving will make appointments to fill any vacancies for the unexpired portion of the term, and may replace any member of the committee for cause, reporting his action to the Grand Commandery.
- i) *Committee on the Knights Templar Eye Foundation* – This committee shall consist of one member who shall serve as State Chairman for the purpose of supervising the raising of funds for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and shall serve for one year or until his successor is appointed.
- j) *Committee on Membership* – This committee shall consist of three members, which committee shall serve until the adjournment of the next Annual Conclave. It shall recommend appropriate programs and procedures to strengthen the Membership of the Order.
- k) *Committee on Religious Activities* – This committee shall consist of three members, including the Grand Prelate, which committee shall serve until the adjournment of the next Annual Conclave. It shall foster religious activities compatible with the Principles of Templary including the traditional observances of Good Friday, Easter, Ascension Day, and Christmas. It shall promote and encourage participation of Constituent Commanderies in these activities.
- l) *Committee on Patriotic and Civic Activities* – This committee shall consist of three members, which committee shall serve until the adjournment of the next Annual Conclave. It shall foster patriotic and civic activities compatible with the Principles of Templary.
- m) *Committee on the Knight Templar Magazine* – This committee shall consist of one member who shall serve as Editor of the Florida Supplement, and shall serve until the adjournment of the next Annual Conclave.
- n) *Committee on Work* – This committee shall consist of no less than five members. The Grand Commander may appoint additional members as required. The Grand Commander may, at his discretion, designate members of this committee (other than the chairman) as District Instructors - one for each of the Grand Commandery districts. This committee shall see that all Constituent Commanderies of this Grand Commandery are uniform in the use and interpretation of the Ritual and Asylum Tactics, and to recommend revisions to the Grand Commandery for review and approval.
- o) *Committee on Perpetual Membership* – This committee shall consist of three members, of which committee one shall be appointed to serve for three years, one appointed to serve for two years, and one appointed to serve for one year; thereafter, one member to be appointed each year at the time of the Annual Conclave by the incoming Grand Commander. The Grand Commander, the Grand Recorder, and the Grand Treasurer shall be members in advisory capacity only and the Grand Commander shall vote only in event of a deciding vote being required.
- p) *Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimage* – This committee shall consist of the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo, and the Grand Prelate. It shall supervise the raising of funds and selection of qualified Christian Ministers for sponsorship on annual

Holy Land Pilgrimages in conformity to the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A.

- q) *Committee on Grand Commandery History* – This committee shall consist of such Sir Knights as the Grand Commander shall see fit to appoint. It shall research and review the history of this Grand Commandery and prepare and periodically update a written history of this Grand Commandery.
- r) *Committee on Investments* – This committee shall consist of three Knights Templar in good standing in Florida Commanderies. The committee will work in concert with the Investment Committees of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida. The members of the Committee shall be men of experience in the management and investment of funds or men qualified in professions that acquaint them with the duties and responsibilities of management and investment of funds, including but not limited to bankers, certified public accountants, lawyers, financial counselors and men of similar training and experience.

Each incoming Grand Commander shall make one appointment to this committee for a term of three years. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Commander for the remainder of the vacant term. Initial implementation shall be by appointment by the Grand Commander of one member for a three-year term, one member for a two-year term and one member of a one-year term.

No person while a member of this committee, or for a period of two (2) years after serving on this committee, may, directly or indirectly, gain any economic benefit by reason of bidding, providing, or contracting to provide financial services to the Grand Commandery of Florida. Any attempt to circumvent this regulation will be prima facie evidence of unmasonic conduct and will be punishable as such.

The Committee shall make recommendations to the Grand Commander in respect to the following matters:

- (1) Selection of Registered Investment Advisor(s) to manage, or Registered Representative's (s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm to act as custodian for such portions of the Grand Commandery funds as shall be entrusted to such Registered Investment Advisor(s) or Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer or its clearing firm by written contract/document with the Grand Commandery.
- (2) The terms of contract with the Registered Investment Advisor(s) or the Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer for management and custodianship of the Grand Commandery funds.
- (3) The means, methods, and standards for evaluation of the services of the Registered Investment Advisor(s) or the Registered Representative's(s') broker-dealer managing and investing the Grand Commandery funds.
- (4) The Committee shall comply with the foregoing in respect to other Grand Commandery funds.

Pooled investments shall be considered provided the integrity of each of the Grand Body funds are maintained.

- s) *A Committee on Lodge Representatives* – This committee shall consist of three members, which committee shall serve until the adjournment of the next Annual

Conclave. It shall promote a Lodge Representative Program in each Constituent Commandery in this grand jurisdiction.

- t) *A Committee on Technology* – This committee shall consist of five Knights Templar in good standing in Florida. This committee shall work, develop and maintain all things related to electronic and printed technology. This committee shall be divided into three subcommittees as follows:
- (1) *Subcommittee on Website* – This committee shall consist of no more than five Knights Templar in good standing in Florida. They shall be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Grand York Rite website. They shall act as Administrators of the same and will develop a schedule to have at least two administrators during a week. They shall develop written procedures regarding the operations and maintenance of the website. A copy of the operational procedures shall reside in the Grand Recorder's office. The Grand Commander shall have a copy of the same. The Grand Commander's copy shall be passed on to his successor.
  - (2) *Subcommittee on E-Learning* – This committee shall consist of five Knights Templar in good standing in Florida. This committee shall be responsible for all the phases of the development and maintenance of a Florida Masonic Leadership University. This Florida Masonic Leadership University shall be for the benefit of all Freemasons in Florida.
  - (3) *Subcommittee on the York Rite Magazine and Electronic Printing* – This subcommittee shall consist of five Knights Templar in good standing in Florida, This committee shall be responsible for all phases of publication for the York Rite Magazine and any other electronic magazine, newspaper, or newsletter of the Grand Commandery.

The Committee on Technology and its subcommittees will automatically become a joint York Rite Committee if the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master of Florida approve in their respective Constitution and Regulations a similar committee. Once it becomes a joint York Rite Committee, appointments to this Committee and subcommittees shall be by agreement between the incoming Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Most Illustrious Grand Master, and Right Eminent Grand Commander.

It shall be the especial duty of the Chairman of each and every Grand Commandery Committee to return or have returned to the Grand Recorder all papers referred to his Committee.

### **13.02. Annual Conclave Committees.**

At the beginning of each Annual Conclave, the Grand Commander may appoint the following Annual Conclave Committees to consist of three members each who shall serve until the adjournment of the Annual Conclave:

- a) *Committee on Distinguished Guests* – This committee shall consist of three Past Grand Commanders, if there be that many present. It shall introduce such distinguished guests of the Grand Commandery as deemed appropriate. The Grand Recorder shall provide a list of distinguished guests in attendance at the Annual Conclave.
- b) *Committee on Unfinished Business* – This committee shall consist of one member who shall serve as chairman and who shall report on any business of and for the Grand Commandery left unfinished since the previous Annual Conclave.

- d) *Committee on Dispensations and Charters* – This committee shall consist of one member who shall serve as chairman and shall report on any dispensations and/or charters requested to, revoked, or granted by the Grand Commandery since the previous Annual Conclave. Appointment to this committee shall be on an as-needed basis.
- e) *Committee on Grievances* – This committee shall consist of one member who shall serve as chairman and shall report on any grievances to be brought to the attention of the Grand Commandery as to the improper conduct or decision made by a Constituent Commandery or one of its members; or by a member of this Grand Commandery insofar as such grievances relate to Templar Law. Appointment to this committee shall be on an as-needed basis.
- f) *Committee on Time and Place of Annual Conclave* – This committee shall consist of the Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, the Right Excellent Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida, and the Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida. It shall work in concert with the Grand Recorder in selecting a site for the next Annual Conclave and shall report such to the Grand Commandery.
- g) Such Special Committees as may be necessary.

### **13.03. Registration Cards.**

The Grand Recorder shall furnished the Returns and Credentials Committee with a printed card for the purpose of keeping an index card system during the proceedings of each Annual Conclave. This card shall have thereon the name of the delegate, his home address, such other information as may be necessary for the Returns and Credentials Committee, and the name of the Body of which he is a member.

### **13.04. Programs.**

Deleted.

### **13.05. Reports of Committees.**

Reports of committees to the Grand Commandery, as may be required by these Regulations, may be printed, distributed, and adopted by reference rather than read in full.

### **13.06. Joint York Rite Convention Board.**

- a) *Establishment* – There shall be a Joint York Rite Convention Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) established to supervise the planning, promotion, and management of the annual Grand York Rite Convention. The Grand York Rite Convention is herein defined as the concurrent sessions of the Grand Convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida; the Grand Assembly of the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida; and the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida.
- b) *Membership* – The Board will be comprised of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, the Most Illustrious Grand Master, and the Right Eminent Grand Commander (hereinafter referred to as the Grand Presiding Officers); the Grand Recorder; and one additional member jointly appointed by the Grand Presiding Officers who shall serve as Convention Manager. The Board will designate one of the Grand Presiding Officers to act as Chairman.
- c) *Convention Manager* – The Convention Manager ideally will be a member of a Chapter, a Council, and a Commandery who is a current or retired professional in the hospitality



- d) industry. He will have extensive knowledge and experience in hotel and/or meeting planning management. The Convention Manager will act as an advisor to the Board and will serve in an administrative capacity as the “single point of contact” between the hotel and the Grand York Rite during the convention. In addition, he will also serve as an advisor to the Committee on Time and Place on matters pertaining to the negotiation of a Best Value contract for the annual Grand York Rite convention.
- e) *Convention Committee* – The Board will supervise the activities of the Convention Committee whose duties will include, but not limited to, such activities as pre-convention planning; promoting convention attendance; promoting, preparing, and producing of a convention souvenir program; and managing the functions and activities at the convention.
- f) *Convention Souvenir Program* – The Convention Committee will develop, plan, promote, sell advertising, obtain voluntary donations, and print a souvenir program for the convention. The Board will set sufficient and reasonable advertising rates. Promotions for the souvenir program will be made through the Office of the Grand Recorder. The Board will select an appropriate publishing company to print the program. The Board will determine the quantity to be printed based on previous-years records.
- g) *Accountability for Income* – The Grand Recorder will receive and handle all income for the convention (including registration and program advertising revenue), make a proper accounting thereof, and turn it over to the Grand Treasurer.
- h) *Accountability for Expenses* – The Grand Treasurer will receive all monies collected for the convention from the Grand Recorder, make a proper accounting thereof, and deposit said funds in the convention account. Only the account specifically established for the convention by the Grand Treasurer will be used for expenditure of convention funds ~~(with the exception of per diem which is a separate account)~~. He will not issue any checks drawn on the convention account without proper warrant.
- i) *Conditional Provisions* – This Regulation will be of force and effect only upon the adoption of similar enabling legislation by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Florida.

### **13.07. Accountability of Funds.**

No committee (except the Knight Templar Eye Foundation) shall maintain a separate bank account and all monies received by any committee shall be forwarded to the Grand Recorder for proper accounting. No Committee either created or described under this Chapter shall expend any funds except in accordance with or more specifically provided in these Regulations.

## **CHAPTER 14 Grand Commandery Revenue and Finance**

### **14.01. General Provisions.**

The administration of revenues and finances shall be as provided in the Constitution of this Grand Commandery, and as more specifically provided in these Regulations.

### **14.02. Administrative Endowment Fund**

There is hereby established a Grand Commandery fund to be designated the Grand Commandery Administrative Endowment Fund of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida. Said fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a Sacred Trust Fund, the principal amount whereof shall not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment. The income therefrom may be expended for the use of the

Administrative Budget of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida. The administration and investment/reinvestment of this fund shall be under the direction and supervision of the Finance Committee.

## **CHAPTER 15**

### **Relations with Other Jurisdictions**

#### **15.01. Statement of Policy.**

Consistent with the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, it is the policy of this Grand Commandery to maintain fraternal accord with all regular Grand Jurisdictions of Chivalric Masons, agreeable to requirements of the Grand Encampment and the Antient Usages of Chivalric Masonry.

#### **15.02. Grand Representatives.**

The system of exchange of Grand Representatives with other Grand Commanderies in Nightly relation and fraternal accord with this Grand Commandery is hereby adopted.

#### **15.03. Duties of Grand Representatives.**

It shall be the duty of each Grand Representative representing another grand jurisdiction to ascertain from such grand jurisdiction if there be any matters to be brought before the Grand Commandery of Florida touching upon the concerns of such other grand jurisdiction.

#### **15.04. Correspondence Between Commanderies.**

- a) Correspondence between Constituent Commanderies of this Grand Commandery and the Grand Commanderies of other jurisdictions must be conducted through their respective Grand Recorders. Constituent Commanderies of this Grand Commandery may correspond directly with Constituent Commanderies or Pories of other Grand Commanderies.
- b) In all correspondence between Commanderies or Sir Knights, the correct valedictory expression is "Courteously Yours," or "Courteously submitted."

## **CHAPTER 16**

### **Constituent Commanderies; Consolidation and Merger**

#### **16.01. Consolidation of Commanderies.**

- a) The Grand Commander or the Grand Commandery may investigate and may determine to initiate proceedings to consolidate two or more Commanderies if, in his or its judgment, they should be undertaken. In such case, the Grand Commander shall cause a conference to be held by him with the Commanders of the Constituent Commanderies involved. Two or more Commanderies having Concurrent Jurisdiction or stationed in adjoining jurisdictions may be consolidated into one Commandery, provided that the Proposition for such Consolidation shall be presented at a Stated Conclave of each Commandery, which proposition shall be mailed to all members of each Commandery involved at least ten days prior to such conclave. A consolidation shall not be effected unless at least two-thirds of the members present at each Commandery conclave vote in favor of the proposition. Two or more Commanderies, having thus decided to consolidate, may unite under the Charter of one of said Commanderies, retaining the officers thereof; or they may elect new officers as a proper dispensation. The Charter or Charters surrendered will be deposited with the Grand Recorder.
- b) Title to all property and effects of Consolidating Commanderies shall, upon consolidation, vest in the new or consolidated Commandery; and the said Commandery shall be liable for all indebtedness of the several Commanderies consolidated. All members of the Commanderies consolidated shall, immediately after consolidation, become members of the new or consolidated Commandery.

## **CHAPTER 17**

### **Constituent Commanderies; Charters**

#### **17.01. Petition for Dispensation, Attachments.**

Each signer of a Petition for Dispensation to this Grand Commandery to form a Commandery U.D., or for a Charter, shall attach to such Petition his Demit, except that affiliated Sir Knights in this jurisdiction may attach their receipts for dues for the current year instead. Commanderies U.D., when applying for a Charter, shall present with their Petition their minute book and other records.

#### **17.02. Petitions for Charters, Deadline.**

Petitions for Charter must be filed in the Grand Recorder's office at least ten days prior to the convening of the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery. Dispensations to form Commanderies U.D. expire by limitation on the first day on which the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery is held. Commanderies U.D. shall be required to have active work under dispensation for at least six months before charters are granted.

#### **17.03. Bodies Not To Be Instituted.**

No Charter or Warrant shall be granted for instituting Bodies of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, nor of Knights of Malta, independent of a Commandery of Knights Templar; nor for a Body of Knights Crusaders of the Cross in addition to, or working under, that Order.

#### **17.04. Commanderies, U.D.**

It shall be the duty of all Commanderies, Under Dispensation, immediately upon receiving their dispensation, to notify the parent Commandery of each Sir Knight appearing upon the petition therefor, that the name of such Sir Knights appears thereon as one of said petitioners.

**17.05. Commanderies To Have Seals.**

Every Chartered Commandery of this Grand Commandery shall have a Seal with a name, number, and location engraved thereon, an impression of which shall be deposited with the Grand Recorder.

**CHAPTER 18**  
**Constituent Commanderies; Jurisdiction**

**18.01. Jurisdiction.**

Unless otherwise provided herein, the limits of Jurisdiction Absolute of each Commandery, whether Chartered or Under Warrant, shall extend to the county line of the County in which the Commandery is located. Petitioners outside the limits of counties in which a Commandery is located, may petition any Commandery of their choice. Concurrent Jurisdiction of all areas, wherein no Commandery has Jurisdiction Absolute, shall be mutually shared by all Constituent Commanderies of this Grand Jurisdiction, subject to Regulation 4.03.

**18.02. Work Commenced by Defunct Commandery.**

When a petitioner shows satisfactorily that he has taken one or more of the Orders in a Regular Commandery which has become defunct or dormant, the Commandery within whose jurisdiction he resides, and to which he petitions, may confer the remaining Orders.

**CHAPTER 19**  
**Constituent Commanderies; Officers**

**19.01. Commandery Officers.**

Each Constituent Commandery of Knights Templar shall be composed of Knights Templar in good standing, with the following Officers:

- A Commander
- A Generalissimo
- A Captain General
- A Senior Warden
- A Junior Warden
- A Prelate
- A Treasurer
- A Recorder
- A Standard Bearer
- A Sword Bearer
- A Warder
- A Sentinel
- Three Guards and such other Knights Templar as may be Members thereof.

The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer, and Recorder shall be elected. The remaining Officers and all Committees shall be appointed by the Commander-elect.

**19.02. Election.**

- a) The Annual Conclave for Election of Officers in Constituent Commanderies shall be the first Stated Conclave in December of each year, except those Commanderies whose monthly conclave is in the third or fourth week of the month, which Commanderies may hold their election at the November Conclave.
- b) The election of officers shall be by written ballot, provided that by unanimous consent, any Commandery can order one written ballot to be cast for any Office by the Commandery.

- c) In the case of failure of a Constituent Commandery to hold its annual election at the Annual Conclave, as specified, no Dispensation to hold such election thereafter is required; such election shall be held as soon as possible after the Annual Conclave.
- d) Any Sir Knight in good standing is eligible to election to any office in the Commandery.

#### **19.03. Installation of Officers.**

- a) Installation in Constituent Commanderies shall not be held before the month of December in each year. The Officers' terms of office shall run until the Annual Conclave of the year following and until their respective successors are elected and installed as provided in the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.
- b) When charges of violation of Templar Law are made against any Sir Knight, pending the trial, such Sir Knight shall not be installed into any Office to which he may have been elected or appointed; and no one under charges, except the Eminent Commander, shall perform any official function in his Commandery until after the final determination of such charges, if acquitted in the trial thereof.
- c) **Public Installations.** Officers may be installed at a public ceremony, in which case the following provisions shall apply:
  - (1) The officers will appear in full Knights Templar uniform
  - (2) An Altar will be provided with an open Bible but there shall be no display of the Relics nor the Square and Compasses.
  - (3) The officers will enter in procession.
  - (4) The service will open with an invocation by the Prelate.
  - (5) The Vow of Office will be taken by the officers in position under the sword tactics.
  - (6) The prescribed Ten Questions will be omitted from the ceremony, but shall be posed by the Installing Officer prior to the ceremony and in an informal conference.
  - (7) All the written "charges" to the various officers will be omitted, but the Installing Officer may address individuals or groups, using extemporaneous remarks.
  - (8) The ceremony will close with the regular Flag Lecture from the Ritual and a benediction from the Prelate.

#### **19.04. Jewels and Insignia of Office.**

Upon installation, each officer shall be invested with a jewel and insignia as prescribed by Regulation 37.306.

#### **19.05. Dual Members, Eligibility.**

A Dual Member with Primal Membership in a Commandery in Florida may not hold office in more than one Constituent Commandery at one and the same time. A Dual or Plural Member having his Primal Membership in another Grand Jurisdiction shall not be eligible to hold office in a Commandery in Florida.

## CHAPTER 20 Commander

### 20.01. Appointment of Committees.

As soon as is convenient after his installation, the Commander, in his discretion, shall appoint the following Standing Committees, the members of which shall hold their offices for one year, or until their successors are appointed:

- a) *Committee on Finance and Budget* – This committee shall consist of three members whose duty it shall be to recommend such appropriations as may be necessary for the current expenses of the ensuring Commandery year.
- b) *Committee for the Visitation of the Sick* – This committee shall consist of three members whose duty it shall be to endeavor to obtain information relative to all sick Sir Knights, visit them, and render such care and attention as may be necessary.
- c) *Committee on Entertainment* – This committee shall consist of a Chairman and such members as he may choose, to provide suitable programs for social gatherings and perform such duties as may be required of them.
- d) *Committee on Vigilance* – This committee shall consist of three members who shall investigate penal matters and bring such Charges as the Honor of the Order may require for its vindication.
- e) *Committee on Delinquency* – This committee shall consist of at least two members pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 27.01.
- f) *Committee on Auditing* – This committee shall consist of three members whose duty it shall be to examine and audit all accounts presented against the Commandery.
- g) *Committee for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation* – This committee shall consist of a Chairman who shall be appointed for the purpose of supervising the raising of funds for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. His tenure in office will be one year or until his successor is appointed.
- h) *Committee on Charity* – This committee shall consist of the Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General, which shall have power to draw vouchers on the Treasurer, in amounts which must be provided for by the Bylaws of the Commandery, for the relief of distressed Sir Knights, their wives, widows, or orphans, which action shall be reported to the Commandery at its next Stated Conclave.

The Commander shall appoint such other Committees as occasion may require or which he may deem necessary.

## CHAPTER 21 Generalissimo and Captain General

### 21.01. Powers and Duties.

The Generalissimo and Captain General of a Constituent Commandery shall, together with the Commander, constitute the Dais Officers of the Commandery and its ex-officio representatives of that Commandery to all coordinate committees of the several York Rite Bodies of their domicile. They shall have such other powers and duties as provided by the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, the Bylaws of the Commandery, and Antient Usage.

## **CHAPTER 22**

### **Treasurer and Recorder**

#### **22.01. Treasurer.**

The Treasurer shall receive from the Recorder all the Monies collected by him on account of the Commandery. He shall keep a correct amount of the same and duly pay all orders drawn on him by authority of the Commandery. He shall make regular entries both of receipts and disbursements, and have his books and vouchers always ready for examination, when called upon for that purpose. He shall also report to the Commandery the state of the funds yearly and more often as required. He shall have such other powers and duties as provided by the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery and the Bylaws of his Commandery.

#### **22.02. Recorder.**

It shall be the duty of the Recorder to keep a regular list of the members, and record the transactions of the Commandery, which are proper to be converted to writing. He shall receive all monies paid into the Commandery and shall promptly pay the same over to the Treasurer. He shall give due notice when directed, by advertising or otherwise, of the time of holding each Conclave. He shall make an annual report to the Commandery, at the Stated Annual Conclave, of the state of the funds of the Commandery, embracing an account of the receipts and expenditures, the dues unpaid and from whom due, for the preceding year up to and including the Stated Conclave preceding the 31st of December, and more often as required. He shall have such other powers and duties as provided by the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery and the Bylaws of his Commandery.

#### **22.03. Disbursing of Funds.**

Withdrawal of Funds belonging to a Constituent Commandery shall be by check, signed by the Treasurer, countersigned by the Commander, supported by a voucher issued by the Recorder upon orders of the Commandery. Provided, however, a voucher may be drawn by the Recorder, countersigned by the Commander, authorizing the Treasurer to draw the check.

#### **22.04. Bonds Required.**

The Treasurer and Recorder of each Constituent Commandery shall be bonded with a Bonding Company listed in the Federal Treasury list in an amount set by the Resolution or Order of the Grand Commandery; such bond to be on file in the Grand Recorder's office.

#### **22.05. List of Members Not Supplied.**

It is improper for the Recorder of a Commandery or any Member thereof to furnish a list of the names of the Members of the Commandery to any person for commercial or political purposes, or to any civic or fraternal organization other than other Regular Masonic Bodies.

## **CHAPTER 23**

### **Appointed Commandery Officers**

#### **23.01. Commander to Appoint.**

The Commander of each Constituent Commandery shall appoint such Officers as are provided for in the Constitution of this Grand Commandery, which officers shall serve their appointed terms at the will and pleasure of the Commander. Vacancies in such offices shall be filled by further appointment of the Commander, who shall install such appointees; vacancies so filled shall be reported to the Grand Recorder by the Recorder of the Commandery, and under its Seal.

## **CHAPTER 24**

### **Constituent Commanderies; Bylaws**

#### **24.01. Bylaws or Amendments.**

A Commandery has full power and authority to enact Bylaws for its own government in conformity with the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery. No Bylaws or amendments thereto shall be in force until approved by the Grand Commander or by his authority, but the same will be effective on the date of approval by the Grand Commander.

#### **24.02. Commandery Approval of Bylaws.**

Proposed Bylaws or any change in or amendment to existing Bylaws shall be submitted in writing at a Stated Conclave, and – if approved by a majority vote – shall lie over for one month, or to the corresponding Stated Conclave in the following month, during which time due and timely notice of such proposal shall be given to the Members of the Commandery. If two-thirds of all the members of the Commandery then present vote in favor thereof, such change or amendment is adopted and will go into effect upon approval by the Grand Commander or by his authority.

#### **24.03. Grand Commander Approval of Bylaws.**

Proposed Bylaws or amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Grand Commander in triplicate, all three copies to be signed by the Commander and the Recorder and under the Seal of the Commandery, giving the dates when such Bylaws or amendments were first submitted and approved and when adopted by the Commandery. When approved by the Grand Commander, he shall send all copies to the Grand Recorder for attestation; the copies will then be distributed as follows:

- a) Original to the Commandery for its archives.
- b) One copy retained by the Grand Recorder.
- c) One copy to the Grand Commander.

The Grand Commander shall make his copy available to the Jurisprudence Committee, if requested. Should the Grand Commander disapprove the proposals, he shall return the same to the Constituent Commandery with his reasons for such action, which the Grand Commandery may review.

#### **24.04. Bylaw for Emeritus Members.**

Constituent Commanderies shall incorporate in their Bylaws Articles reading as follows:

- a) "This Commandery may, by two-thirds vote at a Stated Conclave, create as an Indigent Emeritus Member such Sir Knights as from age, infirmity, or misfortune have been incapacitated and unable to pay dues, thereby exempting such members from annual dues to the Commandery and the Grand Commandery. The Recorder shall file with the Grand Recorder each year a Petition setting forth the full name and address of the member and a complete statement of the reasons for creating such Indigent Emeritus Membership.
- b) "The honorary title of Emeritus Member may be conferred by two-thirds vote at a Stated Conclave on a deserving member for long Membership and for distinguished service to the Chivalric Rite. This Commandery shall pay to the Grand Commandery all annual dues, taxes, and assessments of such member."

#### **24.05. Uniform Code of Bylaws.**



Except as otherwise provided in these Regulations, all Commanderies shall adopt and conform to the Uniform Code of Bylaws for Constituent Commanderies set forth in Appendix B of these Regulations. Upon amendment or revision of same by this Grand Commandery, Constituent Commanderies will amend existing Bylaws in conformity to such Grand Commandery action. Amendment pursuant to this Regulation shall require only notice to the members of the Commandery of the change in the Uniform Code; entry on the Minutes of the Commandery prior to inclusion in the Bylaws of the Commandery; and notice to the Grand Recorder that such amendment has been made. No vote of the Commandery is required. Copies of this Uniform Code may be obtained from the Grand Recorder.

#### **24.06. Bylaws Binding.**

A Constituent Commandery shall not suspend nor waive its Bylaws, nor any part of them, once the same have been adopted and approved. Changes in Bylaws may be effected only by Amendment.

#### **24.07. Official Forms.**

- a) The Form of Petition for the Orders shall be as prescribed in the Statutes of the Grand Encampment, and is made a part of these Regulations.
- b) The Form of Petition for Dispensation to Open and Hold a Constituent Commandery, shall be as prescribed herein.

### **CHAPTER 25**

#### **Constituent Commanderies; Conclaves and Business**

##### **25.01. Form of Opening.**

The Commandery shall always be Opened and Closed with its own peculiar ceremonies. When the Commandery is duly Opened and it is necessary to Open a Body of the Chivalric Orders under its jurisdiction, such may be Opened with its own ceremonies or consistent with such forms as are approved by the Grand Encampment.

##### **25.02. United States Flag.**

All Commanderies shall display a silk regulation Flag of the United States of America in their respective Asylums, to be placed on the Dais at the extreme right (North).

##### **25.03. Presiding Officer.**

The Commander shall preside at all Conclaves of the Commandery; in case of his absence, the Generalissimo, Captain General, or prior Past Commander present in the order of rank may preside.

##### **25.04. No Appeal to Commandery.**

No appeal to the Commandery can be taken from the decision of the Commander.

##### **25.05. Conclaves on Sunday.**

A Commandery cannot lawfully meet or work on Sunday except for funerals or Attendance For Religious Purposes.

**25.06. Call to Refreshment, Misuse.**

It is improper for Conclaves of Commanderies to be called to Refreshment from time to time with unlimited discretion, nor shall a Commandery recess from one Conclave to the next Conclave. Each Conclave shall be formally Opened and regularly Closed when the business of the Conclave is finished.

**25.07. General Rights.**

Constituent Commanderies shall enjoy all the Rights provided by their Charters, Bylaws, and as authorized by the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

**25.08. General Duties of Officers.**

All Officers and Members of a Constituent Commandery shall support and maintain the Supreme Chivalric Law of this Grand Commandery and the Bylaws of their own Commandery.

**25.09. Domicile for Meetings.**

The Constituent Commanderies in this Grand Jurisdiction shall hold Stated Conclaves as specified in their Bylaws and only in the place of their domicile fixed by their Charter or by an amendment to their Bylaws; except that the Grand Commander may grant Dispensation to a Constituent Commandery to meet in sites other than their domicile. Domicile, in a Commandery Charter, can be in one or more municipalities.

**25.10. Special Conclaves.**

Constituent Commanderies may hold Special Conclaves in any Masonic Lodge Room within their territorial jurisdictions for the purpose of creating interest in Chivalric Masonry; and at such conclaves, may transact such business as is prescribed by their Bylaws. All such conclaves shall be reported to the Grand Commander.

**25.11. Special Conclaves for Work.**

The Commander of any Constituent Commandery may call a Special Conclave for any time, except Sunday, for the sole purpose of conferring the Chivalric Orders.

**25.12. Conclaves, Charter.**

- a) The Warrant or Charter of a Commandery must be in the Asylum throughout a Conclave.
- b) If the Charter of a Commandery is lost, mutilated, or destroyed, the Grand Commander, upon satisfactory proof, shall direct the Grand Recorder to issue an attested copy thereof under Seal.

**25.13. Asylum, Removal.**

- a) A Constituent Commandery, with the approval of the Grand Commander, may remove its Asylum from one building to another in the same county, by a vote of a majority of its members present at a Stated Conclave and after due notice of the proposed change.
- b) Should a Constituent Commandery be joined by another York Rite Body or Bodies in a building project in the same city or town, then the plans, specifications, and method of financing (etc.) must likewise be submitted to the Grand Officers of the participating Bodies for their approval. If approved, title of such property, building, or financial enterprise shall be in the name of the Constituent Commandery, or group of York Rite Bodies, as the case may be.

- c) A Constituent Commandery is prohibited, hereafter, from entering into a joint venture of ownership of any property, building, or financial enterprise with other civic or fraternal organizations other than those specifically named in the preceding paragraphs of this Regulation.

#### **25.14. Voting.**

All questions in the Constituent Commanderies, except as otherwise provided, shall be determined by a majority vote. Affirmative votes are to be signified by extending the sword arm; negative votes by extending the bridle arm. In case of a tie, the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote.

#### **25.15. Christian Flag.**

All Commanderies shall have the option to display a regulation Christian Flag (Red Cross in Blue Field on White Flag) in their respective Asylums, to be placed on the Dais at the extreme left (South). In addition to the display of the flag of the United States of America and the Commandery Beauceant in public ceremony, the Christian flag may be carried in its place opposite the flag of our nation, at the discretion of the Commander, in all Masonic events, and may be carried in a civil parade, at the discretion of the Commander, under dispensation of the Grand Commander as prescribed in Chapter 37.204c of Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida.

### **CHAPTER 26**

#### **Membership, Rights, Status, and Dues**

##### **26.01. Membership in Commandery.**

A Sir Knight is a Member of the Commandery conferring the Chivalric Orders upon him, unless it was conferred at the request of another Commandery, in which case he shall be a Member of the Commandery making the request.

##### **26.02. Certificate of Good Standing.**

Members in good standing in Commanderies whose Charters have been Surrendered or Arrested shall be furnished with a Certificate of Good Standing by the Grand Recorder upon request and pursuant to Regulation 42.02.

##### **26.03. Life Membership Program.**

Commanderies may incorporate in their Bylaws provisions for life members subject to the following requirements:

- a) Life memberships shall be of three classes:
  - (1) Life membership conferred by the Commandery upon payment of a fixed fee therefor, which life membership shall only exempt the recipient from payment of Grand Commandery annual revenue;
  - (2) Life membership conferred by the Commandery without payment of fee therefor, which exempts recipient from payment of Grand Commandery annual revenue; and
  - (3) Life membership conferred by the Commandery, which does not exempt the recipient therefor from payment of Grand Commandery annual revenue.
- b) No life membership conferred for payment of a fixed fee therefor and which shall exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Commandery annual revenue may be conferred for a fee of less than two hundred (\$200.00) dollars, which fee, in whatever amount fixed, shall be deposited or invested as hereinafter set forth.

- c) No life membership which exempts recipient thereof from payment of Grand Commandery annual revenue may be conferred by the Commandery without payment of fee thereof except on the condition that the Commandery immediately set aside from its own funds for deposit or investment as hereinafter provided a minimum sum of two hundred (\$200.00) dollars per life membership at all times.
- d) All funds derived from fees for Life Memberships and all funds set aside by the Commandery upon conferring life membership without payment of fee thereof shall be invested in bonds of the United States of America or deposited in Savings Accounts in institutions where such savings accounts are insured or in such other securities or stocks as shall be approved by the Grand Commandery, the interest derived from such deposit or investment to be deposited in the general fund of the Commandery.
- e) Upon the death, expulsion, demit, or disappearance of a life member, the Commandery may withdraw the deposit provided for such member or dispose of the government bonds purchased with the proceeds thereof and return said funds to the general funds of the Commandery.
- f) Commanderies may confer life memberships, which do not exempt the recipient thereof from payment of Grand Commandery annual revenue without requiring any payment therefor by the life member or without making any deposit or investment by the Commandery.
- g) Each life member of a Commandery shall be issued an annual dues card evidencing such life membership.
- h) No life membership conferred by a Commandery shall exempt such Commandery from payment of Grand Commandery annual revenue.
- i) This Regulation shall be effective on the 1st day of June, 2001, but shall not affect any life membership vested on such date.

#### **26.04. Perpetual Membership Program.**

Perpetual memberships are authorized by Particular Commanderies subject to the following terms and conditions:

- a) Any Constituent Commandery of Knights Templar may, by vote of the members, and in accordance with its Bylaws, participate in this plan, subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth.
- b) Any member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in the Symbolic Lodge and in any Participating Constituent Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction may become a perpetual member of his Commandery pursuant to the provisions of this section.
- c) The member desiring a Perpetual Membership shall apply to the Recorder of his Commandery for such a membership on forms prescribed by the Grand Commandery and shall tender therewith a minimum sum of twenty (20) times the annual dues of his Commandery at the time of the application, but in no event less than two hundred (\$200.00) dollars. The Commandery Recorder shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same, together with the full fee due, to the Grand Recorder. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Recorder certified he received the application.
- d) The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the Commandery Recorder. The application shall not become effective until the Grand Recorder has certified the applicant's record. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the Perpetual Membership fee is predicted. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Recorder shall return the application and fee to the Constituent

Commandery Recorder for correction and resubmittal. A copy of the completed and accepted Perpetual Membership application and a Certificate of Perpetual Membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Commandery by the Grand Recorder. These provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Recorder to use computerized records.

- e) After the Perpetual Membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Recorder, the Perpetual Membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Recorder to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for membership as of the date of the application.
- f) After the applicant's Perpetual Membership has been accepted by the Grand Recorder, the Perpetual Membership shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer as required in Article XII, Section 11 of the Constitution. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted Perpetual Membership accounts (hereafter referred to as the Fund). These funds shall be accounted for on an individual Commandery basis, listing the amount a person paid into the fund for both Commandery dues and Grand Commandery per capita and any assessments in effect. The Grand Treasurer shall account for the funds separately, from all other Grand Commandery funds. The funds shall be audited annually.
- g) A perpetual member shall owe no further dues to the Commandery of which he is a perpetual member. An annual dues card shall be issued by the Commandery Recorder who shall denote Perpetual Membership thereon.
- h) The Perpetual Membership fee, less any amount required to supplement earned interest to pay the Constituent Commandery the first year's dues and per capita, to the Perpetual Membership Fund, the word "interest" shall mean all net earned income of the Fund, exclusive of net profit made from the sale of stocks, bonds, or other securities; any loss resulting from the sale of stocks, bonds, or other securities shall be deducted first from any profit made on the sale of stocks, bonds, or other securities and then from other earned income; and the balance remaining shall be net earned income. The net profit of unallocated loss, if any, from the sale of stocks, bonds, or other securities shall be allocated to a capital gains account, to remain therein subject only to the following: The interest, less administrative costs, plus such amount from the capital gains account as shall be necessary to add to the interest so as to provide a minimum of five percent (5%) return on each perpetual members account, shall be paid proportionately annually to each perpetual member's account, and shall be paid proportionately annually to each Constituent Commandery for each perpetual member at the time of per capita billing.
- i) The Grand Recorder shall, at the time of the annual interest distribution, submit a statement to the Commandery for an amount covering the proportionate per capita and assessment in effect at the time the member joined the plan. The Commandery shall, during the member's lifetime and thereafter, pay to the Grand Commandery the amount designated by the Grand Recorder's per capita statement.
- j) The obtaining of a Perpetual Membership in one Commandery by a dual or plural member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Commandery or Commanderies to which he belongs. Dual or plural Perpetual Memberships are permitted.
- k) When a perpetual member of this Grand Jurisdiction affiliates within this Grand Jurisdiction, the entire Perpetual Membership he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Commandery to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is outside this Grand Jurisdiction, the entire Perpetual Membership fee shall remain with the Commandery of which he was a perpetual member.

- l) Any Certificates of Good Standing issued under Chapter 40 of the Constitution to a perpetual member shall be endorsed thereon the fact that the holder is a perpetual member and the amount of the Perpetual Membership fee which shall be transferred to the Particular Commandery in Florida with which he affiliates.
- m) If a perpetual member shall be suspended, expelled, or withdraws and is subsequently restore to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of state, his perpetual membership shall be deemed to be also restored.
- n) If a Commandery consolidates, surrenders its Charter, or has its Charter arrested, the funds credited to that Commandery in the Perpetual Membership Fund shall follow the members according to the relevant section of the Constitution and Laws dealing with consolidations, surrendering, and arrests of Charters.
- o) A Memorial Perpetual Membership may be purchased by any person for a deceased Knight Templar of a Florida Commandery by following the same procedures as outlined in this section. The minimum fee shall be two hundred (\$200.00) dollars. The total amount of interest derived therefrom shall be paid annually, seventy-five percent (75%) to the Commandery through which the application was processed and twenty-five percent (25%) to the Grand Commandery of Florida. Interest derived therefrom shall be returned to the Commandery at the time of the per capita billing.
- p) A Knight, at any future time, may add any amount to his Perpetual Membership fee through his Commandery Recorder.
- q) Applications for Perpetual Membership shall be on forms prescribed by the Grand Commandery and the Grand Recorder shall provide all forms required for the implementation of this section.
- r) Where perpetual members have not been heard from for more than seven (7) years, the Commander shall direct the Recorder to report the names of such missing Knights to the Grand Commandery on the membership report form as being deceased. Their names shall then be transferred to the rolls of deceased Perpetual Membership; but this action shall have no effect on the amount of money paid the Commandery or Grand Commandery for that perpetual member as set froth in sub-sections (g) and (h).
- s) The Perpetual Membership Fund is to be operated and administered by a committee, hereafter called the Fund Committee consisting of three Knights appointed by the Grand Commander to serve as follows: one member to serve for 3 years, one to serve for 2 years, and one to serve for 1 year, at the end of which term all successive appointments are to be for 3 years. The Grand Recorder and the Grand Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* members of this committee for advisory purposes only. The appointed members of the Fund Committee shall be bonded in the same manner as described in Article 13, Section 11 (j).
- t) Any matter not specifically covered by this Regulation shall be resolved by a committee consisting of the Grand Commander, Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer, and the Fund Committee. The results of such meeting will be reported at the next Annual Conclave, and any changes resulting therefrom shall be subject to the vote of the members of the Grand Commandery.
- u) This Regulation shall become effective June 1, 2001.

#### **26.05. Emeritus Members.**

The honorary title of "Emeritus Member" may be conferred by two-thirds vote at a regular Stated Conclave of a Constituent Commandery upon a deserving member for long Membership and for distinguished service to the Chivalric Orders. This Commandery shall pay to the Grand Commandery and Grand Encampment all annual dues, taxes, and assessments of such member.

**26.06. Indigent Emeritus Members.**

Constituent Commanderies may, by a two-thirds vote at a regular Stated Conclave, create as an Indigent Emeritus Member such Sir Knights as from age, infirmity, or misfortune have been incapacitated and unable to pay dues, thereby exempting such members from payment of annual dues to his Commandery and the Grand Commandery. The Commandery shall file with the Grand Recorder at least 60 days before the Annual Conclave a Petition setting forth the full names and addresses of such members and a complete statement of the reasons for creating such Emeritus Memberships, whereupon the Grand Commander shall appoint a committee of three which shall conduct an investigation and report to the Grand Commandery at the forthcoming Annual Conclave, at which time action shall be taken upon the said petition. The Commandery shall not be required to pay Grand Commandery per capita tax for Emeritus Members created under this Section, but shall pay the Grand Encampment assessment of \$1.00 a year for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation for such members unless the same shall have purchased a Life Sponsor Certificate in the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. A Commandery shall not carry a total roll of Emeritus Members in excess of 2% of its total membership reported at the end of the last year preceding the Annual Conclave at which such action is taken.

**26.07. Dual Membership.**

- a) Knights Templar of this Grand Jurisdiction may petition for Dual or Plural Membership and become Active Members of two Commanderies under this Grand Commandery, or of a Commandery under this Grand Jurisdiction and a Commandery in another Grand Jurisdiction, provided that Dual membership has been authorized by enactment of the Grand Commandery of such other Grand Jurisdiction.
- b) Dual Membership refers to belonging to a Commandery in Florida and a corresponding body in another Grand Jurisdiction.
- c) Plural Membership refers to being a member of two Commanderies within the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida. A Commandery authorizing such Dual or Plural Membership must incorporate the same in its Bylaws.

**CHAPTER 27****Finances, Dues, Suspension for Non-Payment, and Reinstatement****27.01. Suspension for Non-Payment of Dues.**

- a) The Commander shall supervise and determine whether it is advisable to remit the dues of a delinquent member because of illness, infirmity, or financial inability, and shall recommend to his Commandery the remission of dues if he deems the same justified. If the Commander does not see fit to recommend the remission of dues of a delinquent member, he shall appoint a Committee of at least two members to make a personal call, if possible, upon such delinquent member with reference thereto. The report of such Committee shall be reviewed by the Commander and shall be reported to the Commandery. The process of suspension shall be undertaken only after the foregoing preliminary requirements have been met, whereupon the Commander shall see that the Recorder sends either a certified or registered letter to the delinquent member at his last known address, giving official notice of intention to suspend such member, including the date and hour when the suspension proceedings will be brought before the Commandery for action. At the time when such suspension proceedings are brought

before the Commandery, the Commander shall first inform the Commandery of all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding such delinquent member and shall exhibit the return receipt of the certified or registered letter to the delinquent member, or the unclaimed certified or registered letter to the delinquent member, before any action shall be taken by the Commandery.

- b) It shall be the duty of the Recorder of each Commandery to obtain from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, or from appropriate Lodges, the record of suspensions or expulsions of all members of the Commandery and present the same immediately to the Commandery of which he is Recorder for its information; thereupon the Recorder shall enter upon the minutes the name of the Sir Knight, his Lodge, and the date of his suspension in the Lodge.

#### **27.02. Failure to Answer Summons.**

When a member of a Commandery is summoned to show cause why he should not be suspended for non-payment of dues and fails to appear, the Commandery cannot declare him suspended until the Commandery has so voted.

#### **27.03. Non-Payment of Dues, Reinstatement.**

A member suspended for non-payment of dues can be Reinstated only by action of the Commandery. Upon written application for Reinstatement by a Petitioner whose period of suspension exceeds 12 months, the Commander shall appoint an Investigating Committee, whose duty shall be to present their findings at the next Stated Conclave of the Commandery. Following their report, the vote shall be by ball ballot. A majority vote of the members present shall be necessary to reinstate the suspended member.

### **CHAPTER 28**

#### **Commandery Property; Ownership and Use**

##### **28.01. Chapter 196, F.S., and IRS Form 990.**

All Constituent Commanderies in this Grand Jurisdiction are required to comply with Chapter 196, Florida Statutes, concerning application for exemption from tax on real and personal property where applicable. All Constituent Commanderies in this Grand Jurisdiction are required to comply with Federal Internal Revenue Service Regulations concerning the filing of Form 990. The Recorder of the Commandery shall certify to the Grand Commandery compliance regularly.

##### **28.02. Trustees Dispensed With.**

Inasmuch as the Laws of the State of Florida provide that each Chartered Constituent Commandery is a legal corporation and, as such, can hold property in its own name, the practice of holding real and personal property in the name of Trustees for a Commandery is dispensed with.

- a) Any Commandery owning or holding real property, or an interest therein, by and through Trustees pursuant to former Regulation 105, shall forthwith affect a conveyance of Record of such interest into the corporate name of said Constituent Commandery. The Office of Grand Recorder shall refer the Commandery, upon inquiry, to legal counsel competent to assist the Commandery in this requirement.
- b) Any Commandery, as of 1 January 1990, having a beneficial ownership in real and personal property under a corporate Trustee or other fiduciary in lieu of former Regulation 105 shall not be required to effect a Record transfer of title, so long as the title document or trust instrument shows the interest of the Commandery in this requirement.



- c) Nothing herein shall prevent a Commandery from selecting Trustees to advise and counsel the Commandery in the investment and management of its assets, so long as ownership interest of the Commandery is shown in its corporate name, which Trustees may alternatively be known as an Investment Advisory Committee; all advice and management guidance of such Trustees shall adhere to the Prudent Man Standard as established by the Laws of the State of Florida.
- d) All investments or property acquisitions of a Commandery shall similarly adhere to the aforesaid Prudent Man Standard and to such Laws, Rules, and Regulations provided by the Supreme Chivalric Law.

## **CHAPTER 29**

### **Commandery Representatives to Grand Commandery**

#### **29.01. Commandery Representatives.**

The representatives of each Constituent Commandery to the Annual Conclave and Special Conclaves of the Grand Commandery shall be the Commander, the Generalissimo, and the Captain General of such Commandery, whose duty it is to attend on behalf of their Sir Knights. Should these officers, or any of them, be unable to attend, their proxy or proxies should be given to the Recorder provided he is a voting member of the Grand Commandery pursuant to the provisions of Article II of the Constitution of the Grand Commandery of Florida, or to some similarly qualified member of the Commandery.

#### **29.02. Failure of Representation.**

If a Constituent Commandery fails to be represented at the Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery for two or more successive years, its Charter may be forfeited.

## **CHAPTER 30**

### **Commandery Returns and Reports to Grand Commandery**

#### **30.01. Monthly Reports and Annual Returns.**

- a) Monthly reports of Constituent Commanderies must be in the Office of the Grand Recorder on or before the fifth day of each month; monthly reports will be submitted each and every month even though there is no change in the status of the Constituent Commandery.
- b) The Templar year shall end December 31st of each year and each Constituent Commandery shall make Annual Returns to this Grand Commandery, which must be in the Office of the Grand Recorder with fees as the Grand Commandery shall from time to time prescribe, on or before the first day of February each year. Any Constituent Commandery failing to make its Annual Return by the 15th of February shall be considered delinquent and shall not be entitled to representation in the Grand Commandery at its next Annual Conclave, except by action of the Grand Commandery. If the Annual Return is not made by the time Annual Conclave convenes, the delinquent Commandery will be subject to Charter Revocation unless excused by action of the Grand Commandery.

**30.02. Credits for Suspended Members.**

At the time of making Annual Returns, Constituent Commanderies shall be permitted to take credit for, or deduct Grand Commandery per capita taxes and assessments for all those whose names appear in the exhibit of losses as having been suspended for non-payment of dues.

**30.03. Grand Commandery Levies.**

- a) Every Commandery, whether Chartered or U.D., shall pay to the Grand Commandery the sum of Six Dollars (\$6.00) for each Knight Templar created in such Commandery and the sum of Sixteen Dollars (\$16.00) annually for each Knight Templar borne upon its rolls at any time during the fiscal year, to be allocated as follows:
- Nine Dollars (\$9.00) to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A.
  - Six Dollars and Eighty-Five Cents (\$6.85) to the General Fund of the Grand Commandery of Florida
  - Fifteen Cents (15¢) to the Triennial Fund of the Grand Commandery of Florida;

(The effective date of this change shall be January 1, 2008);

provided that any Sir Knights who have had membership in more than one of the Commanderies in this Grand Jurisdiction during the year shall only be accounted for by the Commandery wherein such Sir Knights first had membership during the year – except in newly Chartered Commanderies or Commanderies U.D. whose dispensations have been continued for another year, in which cases the new Commandery only or such Commanderies U.D. shall account for such dues.

- b) Dues shall not be collected for Emeritus Members.
- c) Ministers of the Gospel are not exempt from payment of annual dues.
- d) Commanderies must pay annual per capita taxes and assessments for their Perpetual Members to the Grand Commandery.
- e) Every Constituent Commandery, whether Chartered or U.D., shall pay to the Grand Commandery of Florida any and all assessments or increase in per capita assessed to it by authority of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A.

**30.04. Remitting Arrears.**

When a member suspended for non-payment of dues by a Constituent Commandery is reinstated, the Constituent Commandery shall be responsible for, and account to, the Grand Commandery for that portion of the arrears of such member as would be due the Grand Commandery for the year which he was suspended together with the per capita tax for the current year.

**30.05. Knights Templar Eye Foundation Levy.**

A Charitable Foundation having been established by the Grand Encampment for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., for the purpose of this project, and in accordance with Section 10 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, an annual assessment of One Dollar per member per year (except members whose dues have been remitted because of their inability to pay the same, and those who have purchased Life Sponsorship Certificates) is hereby levied upon each Constituent Commandery of this Grand Commandery. Such levy shall be paid to the Grand Commandery for forwarding to the Grand Encampment by the Constituent Commanderies not later than July 1 of each year. Provided that upon payment of Thirty Dollars

in a lump sum to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., and the issuance to the Knight Templar making such payment a certificate as a Life Sponsor of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., the Constituent Commandery of which such Sir Knight may be a member shall be exempt from his annual assessment because of his membership in his Commandery.

## **CHAPTER 31**

### **Candidates for Orders**

#### **31.01. Eligibility.**

A candidate for the Chivalric Orders in this Grand Jurisdiction must be a Master Mason, a Royal Arch Mason, and a Select Master in good standing, except as provided in Regulation 33.01(a). He shall have established domicile in this Grand Jurisdiction for a period of at least one year and in the jurisdiction of the Constituent Commandery that he is petitioning for six months immediately preceding the time of his application.

## **CHAPTER 32**

### **Fees for Orders and Refunds**

#### **32.01. Fees and Refunds.**

The fee for the Chivalric Orders shall not be less than Fifty Dollars in any Constituent Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction, which fee cannot be waived.

## **CHAPTER 33**

### **Petitions for Orders and Proceedings Thereon**

#### **33.01. Eligibility and Reception of Petitions.**

A petition for Initiation and Reception may be received from one:

- a) Who is a Master Mason, a Royal Arch Mason, and a Select Master affiliated with a Regular Lodge, Chapter, and Council, or who is such an affiliated Master Mason and who as Petitioned a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the Capitular Degrees and a Council of Royal and Select Masters for the Cryptic Degrees, such a Petitioner may be Elected to the Commandery petitioned as soon as he has been elected to the Chapter (provided, however, that no Orders of Knighthood may be conferred upon such a petitioner until he shall have received the Cryptic Degrees);
- b) Who is a firm believer in the Christian religion;
- c) Who is physically able to conform to requirements of the ceremonies of the Order; and
- d) Who has resided for at least one year within the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery and six months within the jurisdiction of the Constituent Commandery petitioned; or
- e) Who is a Knight Templar created in a foreign jurisdiction which does not recognize the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross as a necessary prerequisite for the Order of the Temple and who, desiring to Affiliate with a Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction, files a petition for the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and for membership, together with a Demit or its equivalent from such foreign jurisdiction. Upon the Election of such a one, the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross will be conferred before the petitioner is admitted to membership (if such a petitioner is rejected, his Demit or its equivalent shall be returned to him). The Commandery Petitioned may, by its Bylaws, fix a fee for conferring the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross on such a petitioner.

**33.02. Petition Referred to Committee.**

A petition, whether for Orders or Membership, shall be referred to a committee of 3 members of the Commandery, only when requested to do so by a member in good standing in the Commandery acting upon the petition. If a Committee is empowered to investigate the petition, it shall consist of members who shall know or personally interview the petitioner. The fact of the report being made and not its character shall be entered on the minutes of the Commandery.

**33.03. Withdrawal of Petition.**

A petition may be withdrawn by a Petitioner at any time before ballot.

**33.04. Re-Petition After Rejection.**

A rejected Petitioner for the Orders, if still residing within the Jurisdiction of the Commandery Petitioned, may again petition after the expiration of six months, but shall not petition any other Commandery until the expiration of three years after such rejection unless the consent of the Commandery by which he was rejected is given by unanimous ballot.

**CHAPTER 34****Balloting****34.01. Procedure.**

All balloting shall take place in a Conclave of a Commandery. There shall be but one ballot for the several Orders conferred in the Commandery, and Election must be unanimous; if, however, only one blackball appears, the Eminent Commander (before declaring the result and before any member of the Commandery has left the Asylum) may order another ballot to avoid a possible mistake; after which, however, he must declare the result at once, whatever it may be.

**34.02. Ballot Not To Be Re-Opened.**

A dark ballot cannot be re-opened on account of any irregularity, and no Dispensation can be granted for such purpose.

**34.03. All Members Present Shall Vote.**

Every member of a Constituent Commandery present at the time a ballot on a petition is taken is required to vote, unless excused by the Commander or the Commandery before the balloting is commenced.

**34.04. No Postponement of Ballot.**

After a ballot has been ordered, it cannot be postponed; neither can it be reconsidered. A ballot must be had on every petition after it shall have been referred to a committee and reported on, provided the Commandery has jurisdiction and the applicant is eligible.

**34.05. Qualified Voters.**

None but Members in good standing can vote for Conferring of the Orders and for the Admission of Members, which vote must be by ballot and must be inviolably secret. No one has the right to reveal the color of his Ballot, neither has anyone the right to question him thereon.

## **CHAPTER 35**

### **Rejection of Candidates and Effect Thereof**

#### **35.01. Refund of Fees.**

Rejection of a petition shall be followed by notification to the Petitioner of such action, and the refund of any and all fees accompanying such petition.

#### **35.02. Jurisdiction Retained.**

A Petitioner rejected by a Commandery may not again petition that Commandery until the lapse of six months. Upon Rejection of a Petition, the rejecting Commandery retains jurisdiction over the rejected material for three years, during which no other Commandery may receive a petition from such material except upon unanimous Waiver of Jurisdiction by ballot of the rejecting Commandery.

## **CHAPTER 36**

### **Initiation and Advancement**

#### **36.01. Election Voided by Failure to Receive Orders.**

Failure of a Candidate to present himself for Conferral of the Orders within twelve months after receiving notice of his Election voids the election, and the fees paid or any deposit made shall remain the property of the Commandery in which the petition was filed. Provided, however, that should a serious accident or like misfortune befall the candidate, it may be deemed a meritorious case and the fee may be returned without prejudice upon vote of the Commandery. One constituted a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross who fails to appear to receive the remaining Orders within one year after having received that Order shall not be entitled to receive the remaining Orders except upon favorable, secret, and unanimous ballot of the Commandery at a Stated Conclave.

#### **36.02. Objections to Advancement.**

- a) *Before Conferral of an Order.* When a candidate shall have been duly elected, but before he receives an Order, and objection is made to his advancement by a Member, such objection shall operate as a Rejection of the candidate and his fee shall be refunded. The action shall be entered upon the records of the Commandery as Candidate Rejected by Reason of Objection Made, and no second petition shall be entertained until the expiration of six months.
- b) *After One Order is Conferred.* When Objection is made to the advancement of a candidate after he shall have received one of the Orders, it is the duty of the Commander to order the Sir Knight so objecting to file written Charges forthwith; the Commandery shall proceed to investigate said Charges and, if the same not be proven, the Order shall be conferred upon such candidate as if no charges had been made. Should Charges be proven, then the candidate may be further advanced only as provided for under Regulation 33.04. Provided, however, that should the Sir Knight making objection fail to file Charges within thirty days after the Commander's Order, the Commandery may proceed to confer the Order as though no objection had been made.

#### **36.03. Irregular Conferral; Healing.**

When a Knight Templar has been created irregularly, the Grand Commander may Heal him, or may authorize a Commandery or a Commander to do so, thus correcting what may have been done amiss.

## **CHAPTER 37**

### **Forms and Ceremonies**

#### **37.001. Division and Parts.**

Regulation of the Forms and Ceremonies recognized by the Supreme Chivalric Law admits of division and classification into three Parts *videlicet*:

- a) Ritual,
- b) Tactics, and
- c) Uniforms.

#### **PART 1 – RITUAL.**

##### **37.101. Deviation Forbidden.**

The Official Ritual of this Grand Commandery is as promulgated and printed by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A.; no deviation shall be permitted therefrom.

##### **37.102. Printed Rituals.**

- a) The Grand Recorder shall furnish a copy of the Grand Encampment Rituals to each Grand Officer, each of which shall return the same to the Grand Recorder immediately upon his retirement from office. The Grand Recorder is deemed, with the Grand Commander, co-custodian of all rituals furnished the Grand Commandery. As of the Annual Installation of Grand Officers, a record shall be made listing each such ritual by number and providing space for signature of the Officer to whom the same is entrusted for the ensuing year. If any Grand Officer shall lose or misplace the copy or copies entrusted to his care, he shall pay the charge therefor established, from time to time, by the Grand Encampment.
- b) Recorders of Constituent Commanderies shall furnish a copy of the Grand Encampment Rituals to each Commandery Officer, each of which shall return the same to the Recorder immediately upon his retirement from office. Constituent Commanderies shall purchase Grand Encampment Rituals for officers of the Commandery, or for Individual Sir Knights not Officers, or exchange old rituals for new through the Office of the Grand Recorder by paying the charge therefor required by the Grand Encampment; or, with the return of an old ritual, a discounted sum as may be established. The Recorder of each Constituent Commandery is deemed, with the Commander, co-custodian of all rituals furnished the Commandery. As of the Annual Installation of Officers, a record shall be made listing each ritual by number and providing space for signature of the Officer to whom the same is entrusted for the ensuing year. If any Officer shall lose or misplace the copy or copies entrusted to his care, he shall pay the charge therefor established, from time to time, by the Grand Encampment. It is the duty of the Installing Officer of Constituent Commanderies to determine that the rituals are in possession of the incoming Commander at his time of installation.

When a Charter is Arrested, or when a Commandery surrenders its Charter, and all rituals are not returned, then such rituals shall be charged to the Sir Knights who last gave receipt therefor and, upon their failure to produce such ritual or rituals, there shall be entered a charge against such Sir Knights, on the books of the Grand Recorder, equal in amount to the charges established, from time to time, by the Grand Encampment; and the amount so charged must be paid before the Grand Recorder shall issue a Certificate of Good Standing.

**37.103. Holy Bible; Use and Display.**

The use and display of the Holy Bible in the Forms and Ceremonies of the Grand Commandery and Constituent Commanderies shall be in this wise:

- a) It will be displayed at all Conclaves of the Grand Commandery and Constituent Commanderies, on a stand, pedestal, or small Altar in front of the Prelate's Station on the floor of the Asylum, to the left (South) of the U.S. Flag. It shall be placed with the top to the East, opened on the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter XXVIII; upon its pages shall be placed a small wooden Passion Cross displayed at its left (South) and the Square and Compasses displayed at its right (North).
- b) It will be opened by the Grand Prelate or Prelate immediately after the Conclave is declared Convened or Opened, and closed by the Grand Prelate or Prelate when the Conclave is declared Adjourned or Closed.
- c) The Altar or Stand upon which it rests shall be covered with a black or white cloth cover, on the front of which a red Passion Cross may be emblazoned.
- d) It will be displayed on the Triangle during the partaking of the Libations, and be then opened on the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter XVIII.
- e) It will be displayed on the Altar in the Prelate's Apartment, during the conferral of the Order of the Temple, and be then opened on the Book of Isaiah, Chapter VIII.

**37.104. Orders Authorized.**

The Orders authorized to be conferred by a Constituent Commandery under a Charter from this Grand Commandery shall be those of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta (including the Degree of Knight of St. Paul, or the Mediterranean Pass), the Order of the Temple, and no other. The Orders of Knights Crusaders of the Cross is conferred only in an emergent Convocation of that Order under the authority of this Grand Commandery.

**37.105. Funeral Service.**

The Funeral Service of the Orders of Masonic Knighthood or the Knight Templar Memorial Service, as the same have been adopted by the Grand Encampment, are authorized for use in this Grand Commandery. Every Constituent Commandery has the right, and it is the duty of its members when requested by its Commander, to turn out in the funeral procession of a Sir Knight, without Dispensation. All Sir Knights affiliated with a Commandery, whether or not sojourning in the jurisdiction of a Constituent Commandery, are entitled, as of right, to burial with the Funeral Honors of Knighthood upon their previous request or that of their families. Unaffiliated Sir Knights are not so entitled, as of right, but a Commandery extending such Honors is no wise in violation of Templar Law.

**37.106. Christmas and Easter Services.**

Every Constituent Commandery has the right, and it is the duty of its members when so requested by its Commander, to turn out in public procession on attendance of Christmas and Easter Services, without Dispensation.

**37.107. Ceremonies of Constitution and Installation.**

Ceremonies for the Constitution of New Commanderies and for the Installation of the Officers of Constituent Commanderies and of the Grand Commandery having been promulgated shall appear in the Appendices of these Regulations.

**PART 2 – TACTICS.****37.201. Asylum Tactics.**

The Asylum Tactics, as adopted by the Grand Commandery, shall continue in effect subject to revision or change.

**37.202. Drill Regulations.**

The Drill Regulations adopted at the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment in July 1925 Session, as revised April 1938, shall govern in all matters pertaining thereto.

**37.203. Reception of Grand Officers.**

The Ceremonies for the Reception of Grand Officers shall be those as prescribed in the Manual of Knights Templar Asylum Tactics as adopted by the Grand Commandery (as revised and shall also direct in other Asylum Ceremonies as prescribed in Section 143 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment).

**37.204. Public Appearances, Dispensations.**

- a) It is not necessary for a Constituent Commandery to obtain a Dispensation to attend Divine Services in a body.
- b) It is not necessary to obtain a Dispensation for Sir Knights to appear in full uniform and participate in public appearances or parade composed entirely of Masonic Bodies.
- c) It is necessary for a Constituent Commandery to obtain a Dispensation to appear in civic parade.
- d) It is not necessary to obtain a Dispensation for a Commandery to join in a Public Installation of Officers with other Masonic Bodies within the jurisdiction of the Constituent Commandery.

**PART 3 – UNIFORMS.****37.301. Dress Uniforms.**

- a) The Templar Dress Uniform shall conform in all respects and particulars to the provisions prescribed by this Grand Commandery.
- b) All Commanders, Past Commanders, and Grand Commandery Officers of all ranks shall wear gold where metal appears; all Officers below rank of Commander, and all Sir Knights shall wear silver where metal appears; provided, however, that specifications for swords and belts shall be as hereinafter set forth.
- c) Cordons (also called “fourrageres” or “aiguillettes”) shall be worn as follows:
  - (1) Past District Deputy Grand Commanders – Red
  - (2) District Instructors and Members of the Committee on Work – White
  - (3) Inspector General – Yellow
  - (4) Past Grand Officers (other than Past Grand Commander) – Alternate rows of Red and Gold
  - (5) Any braided cord will be worn under the arm with plain cords outside the arm as specified in the Manual of Public Ceremonies.



**37.302. Dress Uniform; Specifications.**

- a) **Dress Coat.** The Dress Coat for Sir Knights shall be U.S. Navy service style, double breasted, semi-fitting sack coat, with roll collar, peak lapels, seam back, no vent, and two rows of three buttons each on front of coat. The length shall be one inch below crotch line. It shall have two lower set-in pockets, one set-in pocket without flap on left breast and one inside breast pocket on right side. The color shall be black, but may be of broadcloth, gabardine, tropical worsted, or other lightweight material. Buttons down the front line shall be plain cross and crown black buttons. Two detachable belt hooks, one on each side at the waist. Sleeve cuffs shall close without buttons. Properly centered on the left breast pocket welt, the abbreviation "Fla." and the number of the owner's Commandery shall be embroidered in one-half inch block letters with silver bullion on a piece of black cloth and applied. On the center of each sleeve, a red silk-velvet Passion Cross, one and one-half inches high, shall be set one and one-half inches from the edge. Optionally, the sleeve cross may be a Passion Cross of bright red silk velvet, embroidered on each edge with one row of No. 26 silver-plated bullion embroidery and no rays. The optional cross, including embroidery, shall be two inches in height; cross arms one and one-third inches long; the center of the cross between edges of embroidery shall be three-sixteenths of an inch wide, with no twisted bullion at the several corners or angles of the cross. Coats may be full, half, or quarter lined as desired, and will always be worn buttoned. The dress coat will have a slit on the left side to accommodate a Navy frog-type attachment for the sword, but Sir Knights having belts may wear the same with propriety. Sir Knights possessing or having access to the use of a black cloth Templar dress coat of the double-breasted frock coat style or pattern may wear the same, with propriety. A Sir Knight possessing or having access to the use of a Templar three (3) button dress coat styled to close with two buttons only and with two longer set-pockets with flaps may wear the same, with propriety. Any accoutrements such as buttons, sleeve crosses, etc. provided by the manufacturer must conform to the regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida.
- (1) *Dress Coat for Commanders and Past Commanders.* Dress coats for Commanders and Past Commanders shall be the basic specification, with the substitution of gold for silver in all cases.
  - (2) *Dress Coat for Grand Commandery Officers.* Dress coats for Grand Commandery Officers shall follow the basic specification, save that all metals shall be gold and the sleeve cross shall be a Templar Cross (cross patee'), one and one-half inches square, of red silk velvet embroidered with gold bullion without rays.
  - (3) *Dress Coat for Past Grand Commanders.* Dress coats for Past Grand Commanders shall follow the basic specification, save that all metal shall be gold and the sleeve cross shall be a Templar Cross of royal purple silk velvet, one and on-half inches square, embroidered with gold bullion without rays.
- b) **Trousers.** Trousers for all Sir Knights shall be of the same material as the coast, of plain design, and with no cuffs. There shall be two side pockets, two hip pockets, and one fob pocket on right front. There shall be seven belt loops with one and one-half inches clearance inside, suspender buttons inside waistbands, plain seams, and zipper or button front.
- c) **Chapeau.** The chapeau shall be a military chapeau, trimmed with black silk velvet binding, with one white ostrich plume not less than seven inches wide extending from front to rear and continued not more than three inches beyond rear peak, and having a black under plume. The front and rear peaks of the chapeau shall extend four and one-fourth inches from the head, front peak to have one-half roll upwards at outer end.

There shall be a bow of back silk velvet ribbon at the base of the front beak for a plume socket. The side of the chapeau shall be beveled, being one inch smaller at the top than at the base. On the left side there shall be an oval black satin rosette, five inches high and four inches wide, and composed of not less than 33 points in single fold, on top of which is laid one row of pleated black silk ribbon in folds one-eighth to one-quarter inch wide, displaying the points of the rosette; an oval black silk velvet rosette, three and one-quarter inches high by two and five-eighths inches wide is laid on top of this, displaying the pleated satin ribbon about three-eighths to one-half inch around the edge of the velvet. A red silk velvet Passion Cross, three inches high and two inches wide shall be laid on the velvet rosette. Optionally, a dead silver Passion Cross, without rays, three inches long by two inches wide may be laid on the rosette. A storm-proof cover shall be provided for each chapeau.

- (1) *Chapeau for Commanders and Past Commanders.* The chapeau for Commanders and Past Commanders shall be of the basic design, save that the cross on the rosette shall be embroidered in gold with rays added. It shall be trimmed with gold-plated wire vellum lace, one and one-eighth inches wide, laid diagonally across both front and back peaks. A half-round gilt tassel shall be added to the front peak of chapeau.
  - (2) *Chapeau for Grand Commandery Officers.* The chapeau for Grand Commandery Officers shall be of the basic design, and shall have gold embroidered Templar Crosses with red silk velvet center laid on the rosette.
  - (3) *Chapeau for Past Grand Commanders.* The chapeau for Past Grand Commanders shall be as for Grand Commandery Officers, save that the Templar Crosses shall have centers of purple silk velvet.
- d) **Sword.** The basic sword shall be of straight pattern, helmet pommel, white grip with inlaid silver Passion Cross, and a cross guard with Templar Cross at juncture with blade. The scabbard shall be polished steel, upper mount with two rings, lower or terminal mount with Templar Cross and one ring. All metal parts shall be chrome or nickel-plated. A cloth cover shall be provided for all swords. Optionally, the sword may have the hilt etched with the owner's monogram on one side and a Passion Cross on the other, a chain may join the pommel and guard, the blade may be etched with the owner's name in Old English texts and the scabbard may be etched with emblematic mountings. Plating may be of silver.
- (1) *Sword for Commanders and Past Commanders.* The sword for Commanders and Past Commanders shall be of standard design with all plating in gold. The Passion Cross shall have rays added.
  - (2) *Sword for Grand Commandery Officers.* The sword for Grand Commandery Officers shall be the same as for Commanders and Past Commanders, save that the Passion Cross shall be replaced by a Templar Cross.
- e) **Belt.** The basic belt, if worn instead of the Navy-style frog, shall be of black leather, one and three-quarters inches wide; the plate shall be oblong, same width as belt, with red hard-enameled Passion Cross in center and the words, *In Hoc Signo Vincas*, in semicircular design, extending over cross. There shall be two short and one long leather slings with swivel snaps, suspended from slides on belt. All metal parts to be chrome or nickel-plated. Optionally, the belt may be faced with black silk and silver wire lace in parallel lines (four of silver and three black) with three hard-soldered barreled chain slings, one long and two short. All metal work shall be silver-plated.

- (1) *Belt for Commanders and Past Commanders.* The belt for Commanders and Past Commanders shall be the same as for Sir Knights except that it shall be faced with gold lace upon which three rows of black silk lace is laid and all metal work shall be gold-plated. Optionally, the gold lace shall be of gold wire.
  - (2) *Belt for Grand Commandery Officers.* The belt for Grand Commandery Officers shall be the same as for Commanders and Past Commanders, save that the Passion Cross shall be replaced by a Templar Cross enameled in red.
  - (3) *Belt for Past Grand Commanders.* The belt for Past Grand Commanders shall be the same as for Grand Commandery Officers, save that the silk facing shall be of purple rather than black and the Templar Cross shall be enameled in purple.
- f) **Shirt, Tie, Socks, and Shoes.** For all Sir Knights, regardless of rank, shirts shall be of plain white with white rolled collars; ties shall be plain black, tied in four-in-hand; sock shall be black; shoes shall be black and of military dress style.
- g) **Gloves.** Gloves of buff-colored lisle thread shall be worn in full dress. Provided, however, that white gloves shall be worn for funeral or Divine Services, and during conferral of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross.
- h) **Insignia and Jewels.** Insignia of rank, shoulder straps, and jewels of office shall be only those prescribed by the Grand Encampment.
- i) **Prelate's and Ceremonial Robes.**
- (1) *Prelate's Robe.* The Regulation Robe of the Prelate of the Grand Commandery and of Constituent Commanderies shall consist of under-robos, mantle or over-robos, stole and biretta according to Section 253 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.
  - (2) *When Worn.* The Prelate shall wear his Robes of Office while officiating in the conferring of the Orders and may wear them outside the Asylum when attending a Templar funeral or religious service. At all other times, he shall wear the regulation Knight Templar Uniform of this Grand Jurisdiction and the jewel of his office.
  - (3) *Red Cross and Order of Malta.* The Ceremonial Robes, dress, and accouterments of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and of the Order of Malta shall be as prescribed in the Ritual.
- j) **Non-Regulation Accouterments.** Accouterments not provided for by these Regulations shall not be part of the Regular Dress Uniform. Fatigue caps, traveling caps gauntlets, and Knight Templar Aprons are not approved for use in this Grand Commandery, except when worn to reflect historical development of the uniform or as otherwise stipulated in these Regulations. Provided, however, that Sir Knights sojourning or having Dual Membership may wear the regulation uniforms of their own jurisdictions, notwithstanding any Regulation herein to the contrary.
- k) **Masonic Collar, Wearing by Grand Commander.** When the Grand Commander (or a Past Grand Commander) wears civilian attire (i.e., business suit, sport coat and tie, or formalwear), he is authorized to wear the jeweled insignia of his office in the form of a Masonic collar.
- l) **Knights Templar Apron, Wearing by Grand Commander.** When the Grand Commander wears his Masonic collar and jewel of office, he is authorized to wear a black triangular Knights Templar apron with gold accouterments. The apron shall be worn according to current Florida Masonic protocol.

**37.303. Uniform for the Order of the Temple.**

When conferring the Order of the Temple upon a candidate, the Officers of a Commandery must be fully clothed in the Dress Uniform prescribed by the Grand Commandery of Florida.37.304. Swords, Wearing.

Swords shall be worn when attending Divine Service and at other public appearances. Provided, however, that the Grand Commander or a Constituent Commander may, when requiring or inviting attendance at Divine Service, specify omission of swords.

**37.305. When Uniforms Unavailable.**

In the event of a national emergency which would make the securing of uniforms impossible, a fee ample for the purpose of purchasing a uniform under normal conditions shall be collected by all Constituent Commanderies, from those required to possess the same, in this Grand Jurisdiction.

**37.306. Officers to Wear Jewels.**

All Officers of the Grand Commandery and of Constituent Commanderies shall wear, during their incumbency, the jewels of their respective office as are prescribed in Chapter XXI of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

**37.307. Insignia of Rank and Shoulder Straps.**

The Emblems to be used or worn on the uniforms of the various Officers and Members of the Grand Commandery and of the Constituent Commanderies to denote the rank of such persons in the Order shall be as are set forth in Section 241, Chapter 17, of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment. The shoulder straps to be worn by the various Officers of the Grand Commandery and of the Constituent Commanderies shall be worn on the shoulder, seam at the top of the shoulder, and shall be of the form authorized and described in Sections 243 and 244, together with the limitations as to the wearing of the same as set forth in Section 245 and 246, all of Chapter 17 of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

**37.308. Only Templar Jewels To Be Worn.**

Only Templar Jewels are to be worn on Templar Uniforms. Meritorious Jewels, Knight Crusader of the Cross Jewel, Badge of Commandery, Order of Malta, and Order of Red Cross may be worn on the left breast, placed in order named, on a line with the third button on the coat. The Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Ribbon shall be worn directly above (touching the top of) the left breast pocket welt and centered on the embroidered Commandery designation cloth. When worn, the Red cloth band shall be on the right toward the center of the breast.

←“red” toward center of breast



Any Sir Knight honored with a second Meritorious Service Ribbon shall affix the designated 5-point star in the center of the ribbon. Additional stars may be affixed for subsequent awards so as to also be centered in line on the ribbon.

**37.309. Crosses of Malta.**

Each Constituent Commandery shall present to each Sir Knight, at his reception into the Order of Malta, a regulation Cross of the Order of Malta.

**37.310. Grand Commandery Officers, Appointed.**

- a) Appointed Grand Commandery Officers shall be entitled to wear an officer cordon, chapeau rosette, sleeve patches, and belt buckle as authorized for an Officer of this Grand Commandery, together with the appropriate shoulder strap of their office, during their incumbency as an appointed Grand Commandery Officer or until their successor is appointed and installed; thereafter, they shall return these items to the Office of the Grand Recorder.
- b) The Grand Commandery shall furnish the appropriate accouterments to the Appointed Grand Commandery Officers for use during their incumbency.
- b) Past Grand Commandery Officers (except Past Grand Commander) shall be entitled to wear a cordon as described in these Regulations.

**37.311. Summer Uniform.**

The Summer Uniform as authorized by the Grand Encampment may be worn during the months of June, July, and August except for the Installation of Officers and conferring of the Order of the Temple.

- 1) **[From Grand Encampment Regulations, 2011].** *“Each Grand Commandery may at their discretion adopt the uniform herein described making use of the optional sections as they choose. Further this uniform may only be used for the period beginning with Memorial Day, and continuing through Labor Day. A Commandery will either make use of this Summer Uniform, the Cap and Mantle, or the Regulation Uniform when appearing in public, but may not appear attired as a group using a combination (no mixing of uniforms).”*
- 2) Description –
  - a) Pants: Plain Black as prescribed.
  - b) Shirt: White shirt, short sleeves, of military style with shoulder epaulets and two flap pockets, one on each breast.
  - c) Tie: Black tie optional at the discretion of the Senior Officer present.
  - d) Sword Belt & Sword: As prescribed. No slings to be used.
  - e) Shoes: As prescribed.
  - f) Name Badge: The name badge shall be of metal, gold color, ½-inch wide by 2½-inch long, with the full name of the wearer in black letters to be worn centered above the wearer’s right pocket.
  - g) Malta Jewel: A Malta Pin of current design, available from the Grand Encampment Office, shall be worn centered over the wearer’s left pocket. (Option instead of pin: A metal ribbon bar, representing Commandery Jewels, to be worn centered over the wearer’s left pocket. The metal bar shall contain three black panels, each surrounded with a silver line, each panel 1-inch wide. One, the left panel, shall be a miniature Red Cross Jewel, on the center panel shall be centered a miniature Malta Jewel, and on the right panel, shall be a Templar Cross with a Cross and Crown in the center).
  - h) Shoulder Insignia: For Grand Commandery Officers: A red Templar Cross surrounded by a gold line, 1-inch square, to be worn in the center of each epaulet. For Past Grand Commanders: The same except the color shall be purple. For Past Commanders, Commanders, Generalissimos, and Captains General: A metal bar, ¾-inch by 1½-inch of green or red color surrounded by a gold or silver line, as

appropriate to the office, with appropriate emblems of their rank as currently prescribed to be worn centered on each epaulet. Essentially these are miniatures of currently prescribed shoulder straps in metal, and of similar configuration.

- i) Collar Insignia (optional): For Grand or Past Grand Commandery Officers, shall be ½-inch gold cut-out letters with the abbreviation of the State as prescribed by the US Postal Service (no periods) to be worn on the wearer's left collar, and ½-inch gold "KT" cut out letters (without periods) on the right collar. For Commanders or Past Commanders, ½-inch gold State Abbreviations as above on the left collar with ½-inch cut-out gold Commandery Number on right right collar. Sir Knights below the rank of Commander are the same as for Commanders and Past Commanders, except the color shall be silver. These insignia to be worn centered on the collar and parallel with the top edge and set back ¾-inch from the leading edge of the collar.
- j) Cap: For Past Grand Commanders: Military style Naval Garrison Cap with white top, black band, and black visor with one row of gold oak leaves and acorns, metal purple Templar Cross, 2¼-inch square, fixed to the front of the black band and a gold chin strap attached with gold buttons. For Grand Commanders: Same as above except red Templar Cross. For Grand Commandery Officers: Same as above except plain black visor. For Commanders and Past Commanders: Same as above except with a 1¾-inch by 2-inch red metal Passion Cross trimmed in gold with rays. For all other Sir Knights: Same as above except using a red metal passion cross trimmed in silver and a silver chin strap attached with silver buttons.

### **37.312. Alternate Official Uniform – Cap and Mantle.**

In lieu of the regulation Templar uniform, a Constituent Commandery may adopt the use of the Cap and Mantle as their official uniform. These can be worn for all Templar occasions, provided that when appearing in public, the entire Commandery MUST be dressed in like manner – either in Uniform or all in Cap and Mantle. The Cap and Mantle is prescribed as follows:

- A. **TEMPLAR MANTLE:** In general, the mantle shall be of the style worn by medieval Templars and by members of the Sovereign Great Priories. It shall consist of white material, with hood, reaching to approximately twelve inches from the floor and ornamented as follows:
  - 1) *For members of the Order below the rank of Commander:* The mantle shall be of white; the hood to be lined with silky white material; the Passion Cross in bright red, nine inches in height, on the left breast; the mantle to tie closely around the neck with white cords with white tassels.
  - 2) *For Commanders and Past Commanders:* The mantle shall have a single red ribbon, one inch wide, stitched one-half inch from the outer edge; the hood to be lined with a similar red material; the Passion Cross in red with gold rays, nine inches in height, on the left breast; the mantle to tie closely around the neck with red cords with red tassels.
  - 3) *For Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers entitled to permanent rank:* The mantle shall have the ribbon of a Past Commander and an additional red ribbon one-half inch wide, stitched one-half inch from said ribbon; the Templar Cross in red, nine inches in height, on the left breast; the mantle to tie closely around the neck with red cords with red tassels.

- 4) *For the Grand Commander:* The mantle shall have a single red ribbon, two inches wide, stitched one inch from the outer edge; the hood line in red with a similar material; the Templar Cross in red, nine inches in height, on the left breast; the mantle to tie closely around the neck with red cords with red tassels. *For Past Grand Commanders:* The mantle shall have a single purple ribbon, one and one-half inches wide, stitched three-quarters of an inch from the outer edge; the hood lined in purple with similar material; and the Templar Cross in purple, nine inches in height, on the left breast; the mantle to tie closely around the neck with purple cords with purple tassels.
- B. **TEMPLAR CAP:** The Templar cap shall follow the design and specifications of the style worn by the Sovereign Great Pories, three inches in depth and very slightly flared at the top and ornamented as follows:
- 1) *For all members of the Order below the rank of Past Grand Commander:* The cap shall be of bright red velvet (or silk) and the cross displayed on the front of the cap shall be appropriate to rank – red Passion Cross for members below the rank of Commander; red Passion Cross with gold rays for Commanders and Past Commanders; and red Templar Cross for all Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers entitled to permanent rank.
  - 2) *For Past Grand Commanders:* The cap shall be of purple velvet (or silk) with purple Templar cross.
  - 3) *For all Ranks:* The Cross shall be two inches high.
- C. **COMMANDERY BADGE:** The distinctive badge of a Constituent Commandery shall be worn on the right breast of the mantle. The badge will be no less than five inches or more than eight inches high. The badge of the Commandery shall be superimposed upon the Malta Cross, or the Malta Cross shall be incorporated within the Commandery badge. The Grand Commandery Committee on Jewels and Uniforms shall approve the design. No other ornamentation or Templar jewels or recognition shall be worn on the mantle.
- D. **SWORD AND SCABBARD:** The sword and scabbard shall conform to the regulations of the Grand Encampment.
- E. **SWORD SLING:** The sword shall be suspended, when required to be worn, on a sling to be worn over the right shoulder, of black leather one and one-half inches wide, of tailored or adjustable length according to the height of the Sir Knight, to terminate in two straps with snaps to fasten to the two upper rights of the scabbard.

## **CHAPTER 38**

### **Courtesy Work**

#### **38.01. Courtesy Work.**

A Constituent Commandery may confer any and all of the Chivalric Orders upon a candidate elected by another Regular Commandery, provided that written avouchment and request for such courtesy work be presented from the Candidate's Commandery and that the Recorder notify said Commandery that its request has been granted.

#### **38.02. Commander May Arrange.**

The Commander may arrange for duly elected candidates of his Commandery to receive the Orders in a Commandery other than his own.

## **CHAPTER 39**

### **Visitation and Avouchment**

#### **39.01. Reception of Visitors.**

No one shall be admitted as a visitor unless he shall regularly have received the Degrees of Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason, Select Master, and the Chivalric Orders; and not then except by unanimous consent of all Members present, and after by strict trial or lawful information he shall be found worthy. Provided, however, that nothing in this Section shall exclude candidates from the right to visit while the Commandery is Working in such Order to which they have attained.

## **CHAPTER 40**

### **Demits and Affiliations**

#### **40.01. Demits.**

- a) A member, upon written request presented in Open Commandery, is entitled to the vote of the Commandery if he is not indebted to the Commandery and no Charges are pending against him. Such request severs his membership.
- b) If a Sir Knight holding a Demit and re-acquiring residence within the jurisdiction of the Commandery granting said Demit, or elsewhere in the State of Florida, desires to renew his connection with a Commandery, his Petition for Affiliation and ballot thereon is required.
- c) A Member paying his dues in full and applying for a Demit prior to December 31st is not chargeable with dues for the following year for want of action by the Commandery, as action thereon should have been taken on or before December 31st.

#### **40.02. Commandery Certificate of Good Standing.**

A member of a Commandery in this or any other Grand Jurisdiction, upon certification from the Recorder of his Home Commandery that said Petitioner is in good standing, may petition for membership in any Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction without having obtained a Demit from his Commandery, such petition taking the same course as any other Petition for Affiliation. If such petition is approved by unanimous ballot of the Commandery Petitioned, such action shall be certified by the Recorder of the Commandery Petitioned to the Recorder of the Commandery of which the Petitioner is a member, accompanied by the petitioner's request for a Demit. Upon such Demit being granted, the same shall be filed with the Recorder of the Commandery Petitioned and said petitioner shall then be declared a member of the Commandery Petitioned. All Petitions for Affiliation shall be made upon the blanks, or copies, thereof, prepared for that purpose by the Grand Recorder.

## **CHAPTER 41**

### **Commanderies Under Dispensation**

#### **41.01. Authority and Status.**

A Commandery Under Dispensation is a creation of the Grand Commandery, by virtue of a Constitutional provision. It possesses no power nor authority except such as is expressly granted in the Dispensation. Its existence extends only to the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery to which its authority, records, and documents must be surrendered.



**41.02. Current Dues Required.**

If a Dispensation or Charter be applied for, or a continuation of Dispensation, satisfactory evidence must appear that the petitioners are not in arrears for fees or dues to the Chartered Commandery of which they are respectively members; otherwise, their petition must be refused.

**41.03. Standards Required.**

The records of a Commandery U.D. should exhibit a fair specimen of that intelligence and regularity of proceedings which are characteristic of a well-regulated Commandery of Chivalric Masons before a Charter be granted, and there should be evidence of fraternal prosperity.

**41.04. Status of Officers.**

The Officers of a Commandery U.D. work under the immediate supervision and control of the Grand Commander. Such official honors as appertain to duly elected and installed Officers of Chartered or Warranted Commanderies do not inure to them.

## **CHAPTER 42 Defunct Commanderies**

**42.01. Disposition of Assets.**

If any Commandery in this Grand Jurisdiction shall cease to exist, save for the purposes of Consolidation, the last Commander, Generalissimo, or Captain General of such Commandery shall, within thirty days thereafter, transmit to the Grand Recorder all funds, books, papers, jewels, furniture, robes, seal, and other property or evidences thereof, together with the Charter or Warrant if the same has not been arrested or removed by order of the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery.

**42.02. Members of Defunct or Dormant Commanderies.**

Sir Knights who were members, in good standing, of Commanderies whose Charters or Warrants have been surrendered or arrested may obtain from the Grand Recorder a Certificate of Good Standing upon the payment of such fees as the Grand Commandery may, from time to time, establish, upon which they can make Application for Membership to any Commandery.

## **CHAPTER 43 Recognitions and Awards**

**43.01. Past Rank and Honors.**

At the discretion of the Presiding Officer, the Grand Commandery and Constituent Commanderies shall extend such honors and privileges to Past Grand Officers, Recipients of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor, Knight Commanders of the Temple, Distinguished Capitular and Cryptic Companions, Sir Knights, Grand Officers of sister Grand Jurisdictions, Grand Officers of Symbolic Masonry, and other distinguished Masons as custom and circumstance require.

**43.02. Honorary Rank.**

Honorary rank may be conferred by this Grand Commandery, but not by a Chartered or Warranted Commandery.

**43.03. Awards of Distinction.**

This Grand Commandery recognizes and approves the Award of Distinction known as the Knights Templar Cross of Honor (awarded by the Grand Encampment), the Cross and Crown Plaque (for membership gain), the Beauceant Award (for Commandery general achievement), the Jesse E. Ramsdell Trophy (for exemplary Ritual and Tactics in the Full Form Opening and Order of the Temple), the Richard John Carr Trophy (for exemplary Ritual and Tactics in the 9-Man Opening), the Sir Francis Drake Award (for general excellence), and the L. Gordon Cooper Astronaut Award (to DeMolay Chapters). The criteria for such awards are as severally promulgated by the Grand Encampment or Committees of this Grand Jurisdiction. No Commandery shall compete for both the Jesse E. Ramsdell Trophy and the Richard J. Carr Trophy in the same year.

This Grand Commandery recognizes and approves the Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Ribbon awarded annually to recognize individual Sir Knights for their noteworthy accomplishments and exemplary service to this Grand Commandery far exceeding that which was required or expected. At his discretion, the Grand Commander may award up to 8 ribbons during his term in office (except that the awards for the 2002-2003 Templar year shall be unrestricted). The Meritorious Service Ribbon shall be similar in shape and size to ribbons awarded by the U.S. Military Services and shall consist of a metal bar 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inches long by  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inches wide with stick pin back, and covered with 3 equal cloth bands of (from left to right) red, white, and royal blue. The Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Ribbon shall be worn as stipulated in these Regulations.

Nothing in this Regulation shall prevent a Sir Knight from receiving more than one Grand Commandery Meritorious Service Ribbon. He shall, however, only be entitled to wear one ribbon. For each subsequent award, he shall be entitled to affix a 5/16-inch, goldtone, 5-point star to indicate that he has received additional recognition. Subsequent awards shall be worn as stipulated in these Regulations.

This Grand Commandery recognizes and approves the Award of Distinction known as Knight of the Cross of Jerusalem (for Order of DeMolay Knights going above and beyond the call of duty). This award is exclusively for active DeMolays who are members of the DeMolay Order of Knighthood, not Advisors. The DeMolay Knights will be honored and knighted at their Annual Conclave. The Grand Commander may knight a maximum of seven during any given year. A short ritual shall be written. The knighting shall be done by the Grand Commander or his representative. The Knights of the Cross of Jerusalem will be distinguished by wearing a black and white sash with a red Cross of Jerusalem on the upper central white portion of the sash. It shall be worn from their right shoulder to their left side. The Knight of the Cross of Jerusalem may be allowed to wear his award at any non-tiled event or function of the Grand Commandery or a Constituent Commandery.

**43.04. Grand Honors.**

This Grand Commandery recognizes no form of Grand Honor save such forms of Reception through the Lines as are provided in its Forms and Ceremonies. Visiting Sir Knights, at the discretion of the appropriate Presiding Officer, may receive such reception as may be provided by the Forms and Ceremonies of their respective jurisdictions.

**43.05. Certificates of Longevity and Presentation.**

Certificates of Longevity shall be of two classes:

- a) A Sir Knight who has been a Knight Templar in good standing for a period of Twenty-Five (25) and Forty (40) years, and who has not been disciplined, suspended, nor expelled for an offense involving moral turpitude, and is a member of a Florida Commandery, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of such length of membership by the Recorder of his Commandery of the Grand Recorder, and said evidence being certified correct and final judgment being given on the eligibility by the Grand Recorder and approved by the Grand Commander, shall be entitled to receive a Certificate, a Silver Card, and a Silver Lapel Button issued by the Grand Commander; provided, however, that the Commandery shall carry the name of the Sir Knight on its regular roll of membership and shall pay to the Grand Commandery all annual per capita taxes and assessments for said Sir Knight.
- b) A Sir Knight who has been a Knight Templar in good standing for a period of Fifty (50), Fifty-Five (55), Sixty (60), Sixty-Five (65), and Seventy (70) years, and who has not been disciplined, suspended, nor expelled for an offense involving moral turpitude, and is a member of a Florida Commandery, upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of such length of membership by the Recorder of his Commandery of the Grand Recorder, and such evidence being certified correct and final judgment being given on the eligibility by the Grand Recorder and approved by the Grand Commander, shall be presented by the Grand Commandery a Certificate, a Gold Card, and a Gold Lapel Button; and if twenty-five years of such service have been in a Florida Commandery or Commanderies, shall be exempt from all Grand Commandery all annual per capita tax, dues, and assessments.
- c) Forms for applying for Perpetual Membership class and under the Certificate of Membership (longevity) class will be furnished by the Office of the Grand Recorder.
- d) The Certificates for Twenty-Five, Forty, Fifty, Fifty-Five, Sixty, Sixty-Five, and Seventy year membership, the silver and gold cards, and the silver and gold lapel buttons shall be obtained from the Office of the Grand Recorder.
- e) **Presentation Ceremonies.**
  - (1) At the time of presentation of the Fifty, Fifty-Five, Sixty, Sixty-Five, and Seventy Year Certificate, Gold Card, and Gold Lapel Button, the Sir Knight receiving same shall be entitled to receive any Chivalric ceremony of recognition as the Committee on Work may hereafter promulgate.
  - (2) When a recognized Grand Jurisdiction requests that one of its members be presented a Fifty, or greater, Year Certificate by a Florida Commandery, the recipient shall be accorded any ceremony or accolade recognized or requested by that Grand Jurisdiction.
- f) The Grand Recorder shall maintain a supply of lapel buttons in accord with the requirements of this Regulation, which shall be issued as requested by the Recorders of the several Constituent Commanderies, which Constituent Commanderies shall be billed the cost of same. Nothing herein shall preclude the several Grand York Rite Bodies of this State from promulgating a unified design of lapel button and joint presentation ceremony, which unified design and joint ceremony – if promulgated – shall supersede any provision herein to the contrary.

## **CHAPTER 44 Penal Matters**

### **44.01. Penal Jurisdiction.**

Constituent Commanderies have the power to discipline their own Members as well as those who have taken any of the Chivalric Orders; and may, after due notice and trial, Expel, Suspend, or Reprimand for cause.

### **44.02. Procedure.**

The procedure to be followed in all Penal Matters undertaken under the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery and any Constituent Commandery thereof shall be as promulgated under Chapter XII of the Constitution and Statutes and the Disciplinary Rules of the Grand Encampment. Provided, however, that in such cases where there shall be no specific procedure provided by the Grand Encampment, the procedure adopted under the Penal Code of the Grand Lodge of Florida shall be adhered to.

### **44.03. Offenses Against Chivalric Law.**

Offenses against Chivalric Law constituting un-Knightly conduct shall be

Any offense provided under Chapter XII of the Constitution and Statutes and the Disciplinary Rules of the Grand Encampment;

- b) Un-Masonic conduct as defined in the Penal Code of the Grand Lodge of Florida;
- c) Repeatedly and persistently declaring an intention to case – or continue to cast – a blackball against an Applicant for the Order of the Temple on account, as openly expressed, of political or personal differences; or
- d) Any other specific un-Knightly conduct provided in these Regulations.

### **44.04. Loss of Prerequisite Membership.**

A Knight Templar must maintain his membership in a Symbolic Lodge, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and a Council of Royal and Select Masters. If he loses membership in any such body, it is obligatory upon his Commandery to vote to terminate his membership therein; provided, however, that a Knight Templar cannot be deprived of any rights and privileges without due notice and an opportunity to be heard in his own defense. All such actions, relative to forfeiture of membership or reinstatement, shall proceed in the manner set forth in the provisions of Chapter XII of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment.

### **44.05. Suspension.**

- a) When a Knight Templar has been Suspended or Expelled from his Symbolic Lodge, Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, or Council of Royal and Select Masters, for any reason, he shall, after due notice and hearing, with respect to the fact of such suspension or expulsion only, be Suspended or Expelled, as the case may be, from his Commandery.
- b) When a Knight Templar has been Suspended or Expelled from his Commandery solely because of his suspension or expulsion from his Symbolic Lodge, Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, or Council of Royal and Select Masters, restoration in such Lodge, Chapter, or Council shall entitle him to restoration in his Commandery on written application thereof and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave.
- c) When a Knight Templar has been Suspended or Expelled for un-Knightly conduct, he may be stored to membership on Petition if the ballot is unanimous.

## **CHAPTER 45 Amendment**

### **45.01. Notice and Procedure.**

These Regulations may be amended, revised, or changed by Resolution, which must be presented to the Grand Recorder by December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Grand Recorder shall give each Past Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Officer, District Deputy Grand Commander, and Recorder of Constituent Commandery 120 days notice of same (by providing each with a copy of such proposal); and present the Resolution at the next Annual Conclave for adoption. A majority of not less than two-thirds of the qualified members, present and voting, shall be required to adopt the Resolution. Recorders shall read such Resolutions at a Stated Conclave of their Constituent Commandery prior to the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery; and the Constituent Commandery may instruct its representatives regarding its pleasure thereon. [2003]

### **45.02. Repealing Clause.**

All Statutes, Laws, and Regulations heretofore enacted, adopted, or approved, in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

## **CHAPTER 46 Grand Commandery of Florida Investment Policy Statement**

### **46.01 Investment Purpose and Policy**

The purpose of this statement is to establish and communicate the long-term objectives, goals and the investment guidelines of those funds, which should from time to time be assigned to the Registered Investment Advisor(s) and the selected Registered Representative(s) broker-dealer.

The Strategic Investment Policy of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida shall be reviewed and/or revised and set forth for the ensuing Chivalric year at the annual budget and finance meeting in the spring of each year.

The actual Asset Allocation among the available investment vehicles/instruments shall remain a decision of the presiding Grand Commander and in conjunction with the Investments committee of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida.

Funding of the investments shall comprise those monies of the Grand Commandery not considered as operating revenues required to ensure the Grand Commandery to operate one year. This policy is set forth with the intent to protect the Grand Commandery in the event that a loss of one year's projected per capita income or equal to the Pro Forma budget based on previous years expenditures, at the presiding fiduciaries discretion.

Expenditures of realized income available from dividends, interest and capital gains shall not exceed seventy-five (75) percent of such gains, retaining twenty-five (25) percent for growth purposes each fiscal year of the Grand Commandery. In the event that market indices are lower than financial objectives in a given year, access to the twenty-five percent of income annually set aside for growth purposes will be made available to meet operating expenses above per capita returns, not to exceed the Pro Forma approved budget in that fiscal year.

An amount equal to the approved Pro Forma budget shall be set-aside in a liquid, interest bearing account to ensure fiscal responsibilities are expeditiously funded. This account shall be managed at the discretion of the Grand Treasurer and subject to audit and fiscal reporting.

#### **46.02 Investment Objectives**

The primary investment objective for the designated funds is to seek a rate of return comparable to or greater than market indices over a market cycle of three (3) or more years. Average yield for a ten-year market cycle should be managed to achieve the average market indices for that period and such management shall be considered successful and prudent investing for the Craft.

By recommending appropriate Registered Investment Advisor(s)/Manager(s), the Fiduciary and Grand Commandery Investments Committee seek to maintain a moderate to moderately aggressive balanced portfolio consisting of cash equivalents, fixed income and equity investments, diversified globally for maximum potential long term appreciation.

#### **46.03 Investment Strategy**

Maximization of income to augment per capita revenue shall be achieved by investment of the available funds of the Grand Commandery. The funds shall be invested in instruments, which mitigates excessive risk, yet provides an opportunity to obtain a yield equal to or greater than the current standard market indices over a market cycle of three (3) or more years. Investment recommendations of the Grand Commandery Investments Committee, together with the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder, shall be taken under consideration by the current Grand Commander on a quarterly basis. Asset allocation strategy which places forty (40) percent of available funds in minimum risk, principle retaining fixed income accounts, (e.g., annuity mutual funds, bonds, or similar vehicles) and sixty (60) percent of available funds placed in moderate risk, maximum yield return on investment equities (e.g., blue chip stocks and/or high performance stock funds or similar vehicles) shall be a baseline investment position to be reviewed/revised on a quarterly basis.

#### **46.04 Investment Goals**

It shall be the goal of the Grand Commander, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Recorder, and the Grand Commandery Investments Committee, together with the Registered Investment Advisor(s)/Manager(s) to preserve the principle of the designated funds and maximize yield potential, given the Investment Advisor(s)/Manager(s) investment approach and objectives set forth by the above named officers.

The Grand Commandery acknowledges that the economy and financial markets entail risks are times volatile and subject to cycles which can affect performance of the portfolio, either positively or negatively during any given period.

It shall be the function of the Grand Commandery Investments committee together with the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder to monitor and recommend any changes in Advisor(s)/Manager(s) and/or the allocation of assets between Advisor(s)/Manager(s) to the Grand Commander for his action in order to maintain the objectives of the Grand Commandery Investments committee.

#### **46.05 Procedures**

The Grand Treasurer shall keep separate accounting records of the allocated real income and report quarterly in addition to and with the monthly Income and Expense Report. The report shall contain a listing of the investment instruments and their current value.

The Grand Recorder shall receive from the custodian:

- (1) Quarterly performance reports summarizing the portfolio's results.
- (2) Monthly statements summarizing security holdings.

These reports shall be provided to the Grand Commander, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Commandery Investments Committee in a timely manner, ensuring timely financial decisions.

The Registered Representative(s) and each Investment Advisor(s)/Manager(s) will be readily available to discuss portfolio activities and investment strategy. Quarterly reviews shall be held to discuss and evaluate the portfolio's status.

The Investments committee of the Grand Commandery, together with the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder, shall review investment asset allocation quarterly. Reallocation or continued present strategy recommendations shall be made to the Grand Commander, who serves as fiduciary for the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida. Due diligence shall be the watchword of the Grand Officer(s) and the Grand Commandery Investments committeemen, ensuring responsible fiscal accountability to the Craft.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR GRAND COMMANDERY**

The installation may be public, in which event, if the Grand Commandery is at labor, a recess should be taken and labor resumed after the installation is completed. At the time of installation, the Grand Commander, or a Frater acting for him as presiding officer, will select some competent Frater to act as Grand Marshal, under whose direction the officers to be installed will retire to an adjoining room. The Jewels of Office should be placed on the Altar or on a table at the side of the Installing Officer [Marshal returns to Asylum].

GRAND COMMANDER: Eminent Grand Marshal, escort the newly chosen officers into the Asylum. [Under direction of the Grand Marshal, the officers (swords at carry) enter in single file and face the East in the center of the Asylum, the Grand Commander-Elect on the right. Chairs may be placed for the Officers Chosen].

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present these Sir Knights who have been chosen as Officers of this Grand Commandery for the ensuring year and are now ready to enter upon the duties of their several stations. "Officers Chosen, Present SWORDS".

GRAND COMMANDER: As Masons we are charged never to enter upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. "Officers Chosen, Carry SWORDS; Order SWORDS; Commandery - ATTENTION! Sir Knights, UN-COVER." Eminent Grand Prelate, lead our devotions.

GRAND PRELATE: Offers Prayer ending with Lord's Prayer.

GRAND COMMANDER: "Sir Knights, RE-COVER; Officers Chosen, Carry SWORDS; Return SWORDS. Sir Knights not in line Be SEATED." Officers Chosen, before investing you the jewels of your respective offices, it becomes my duty to receive from you the vow of office. Are you willing to take such a vow? [All Assent]. Eminent Grand Marshal, place the Officers Chosen in proper position to take upon themselves the vow of office.

GRAND MARSHAL: "Officers Chosen, Count TWOS; Numbers One, Draw SWORDS; Drop point of sword to the left, grasp hilt with left hand; Numbers Two, Grasp blade with left hand; place your right hand upon your left breast.

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*[ALTERNATIVE – The following may be used to place the officers chosen in proper position].*

GRAND MARSHAL: "Officers Chosen, Count TWOS; Numbers One, Draw SWORDS; Drop point sword to left; Numbers Two, Grasp blade with right hand; Un-cover".

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GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Officers Chosen are in proper position.

GRAND COMMANDER: "Commandery, ATTENTION!; Draw SWORDS; Present SWORDS." Officers Chosen, you will say I, pronounce your names in full, and repeat after me:

I, [NAME], do promise and solemnly vow, that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America; the Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office, to which I have been chosen, to the best of my ability. "Sir Knights not in line, Carry SWORDS; Return SWORDS; Be SEATED.

GRAND MARSHAL: "Officers Chosen, Drop right hand to side; Numbers Two, Relinquish sword blade; Numbers One, grasp hilt with right hand; Carry SWORDS; Return SWORDS; Be SEATED."

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*[ALTERNATIVE – The following should be used when the alternative method of placing in position is used.*

GRAND MARSHAL: "Officers Chosen, Re-COVER; Numbers Two, Relinquish sword blade. Numbers One, Carry SWORDS. Return SWORDS; Be SEATED."

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GRAND COMMANDER: Eminent Grand Marshal, present the Grand Commander-Elect.

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been elected to the office of Grand Commander of Knights Templar of this jurisdiction, and who now declares himself ready for installation.

GRAND COMMANDER: Sir Knight [NAME], having been called by the members of this Grand Commandery to fill the highest position in their gift, I congratulate you upon having received this exalted honor. I invest you with the jewel of your office [Done]. These honors are accompanied by weighty responsibilities. Your authority will at all times be respected, and your orders cheerfully obeyed; but it is expected that you will have a watchful care over the interests of the Order in this jurisdiction and enforce prompt obedience to its Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Regulations; that you will yourself exemplify in your daily walk and conversation the excellent tenets of our Order; that your ears will never be closed to the cry of the widow and the orphan; that you will not turn aside from injured innocence and the wayfaring Frater in distress.

[The Grand Marshal will now conduct the Grand Commander to his station, where he is presented to the Sir Knights by the Installing Officer].

GRAND COMMANDER: "Commandery ATTENTION," Sir Knights, behold your Grand Commander; Grand Commander, behold your Grand Commandery. "Sir Knights, Be SEATED."

[The remaining Grand Officers may then be severally presented and installed and the proclamation made with substantially the same ceremony as is prescribed for Commandery officers].

GRAND COMMANDER: Sir Knight Grand Marshal, you will now issue the Proclamation.

GRAND MARSHAL: "Sir Knights, ATTENTION." Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Valiant Knights of the Temple. The Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida, for the year ensuring, have been duly installed in their respective station. This proclamation is made to the North (one blast of trumpet); to the South (one blast); to the East (one blast); and to the West (grand flourish on trumpet). All true and courteous Knights will take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

[If desired, appropriate music may be used during the ceremony].

The Grand Commander may then address his Fratres.

**APPENDIX B**  
**UNIFORM CODE OF BYLAWS**  
(for Constituent Commanderies)

**ARTICLE I – NAME AND AUTHORITY**

The name of this Commandery shall be [Name] Commandery No. [number], Knights Templar. It exists by virtue of a Charter dated [day, month, & year] from the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida, and is located at [City or other location], Florida.

**ARTICLE II – CONCLAVES**

- 1) The Stated Conclaves of this Commandery shall be held at [hour] P.M., on [day of month] of each month at the Place specified in the Warrant or Charter or otherwise provided by Law. Provided that, by vote of the membership, the Commandery may recess during [dates or months].
- 2) Special Conclaves may be called by the Commander or set by the Commandery for the purpose of conferring the Orders or for such other business as may be prescribed by Law, and at the place of Stated Conclaves, provided that the Grand Commander may authorize the holding of Special Conclaves (for the conferring of the Orders) at another place than that specified in the Charter or Warrant. The notice or summons for all Special Conclaves shall specify the business to be transacted, and none other shall be considered at such Conclave.

**ARTICLE III – QUORUM**

A quorum shall consist of nine members of the Commandery entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to Open the same.

**ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

- 1) The officers of this Commandery shall consist of a Commander, a Generalissimo, a Captain General, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Prelate, a Treasurer, a Recorder, a Standard Bearer, a Sword Bearer, a Warder, a Sentinel, three Guards, and if so desired, three Trustees (for advisory purposes).
- 2) The style of the Commander shall be "Eminent" and of the other Officers "Sir Knight."

**ARTICLE V – ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

- 1) The Annual Election of officers shall take place at the first Stated Conclave in December of each year, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable. [Note: Commanderies whose monthly Conclave is in the third or fourth week of the month may hold their election at the November Conclave].
- 2) The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer, and Recorder shall be elected, and the remaining Officers, with the exception of any Trustees, shall be appointed by the incoming Commander.
- 3) The Trustees, if any, shall be elected one for one year, one for two years, and one for three years; thereafter, one shall be elected each year to serve a three-year term.
- 4) The Annual Installation of Officers shall take place on St. John the Evangelist's Day (December 27), or as soon thereafter as expedient.

**ARTICLE VI – SEAL**

The Seal of the Commandery, as here shown, shall be in the custody of the Recorder

----- [Affix Seal Here] -----

**ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES**

- 1) The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General shall be a Standing Committee on Charity and shall have power to draw Warrants on the Treasurer for any sum not exceeding [amount] Dollars for the relief of any one applicant, and such action shall be reported to the Commandery at the next Stated Conclave.
- 2) The Commander, as soon as convenient after his installation, shall appoint the following Standing Committees, who shall hold office for one year or until their successor shall be appointed:
  - (a) A FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE of three Members whose duty shall be to recommend such appropriations as may be necessary for the current expenses of the ensuing Commandery year. The Generalissimo shall be ex-officio Chairman of this Committee.
  - (b) A COMMITTEE FOR THE VISITATION OF THE SICK of three members whose duty it shall be to endeavor to obtain information relative to all sick Sir Knights and to visit them and to render such care and attention as their case may require, detailing, if necessary, such members of the Commandery as to them shall seem proper, to share with them this fraternal obligation.
  - (c) An ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE of [number] members to provide suitable programs for social gatherings and to perform such duties as may be enjoined upon it by the Commandery, from time to time, for the entertainment of the members.
  - (d) A VIGILANCE COMMITTEE of three members whose shall investigate penal matters and bring such Charges as the Honor of the Order may require. The Captain General shall be ex-officio Chairman.
  - (e) A COMMITTEE ON DELINQUENCY of five members, of which the Eminent Commander and the Recorder shall be two, to inquire into, consider, and report to the Commandery its recommendations in reference to members of the Commandery subject to suspension for non-payment of dues.
  - (f) AN AUDITING COMMITTEE of three members (at the time of the Annual Election of Officers) to audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer and the Recorder at the close of the Templar Year and to make a report on the same at the time of the Installation of Officers or at the next following Conclave.
  - (g) A KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION FUND-RAISING CHAIRMAN whose duty shall be solely the raising of funds, within acceptable, prescribed guidelines, for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and forwarding same to the State Chairman.

**ARTICLE VIII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- 1) It is the duty of the Commander, the Generalissimo, and the Captain General to attend the Conclaves of the Grand Commandery.
- 2) It is the duty of the Commander to preside at each Conclave, and to see that the Officers and Members duly observe the Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the Commandery; the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery; and

the Constitution, Statutes, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A.

- 3) It is the duty of the Treasurer to receive from the Recorder all the monies collected by him on account of the Commandery; to keep a correct account of the same and duly pay all orders drawn on him by the authority of the Commandery; to make regular entries both of receipts and disbursements, and to have his books and vouchers always ready for examination, when called upon for that purpose; to report to the Commandery the state of the funds at each Annual Conclave, and more often if required, and to give such bond and in such amount as shall be directed by the Commandery.
- 4) It is the duty of the Recorder to keep a regular list of the members; to record the transactions of the Commandery which are proper to be converted to writing; to receive all monies paid into the Commandery and promptly pay the same over to the Treasurer; to give due notice when so directed, by advertising or otherwise, of the time of holding each Conclave; to make an annual report to the Commandery, at the Annual Conclave, of the state of the funds of the Commandery, embracing an account of the receipts and expenditures, the dues unpaid and from whom due, for the preceding year up to and including the Stated Conclave preceding the 31st of December, and more often if required; and to perform such other duties as may be required of him the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery or this Commandery.
- 5) It is the duty of the Sentinel to keep the Asylum or rooms pertaining to it in good order, and to make every necessary preparation for the Conclaves of the Commandery; to be careful not to admit any person, unless he be in good standing in this or some other Commandery, or without consent of his Presiding Officer (A paid-up dues card for the current year will be considered evidence of good standing); to serve all summons immediately upon receiving same from the Recorder, according to the directions thereon; and to obey the orders and instructions of the Eminent Commander in relation to the Commandery and its interests.
- 6) It is the duty of the Trustees, if any, to advise the Commandery regarding the safe and prudent disposition, preservation, and investment of its assets, both real and personal, and draw to the attention of the Commandery such matters as may affect its fiscal well-being.

#### **ARTICLE IX – VACANCIES IN OFFICE**

- 1) Vacancies in elective offices can only occur by death, resignation, Demit, removal after installation beyond the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery, promotion to fill a vacancy, suspension or expulsion.
- 2) In case of a vacancy in the office of Commander, the Generalissimo shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of a vacancy in the office of Generalissimo, the Captain General shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of a vacancy in the office of Captain General, the office shall be vacant and the Grand Commander shall issue a dispensation for an election to fill the vacancy, and any other that may occur in consequence thereof. In case of vacancy in all three of the above offices, a Dispensation may be issued for a Special Election to fill the vacancies and any other which may result therefrom, pending which the ranking Past Commander able to serve shall act as Commander. The Grand Commander may issue a Dispensation to fill any vacancy.

**ARTICLE X – PETITIONS**

- 1) Petitions for the Orders shall be on Forms of the Grand Commandery. A petition, whether for Orders or Membership, shall be referred to a committee of 3 members of the Commandery, only when requested to do so by a member in good standing in the Commandery acting upon the petition. If a Committee is empowered to investigate the petition, it shall consist of members who shall know or personally interview the petitioner. The fact of the report being made and not its character shall be entered on the minutes of the Commandery.
- 2) A rejected Petitioner for the Orders, if still residing within the jurisdiction of this Commandery, may again petition after the expiration of Six Months, but this Commandery shall not receive the petition of a Petitioner who has been rejected by another Commandery until the elapse of three years except upon Waiver of Jurisdiction by such other Commandery.
- 3) A Petition may be withdrawn at any time before ballot.
- 4) An unfavorable report from the Committee does not dispense with the necessity of a ballot.
- 5) Every Member present when a ballot on a Petition is opened is required to vote unless excused by the Commander or Commandery before the ballot has commenced.
- 6) The ballot upon Petition for the Orders or for Membership must be secret and unanimous. The reason for casting a blackball cannot be disclosed or inquired into.
- 7) The Commander may (if only one negative ballot is cast) order one re-ballot before the result of a ballot has been announced and before any Member of the Commandery has left the Asylum.

**ARTICLE XI – FEES AND DUES**

- 1) The fees for Conferring the Orders shall be [amount] Dollars, payable as follows: [manner of payment], which fees must be in the Recorder's possession before the respective Orders are conferred. (Note: Fees cannot be for less than \$50.00).
- 2) For membership by Demit from another Commandery, the dues to this Commandery for the year of the application (unless already paid to the Commandery from which the Demit is taken) must accompany the Demit.
- 3) The annual dues of this Commandery shall be [amount] Dollars (\$XX.XX), plus the annual per capita of the Grand Commandery, plus such additional assessments as may from time to time be prescribed, payable in advance at the beginning of each Templar year; viz.: January 1.

**ARTICLE XII – FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR ORDERS**

- 1) Failure of a Candidate to present himself for the Orders within twelve months after receiving notice of his election voids the election; provided, however, that, for satisfactory reasons shown, the Commandery may retain the fee accompanying the petition, and provided that said Candidate may again Petition and upon his election will be given credit for the fees previously paid.
- 2) One constituted a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross who fails to appear to receive the remaining Orders within one year after having received the Order

of the Red Cross shall not be entitled to receive the remaining Orders except upon favorable, secret, and unanimous ballot of the Commandery at a Stated Conclave.

#### **ARTICLE XIII – SUSPENSION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES**

- 1) It shall be the duty of this Commandery, before determining and ordering Suspension of any of its members for non-payment of dues, to proceed in accordance with the provision set forth in the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.
- 2) A member suspended solely for non-payment of dues may be restored to membership on written application therefor and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave and payment of the arrears, together with the current year's dues; provided that the arrears may be remitted in whole or in part at the discretion of the Commandery.

#### **ARTICLE XIV – DEMITS**

A Demit shall be granted to a Sir Knight upon application in writing at a Stated Conclave without vote; provided that said Sir Knight is not in arrears for dues or under Charges. The Demit shall date from the time it is granted by the Commandery.

#### **ARTICLE XV – EMERITUS MEMBERS**

- 1) This Commandery may recommend to the Grand Commandery the name of any member it may desire to create an Emeritus Member, pursuant to provisions of the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.
- 2) The Commandery may, by a majority vote, take any such member from the Emeritus list when he is able to pay his dues. Special notice shall be given immediately to the Grand Commandery of such action.

#### **ARTICLE XVI – LONGEVITY MEMBERSHIPS**

- 1) Life Membership – This Commandery may only create Life Members from those who retain Affiliation in a Symbolic Lodge, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and a Council of Royal and Select Masters, pursuant to the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.

[Optional: This Commandery elects to participate in the Life Membership Program established by the Grand Commandery].

- 2) Perpetual Membership – This Commandery may only create Perpetual Members from those who retain Affiliation in a Symbolic Lodge, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and a Council of Royal and Select Masters, pursuant to the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.

[Optional: This Commandery elects to participate in the Perpetual Membership Program established by the Grand Commandery].

#### **ARTICLE XVII – NO APPEALS**

- 1) No appeal shall lie to the Commandery from a decision of the Commander.
- 2) When the Commander's decision involves the construction or effect of the Constitution, Statutes, or Rituals of the Grand Encampment or the Laws of the Grand Commandery, or Bylaws of this Commandery, an appeal may be taken to the Grand Commandery, but pending the decision of this appeal, such ruling shall be in full force and effect.

### **ARTICLE XVIII – FUNDS**

The funds of this Commandery shall be deposited by the Treasurer in a bank designated by the Commandery. The account must always stand in the name of [Name] Commandery, No. [number], Knights Templar, and not in the name of the Treasurer, either officially or individually.

### **ARTICLE XIX – ANNUAL RETURNS**

The Recorder shall make Annual Returns to the Grand Recorder upon blanks furnished by the Grand Recorder, such Returns to be signed by the newly installed Commander, and forwarded to the Grand Recorder on or before January 31 of each year. The full amount of the per capita tax and fees due the Grand Commandery must accompany the Returns.

### **ARTICLE XX – BOOKS**

This Commandery shall adopt and keep a Code of Bylaws, a Record Book of the proceedings of the Commandery, a Ledger of the payments of its members, and a Book of Questions.

### **ARTICLE XXI – UNIFORMS**

The Orders shall not be conferred upon a Candidate until he has complied with the requirements as to uniform as prescribed by the Grand Commandery of Florida.

### **ARTICLE XXII – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

At a Stated Conclave, the following shall be the Order of Business unless the Presiding Officer shall elect to pursue a different order:

- 1) Minutes Read and Adopted
- 2) Sickness and Distress Reports
- 3) Communications and Bills
- 4) Petitions Presented, Read, and Referred
- 5) Reports Upon and Disposition of Petitions
- 6) Reports of Standing Committees
- 7) Reports of Special Committees
- 8) Unfinished Business
- 9) New Business
- 10) Conferring of the Orders
- 11) Reading of the Minutes
- 12) Closing.

### **ARTICLE XXIII – AMENDMENTS**

No alteration or amendment to these Bylaws shall be made unless the same be proposed in writing at a Stated Conclave, be entered upon the Minutes, and lie over until the next or a subsequent Conclave when it must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Members present, provided that due notice shall be given the members of the proposed amendment before the Stated Conclave at which final action is to be taken. No amendment shall be in force until it has been approved by the Grand Commandery, provided that amendments adopted during the recess of the Grand Commandery may be approved by the Grand Commander, subject to review at the next succeeding Conclave of the Grand Commandery.



**APPENDIX C**  
**PETITION FOR DISPENSATION TO FORM A NEW COMMANDERY**

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Florida:

The petition of the undersigned respectfully represents that they are severally Companions of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, Knights of Malta, and Knights Templar; that they are now in good standing as members of those Illustrious, Valiant and Magnanimous Orders, and were last members of the respective Commanderies named opposite their respective signatures; that they reside in or near the ["city" or "town"] of [name] in the County of [name] in the State of Florida; that among them are a competent number well-qualified to form and open a Commandery of Knights Templar, and to discharge the various duties thereof according to ancient usage; and that, having the well-being and diffusion of Christian Chivalry at heart, and being desirous to extend its benefits and blessings to all worthy Companions, they pray for a Dispensation empowering them to form, open, and hold a regular aforesaid, to be called [Name] Commandery.

They beg leave respectfully to recommend:

Sir Knight [name] as the first Commander;

Sir Knight [name] as the first Generalissimo;

Sir Knight [name] as the first Captain General;

and if their prayer is granted, they promise in all things to conform to the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Florida, the Constitution, Laws, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and the general precepts and usages of the Order.

Dated at [city & county] on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of [month], A.D. 20\_\_\_\_\_.

[To the foregoing is to be appended the names of the Petitioners, the names and numbers of the Commanderies of which they respectively last were Members, and the State or Territory in which such Commanderies were holden].

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**APPENDIX D****PUBLIC INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR OFFICERS OF A COMMANDERY**

(From Grand Encampment *Manual of Public Ceremonies*)

The following ceremony is primarily intended for Installation of the Officers of a newly constituted Commandery but, with easily understood alterations, it may be used for any installation.

If the full ceremony is to be used, an Altar should be placed in front of the Grand Commander and on it the open Bible, Square, Compasses, Crossed Swords, Jewels, Charter, the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, and the Bylaws of the Commandery. If the ceremony is shortened, a table placed conveniently may be substituted for the Altar and on it the official jewels placed. If the Commandery has banners, they should be displayed in the East.

The Grand Officers, or appointees, will fill the stations. The Commandery is opened in Regular Form and election held. The officers chosen retire with the Grand Marshal to the anteroom and form in line with the Commander-Elect at the head, swords at carry. (The installation may be public, in which event a recess should be taken until the installation is complete when work should be resumed).

The Grand Marshal gives an alarm.

GRAND WARDER: Right Eminent Grand Commander, there is an alarm at the door of the Asylum.

GRAND COMMANDER: Eminent Grand Warder, attend the alarm. [Done]

GRAND WARDER: Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Grand Marshal with the newly chosen officers desires to enter.

GRAND COMMANDER: Admit them. "Commandery, ATTENTION."

GRAND WARDER: [at door of the Asylum] Grand Marshal and newly chosen officers, you will enter [Done]

[The Grand Marshal escorts the officers chosen who enter, forming a line across the center of the Asylum, facing East, the right resting on the South. Chairs may be provided for the line].

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present to you for installation the duly chosen officers of this Commandery. "Officers Chosen, Present SWORDS."

GRAND COMMANDER: "Commandery, ATTENTION. Officers Chosen, Carry SWORDS. Sir Knights, before engaging in this important ceremony, let us invoke the blessing of Deity. "Sir Knights, Un-COVER." Eminent Grand Prelate, lead our devotions.

[The Grand Prelate offers a prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in which all join]

GRAND COMMANDER: "Sir Knights, RE-COVER. Officers Chosen, Carry SWORDS. Return SWORDS." Sir Knights, you behold before you those who have been chosen as officers of this Commandery. We believe them to be tried and true, worthy and well-qualified, zealous in the service of Templary, and true exemplars of the great tenets of the Order, but if any one of you knows of any reason why they or any one of them should not be installed, let him now speak out or forever hold his peace.

Hearing no objection, we will proceed with the installation. "Sir Knights not in line, Be SEATED."

GRAND COMMANDER: Officers Chosen, before investing you the honors and responsibilities of your respective stations, it becomes my duty to administer to you the vow of office. Do you severally consent to take upon yourselves that vow? [They assent]

Eminent Grand Marshal, place the officers chosen in proper position to take upon themselves the vow of office.

GRAND MARSHAL: "Officers Chosen, Count TWOS; Numbers One, Draw SWORDS; Drop point of sword to the left, grasp hilt with left hand; Numbers Two, Grasp blade with left hand; place your right hand upon your left breast.

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*[ALTERNATIVE – The following may be used to place the officers chosen in proper position].*

GRAND MARSHAL: "Officers Chosen, Count TWOS; Numbers One, Draw SWORDS; Drop point sword to left; Numbers Two, Grasp blade with right hand; Un-cover".

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GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Officers Chosen are in proper position.

GRAND COMMANDER: "Commandery, ATTENTION!; Draw SWORDS; Present SWORDS." Officers Chosen, you will say I, pronounce your names in full, and repeat after me:

I, [NAME], do promise and solemnly vow, that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America; the Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office, to which I have been chosen, to the best of my ability. "Sir Knights not in line, Carry SWORDS; Return SWORDS; Be SEATED.

GRAND MARSHAL: "Officers Chosen, Drop right hand to side; Numbers Two, Relinquish sword blade; Numbers One, grasp hilt with right hand; Carry SWORDS; Return SWORDS; Be SEATED."

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*[ALTERNATIVE – The following should be used when the alternative method of placing in position is used.*

GRAND MARSHAL: "Officers Chosen, Re-COVER; Numbers Two, Relinquish sword blade. Numbers One, Carry SWORDS. Return SWORDS; Be SEATED."

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GRAND COMMANDER: Eminent Grand Marshal, present the Commander-Elect.

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I have the honor to present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been elected to the office of Commander. I find him to be well skilled in our sublime mysteries and observant of the noble precepts of our forefathers, and have, therefore, no doubt that he will discharge the important duties of his office with fidelity.

GRAND COMMANDER: Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, as you have been elected to the honorable and important station of Commander of this Commandery, it is with genuine pleasure that I enter upon the duty of installing you in that exalted office. As head of a Christian institution, you are charged with important duties and responsibilities. It is confidently anticipated that your fidelity to these trusts will reflect honor upon yourself and credit upon your Commandery.

[OMIT if Public Installation]

It now becomes my duty to propound to you certain questions to which your unequivocal answers are required:

1. Do you solemnly promise, upon your honor as a Knights Templar, that you will endeavor to correct the vices, purify the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your Brethren who have attained this magnanimous Order?
2. Do you solemnly promise that you will never suffer your Commandery to be opened unless there shall be present at least nine regular Knights of the Order?
3. Do you solemnly promise that you will not confer the Orders upon anyone who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition, nor upon anyone who has not attained a reasonable proficiency in Masonry?
4. Do you solemnly promise that you will seriously endeavor to promote the general good of the Order, and on all proper occasions, be ready to give and receive instructions, particularly from the Grand Officers?
5. That, to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies, and behave in open Commandery with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your Brethren?
6. That you will not acknowledge, or hold Communication with, any Commandery that does not work under a constitutional dispensation or charter?
7. That you will not admit any visitor into your Commandery, unless he has been knighted in a lawful Commandery?
8. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of the Grand Officers, particularly those relating to the several lectures and charges, and resign your station to them when any may visit your Commandery?
9. That you will support and maintain the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment; the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery; and the Bylaws of this Commandery, under whose authority you act?
10. That you will bind your successor in office to the observance of these rules and regulations?

Do you confirm all these promises, and do you agree to observe them faithfully?

*Response: I Do.*

Sir Knight, I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Passion Cross surmounted by rays of light. The rays of light are symbols that suggest to you the humility, love, and pure benevolence that emanate like rays from the religion of the Blessed Emmanuel, and which should ever characterize the members of this Christian Order.

I present to you the Charter of your Commandery. Receive it as a sacred deposit and never permit it to be used for any other purpose than those expressed in it. It is your duty to safely transmit it to your successor.

I also commit to your keeping the Holy Bible, the Great Light of Masons of every degree. It confirms our belief in the existence of the Eternal Jehovah, the one only living and true God, the Creator and Judge of all things in heaven and earth.

The Crossed Swords resting upon the Holy Bible remind us that we should be "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might," that we should put on the whole armor of God, to be able to wrestle successfully with principalities, powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

I also present to you the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida, and the Bylaws of [Name] Commandery, No. [number] You should familiarize yourself with them that you may rule your Commandery with justice and moderation.

Eminent Grand Marshal, you will present the Eminent Commander to the East.

And now, Sir Knight, I induct you into the Chair of your Commandery. [Done] I offer you my sincere congratulations on your ascension to this honorable station. It will be your special duty to preserve inviolate the laws of the Order, to dispense justice, reward merit, and expound the sublime principles of universal benevolence. You will inculcate the duties of charity and hospitality and govern your Commandery with justice and moderation. And, finally, my Frater, may the illustrious lives of the heroes of past ages, whose matchless valor has shed undying luster over the name of Knight Templar, encourage and animate you to the faithful performance of every duty.

GRAND MARSHAL: "Commandery, ATTENTION. Draw SWORDS. Present SWORDS."

GRAND COMMANDER: Sir Knights, behold your Commander. Bear ever in mind that the prosperity of your Commandery will as much depend on your support and obedience as on the assiduity, fidelity, and wisdom of your Commander. Be ye, therefore, diligent and faithful in the performance of your respective duties.

GRAND MARSHAL: "Sir Knights, Carry SWORDS. Return SWORDS. Be SEATED."

GRAND COMMANDER: Eminent Grand Marshal, present the officers chosen, in order of rank.

[The Grand Marshal then presents each officer, according to rank, introducing him by his title and designating the office to which he is to fill. The Grand Commander will receive him with fitting words, charging him to be faithful to his trust. He will also invest him with the official jewel and direct the Grand Marshal to conduct him to his station. No particular form is prescribed but the following charges are suggested as appropriate].

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been elected Generalissimo of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE GENERALISSIMO

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Generalissimo of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office which is a Square surmounted by a Paschal Lamb. The Square is to remind you that friendship and love should forever govern Freemasons and, particularly, Knights Templar. Your station is on the Right of the Commander. You are to assist him in the discharge of his various duties, and in his absence, to preside. I charge you, therefore, to familiarize yourself with the duties of your office that you may adequately discharge them. Be faithful to the Knights with whom you are associated. Put them often in remembrance to those things, which tend to their everlasting peace. And, finally, "preach the word, be constant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine, ever remembering the promise: "Be Thou faithful unto death and I will give Thee a crown of life."

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been elected Captain General of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN GENERAL

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Captain General of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office which is a Level surmounted by a Rooster. As the undaunted coverage and valor of the Rooster stipulate him to conquer his enemy and fight to the last extremity, so should you be stimulated in the discharge of every duty. Your station is on the Left of the Commander. Your duty, among other things, is to see that due preparation is made for the various conclaves of the Commandery, and that the Asylum is prepared for the dispatch of business. You are also to receive and communicate to the lines all orders issued by the Commander. You are to assist in council and, in the absence of the Commander and Generalissimo, to preside over the Commandery. I charge you, therefore, to perform every duty with fidelity. And, finally, "whatsoever ye do, do heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men; continue in prayer, ever bearing in mind the promise: "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not."

GRAND MARSHAL: Eminent Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been elected Senior Warden of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE SENIOR WARDEN

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Senior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a mailed arm and hand grasping the Sword of Justice. It is to remind you that as the children of Israel marched in a hollow square in their journey, so should you be vigilant in guarding every avenue from innovation and error. Let the Sword of Justice, therefore, be ever drawn to guard the Constitution of the Order. Your station is at the Southwest Angle of the Triangle and on the Right of the First Division. You will attend pilgrim warriors, comfort and support pilgrim penitents, and after due trial, introduce them into the Asylum. Let it be your constant care that the warrior be not deterred from duty nor the penitent molested on his journey. And, finally, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been elected Junior Warden of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE JUNIOR WARDEN

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Junior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is an Eagle with wings spread, holding in its talons a Flaming Sword. It suggests to you the performance of your duties with justice and valor, having an eagle eye on the prosperity of the Order. Your station is at the Northwest Angle of the Triangle and on the Left of the Third Division. Your duty is to attend weary pilgrims traveling from afar, conduct them on their journey, plead their cause, and, in due time, recommend them to the Commander. Impress upon them the motto of our Order: "Magna es Veritas et Prevalebit" and, that although the path of life may be thorny, crooked, adverse, and forlorn, yet by faith and fidelity, courage and constancy, patience and perseverance, they may gain admission into the Asylum above, there to carry on the high labors begun here below. And, finally, "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord", that you may be a shining light in the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been chosen Prelate of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE PRELATE

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been chosen Prelate of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Triple Triangle with a red passion cross in the center of

each triangle. It is also an emblem of Deity. Your station is on the Right of the Generalissimo. Your duty is to officiate at the altar and offer prayers to Deity. Your jewel is to remind you of the importance of the trust reposed in you. May "He, who is able, abundantly furnish you for every good work, preserve you from falling into error, improve and strengthen, establish and perfect you" And, finally, greet you with, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter Thou into the joy of thy Lord."

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been elected Treasurer of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE TREASURER

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Treasurer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is two Crossed Keys. Your station is in Front and on the Right of the Generalissimo. The qualities which recommend a Treasurer are accuracy and fidelity – accuracy in keeping fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements – fidelity in carefully preserving all the property and funds of the Commandery that may be placed in his hands and rendering a just account of the same whenever called upon for that purpose. I am sure that your attachment to the Commandery and your earnest solicitude for a good name, which is better than riches, will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been elected Recorder of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE RECORDER

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Recorder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is two Crossed Quill Pens. Your station is on the Left of the Captain General. The essential qualities of a Recorder are promptitude in issuing notifications and orders of his superior officers; punctuality in attending the conclaves of the Commandery; correctness in recording the proceedings; judgment in discriminating between what is proper and what is improper to be committed to writing; integrity in accounting for all monies that may pass through his hands; and fidelity in paying same over to the Treasurer. The possession of these qualities, I presume, has led to your selection for this important office. I doubt not that you will discharge its duties with benefit to the Commandery and honor to yourself.

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been chosen Standard Bearer of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE STANDARD BEARER

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been chosen Standard Bearer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office which is a Masonic Plumb surmounted by the Banner of the Order. Your station is in the West and in the Center of the Second Division. Your duty is to display, support, and protect the Banner of our Order, which I now confide in your keeping. You will remember that it is our rallying point in time of danger. When unfurled in a just and virtuous cause, you will defend it as long as life endures.

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been chosen Sword Bearer of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE SWORD BEARER

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been chosen Sword Bearer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Triangle with Crossed Swords. Your station is on the



Right of the Standard Bearer and on the Right of the Second Division. Your duty is to assist in protecting the Banner of our Order.

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been chosen Warder of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE WARDER

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been chosen Warder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with Crossed Swords and a Trumpet thereon. Your station is on the Left of the Standard Bearer and on the Left of the Second Division. Your duty is to sound the assembly, announce the approach and departure of the Commander, post the Sentinel, and see that the Asylum is duly guarded. I charge you to be punctual in your attendance, and tireless in the discharge of your important duties. Though yours is among lower offices in the Commandery, it is by no means the least important.

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been chosen Guards of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE THREE GUARDS

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been chosen Guards of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a Battle-Ax thereon. You will, therefore, be vigilant, challenge with spirit, examine with caution, admonish with candor, relieve cheerfully, protect with fidelity, and fight valiantly.

GRAND MARSHAL: Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been chosen Sentinel of this Commandery and now declares himself ready for installation.

#### CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been chosen Sentinel of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a Sword thereon. I present you this sword, the badge of your office. The sword is placed in the hands of the Sentinel to enable him to effectually guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, and to suffer none to pass or repass but such as are qualified. It morally serves as a constant admonition to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts, to place a watch at the door of our lips, to post a sentinel at the avenue of our actions, thereby excluding every unworthy thought, word, or deed. As application of visitors for admission into the Commandery are generally made to the Sentinel, your station will often present you to the observation of strangers. It is, therefore, essential that he who holds this office should be a Frater temperate, affable and discreet, of good morals, steady habits, and strict discipline. I am sure that a due regard for the honor and reputation of this institution will ever impel you to perform, with fidelity, the trust reposed in you.

[The Presiding Officer then delivers the following:]

#### CHARGE TO THE COMMANDERY

Sir Knights, to manage and conduct the affairs of a Commandery of Knights Templar with that promptitude, integrity, and skill which the institution demands, requires the exercise of all the abilities of its officers and members. The officers should remember that the moral and religious duties and precepts which they from time to time should forcibly impress upon the mind of others, should, by no means, be neglected by themselves; that the most effectual way to ensure

success is to let precept and performance go hand-in-hand. I urge you to look well to the East, to the West, to the North, and to the South, to see that the entrances are strictly guarded, to the end that you allow none to pass the threshold of your Asylum save the worthy; and at the same time, that you suffer no one to be guilty of disorderly conduct among you without admonition and reproof, to the end that this valiant and magnanimous Order shall forever flourish. And now, Sir Knights, "Peace be within they walls and prosperity within they palaces. For my Brethren and Companions' sake, I now say, Peace be within Thee."

GRAND COMMANDER: Eminent Grand Marshal, proclaim the installation of the Officers of this Commandery.

GRAND MARSHAL: "Commandery ATTENTION. Draw SWORDS. Present SWORDS."

#### OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION

Hear Ye! (Optional. May wield sword once) Hear Ye! (Optional. May wield sword once) Hear Ye! (Optional. May wield sword once) Valiant Knights of the Temple. In the name of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida, I proclaim that the Officers of {Name} Commandery No. [number], Knights Templar, have been duly installed in their respective station. This proclamation is made to the North (sword salute); to the South (sword salute); to the East (sword salute); and to the West (sword salute). Let all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

"Sir Knights, Carry SWORDS. Return SWORDS. Be SEATED."

[The Commander may, if he desires, address the Fratres. The Grand Officers may then retire with proper escort and the Commandery will proceed to the regular order of business, resuming labor if the installation has been public].

**APPENDIX E**  
**ACT OF INCORPORATION**  
CHAPTER 28327  
(Senate Bill No. 959)

TO INCORPORATE THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF FLORIDA  
AND ALL SUBORDINATE OR PARTICULAR COMMANDERIES CHARTERED THEREBY

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. That the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Florida, as such order now exists, and as its officers are now constituted consisting exclusively of Knights Templar of the White race and their successors in office, be and they are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate by the name and style of "The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida," and as such shall be capable and liable in law to sue and be sued, to contract and be contracted with, to plead and be impleaded, and to acquire, own, hold, possess, and convey property, either real, personal, or mixed, either by purchase, gift, or devise; and to issue charters according to its own constitution, bylaws, rules, and regulations to such subordinate, particular, or individual Commanderies of Knights Templar of the White race in such places in the State of Florida as it may see fit, and with full power according to its own constitution, bylaws, rules, and regulations, at any time to recall, abrogate, revoke, or annul for misuser or nonuser any such charter that it may have issued or granted to any such subordinate, particular, or individual Commandery, or which it may hereafter issue or grant to any such subordinate, particular, or individual Commandery; and it shall have perpetual succession.

Section 2. The said corporate officers of such Grand Commandery shall be elected annually, at the annual meeting of the Grand Commandery, in such manner, and at such time and place as its constitution, bylaws, rules, or regulations shall provide.

Section 3. The Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General, and their successors in office of any and all subordinate, particular, or individual Commanderies of Knights Templar of the White race that have heretofore, or which may hereafter be organized and chartered in the State of Florida by the Grand Commandery, mentioned in Section 1 of this Act, according to the constitution, bylaws, rules, and regulations of such Grand Commandery, are hereby declared to be separate and independent bodies, politic and corporate, under such general corporate names and styles as may be assigned to them respectively in their charters, granted to them by such Grand Commandery, with the right of corporate succession, so long as the charters granted to them by the Grand Commandery shall remain unrevoked by such Grand Commandery; and as such, by their several and respective corporate names, they shall be capable and liable in law to contract and be contracted with; to sue and be sued; plead and be impleaded; and to acquire, own, hold, possess, and convey property of all kinds, either real, personal, or mixed, either by purchase, gift, or devise, so long as their charters shall remain unrevoked by such Grand Commandery; and to elect their corporate officers at such times and places as their own constitution, bylaws, rules, and regulations properly laid down for them by such Grand Commandery, may provide.

Section 4. All properties, real, personal, or mixed, now held in trust for such Grand Commandery, mentioned in Section 1 of this Act, shall be conveyed by the trustees thereof, express, resulting or constructive, by deed or other instrument, to such Grand Commanders—in

its corporate name—when as directed by such Grand Commandery, subject to any and all obligations to which it may be subject in the hands of the trustees.

Section 5. All properties, real, personal, or mixed, now held in trust for any said subordinate, particular, or individual Commandery, mentioned in Section 3 of this Act, shall be conveyed by deed or other instrument by the trustees thereof, express, resulting or constructive, when so directed by such subordinate, particular, or individual Commandery, or by the Grand Commandery, directly to such Commanderies, subject to any and all obligations to which it may be subject in the hands of the trustees.

Section 6. Whenever the charter of any subordinate, particular, or individual Commandery, mentioned in Section 3 of this Act, shall be recalled, abrogated, revoked, or annulled by the Grand Commandery, mentioned in Section 1 of this Act, such subordinate, particular, or individual Commandery shall cease to have corporate existence, except for the purpose of being sued for its legal obligations; and upon such cessation of its corporate existence, all of its properties, real, personal, or mixed, shall revert to and belong to the said Grand Commandery, subject to any debts that may have been lawfully contracted by such subordinate, particular, or individual Commandery; but such Grand Commandery shall in no event be responsible or liable for any indebtedness created by any subordinate, particular, or individual Commandery.

Section 7. All Charters of Incorporation, whether by the General Incorporation Laws of this State, or by Special Acts of the Legislature, heretofore issued to any such subordinate, particular, or individual Commanderies, mentioned in Section 3 of this Act, are hereby revoked, abrogated, annulled, and repealed, and the provisions of this Act shall stand in lieu thereof; provided that all property, real, personal, or mixed, then belonging to any body corporate hereby dissolved shall become the property of its successor hereby created, and any and all obligations and liabilities of such body corporate shall become obligations and liabilities of said successor.

Section 8. ....All laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 9. .... This Act shall take effect upon its becoming law.

[Became a law without the Governor's approval. Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, June 15, 1953].

[Historical Note: The term "White Race" was used in the Legislation to differentiate the Grand Commandery from another fraternal Order of similar name, also operating in the State; the term is descriptive and not a restriction upon membership].