

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
F & A.M - PHA.



FOUNDED FEBRUARY 28TH, 1956 A.D.,A.L.5956
INCORPORATED 5TH, AUGUST 1975 A.D.,A.L.5975
REVISED: JULY 1990 & JUNE 2010

HON. CARL R. CULMER 33°
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

WENDEL L. BARRY
RT. WORSHIPFUL GRAND SECRETARY

BOOK OF CONSTITUTION
OF
THE GRAND LODGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
THE
BAHAMAS FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
CONTAINING THE
CONSTITUTION, CODE FOR MASONIC TRAILS,
CODE
FOR SUBORDINATE LODGES

THIRD EDITION

PREPARED BY:

LESLIE M. DEAN SR. 33°, K.Y.C.H
P.G.M
CHAIRMAN

WENDAL L. BARRY
GRAND SECRETARY

AMENDED AND ADOPTED JUNE 2011 A.D., 6011 A.L



CONSTITUTION
OF

The Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS Adopted June 2011 AD, 6011 A.L.

DECLARATION

SECTION 1. The Grand Lodge of The Bahamas Free and Accepted Masons acknowledge a belief in God to be the great fundamental principle and Landmark of Freemasonry upon which our fraternity is erected.

Without an avowal of such belief no man shall be initiated in a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, and if a Freemason shall renounce or forsake his belief in God, or if he does not continue to entertain such belief, he shall not remain a member of any lodge and shall be expelled.

SECTION 2. The Grand Lodge of The Bahamas, Free and Accepted Masons acknowledges it's allegiance to the Bahamas and obedience to the laws therein and that changes of these laws will be by the due process of law.

Following the ritualistic opening of a lodge, all Brethren who are citizens of the Bahamas will join in reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the Bahamian Flag.

SECTION 3. The Grand Lodge of The Bahamas, Free and Accepted Masons, admonishes its members concerning the negative aspects of alcoholic beverages while at the same time advocating the practice of temperance.

SECTION 4. The Grand Lodge of The Bahamas, Free and Accepted Masons, admonishes its members concerning the negative aspects of gambling while at the same time acknowledging the risks associated with monetary investment policy. Members are enjoined to comply with applicable laws concerning gambling and are not entitled to Masonic relief for debts incurred by gambling.

SECTION 5. The Fundamental Law, The Constitution of the Grand Lodge is the fundamental Masonic Law, and as such, should be studied, fully understood and strictly obeyed.

ACT OF INCORPORATION

No. 14 of 1975

*An Act to incorporate The Elected Officers and Trustees of The Most
Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted
Masons of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas*

*(Assented To: 5th August, 1975)
(Commencement: 5th, August, 1975)*

*WHEREAS certain persons are the elected Officers and Trustees of the
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of The
Commonwealth of The Bahamas.*

*AND WHEREAS it is expedient for the holding and disposing of property
of whatever kind belonging to the said Grand Lodge, and otherwise, that the
Grand Master and Officers and trustees from time of the said Grand Lodge,
should be created a corporate body with the powers hereinafter appearing:*

*BE it enacted by The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice
and consent of the Senate and the House of Assembly of The Commonwealth of
The Bahamas, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-*

*1. This Act may be cited as The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas
Incorporation Act, 1975.*

*2. The present Grand Master and Officers and Trustees of the Most
Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the
Commonwealth of the Bahamas, that is to say, James E. Morley 33°, Grand
Master, Frederick H. Lunn 32°, Deputy Grand Master, Maurice F. Bowe 32°,
Senior Grand Warden, John L. Rolle 32°, Junior Grand Warden, A. Bismark
Coakley 32°, Grand Treasure, Clyde B. Bethell 32°, Grand Secretary, Lorenzo A.
Smith 33°, Grand Trustee, Clifford E. Davis 32°, Grand Trustee, Willard C.
Ferguson 33°, Grand Trustee and Roscow A. L. Davies 32°, C.C.F.C., being
Officers and Trustees and their successors in office are hereby declared to be a
body corporate under the name of "The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand
Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas,"*

and by the name shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, and shall have full power to purchase, lease, invest and otherwise deal with and dispose of all property real and personal of whatever kind vested in or acquired by the said body corporate, and may sue and be sued in all courts of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

3. All property real or personal or whatever kind now vested in or held in any manner by any person in trust for or for the use and benefit of or hereto before devised or bequeathed by will or otherwise given to The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, shall vest in and be held by and shall be deemed to be the property of the said body corporate.

4. The Trustees shall receive all monies raised for or in any way contributed towards The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and also all sums given, subscribe thereto or in support thereof, or which shall be payable to them in their capacity as Trustees, or be subjected to their control; and they shall pay and apply such monies in such manner as they shall from time to time think fit and determine for the benefit and advantage of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

5. The receipt in writing of the Treasurer or of any Trustee, authorized in that behalf by bye law for any monies paid or for any stocks, funds, shares or securities transferred to such Treasurer or Trustee shall effectually discharge any person paying or transferring the same there from, and from being bound to see to the application, or being answerable for the loss or application thereof.

6. Any order, resolution or proceedings of this said Trustees or the exercise by them of any power by this Act conferred, or any bequest, devise or gift to them for the benefit of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas or any mission or charity connected therewith shall not be invalidated by reason only of there being a vacancy amongst the said Trustees.

7. Nothing in this Act shall prejudice or affect the rights of Her Majesty the Queen, Her Heirs and successors or of any other person or persons except such as are mentioned in this Act and those claiming by, from, through or under them.

PREAMBLE

We all, Masons under the obedience of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of The Bahamas Incorporated and its Jurisdiction thereunto belonging, being firm in our belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man and the Ancient Landmarks of the Ancient and Honourable Fraternity; and,

Being patriotic and devoted citizens to the Government of the country in which we live; and,

Under the inherent right of jurisdiction of every group of Regular Masons to provide for the uniform government of their Lodges; and,

Through the authority to us belonging by direct lineage from the Grand Lodge and England (Modern 1717);

Do hereby ordain, establish and promulgate the following Constitution, and do make and prescribe the following rules and regulations for the government of bodies and individuals under this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE I

TITLE

Sec. 1 The Title of the Grand Lodge shall be, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Incorporated (and its Jurisdiction thereunto belonging).

ARTICLE II

SOVEREIGNTY AND JURISDICTION

Sec. 1: This Grand Lodge is the only source of authority and exercise exclusive jurisdiction In all matters pertaining to the Ancient Craft

Freemasonry within the Bahamas and where it has Subordinate Lodges in other States or geographical areas; it has supreme, inherent and absolute legislative, judicial and executive Masonic authority and power; its enactments, decisions, judgments and edicts are binding upon all Lodges and Masons within its Jurisdiction, and faithful allegiance and implicit obedience is due to it from all Lodges and Masons residing in its Jurisdiction. It is subject only to the Ancient Landmark, but from its decision in relation to them or any Masonic subject, there is no appeal.

Sec. 2: To make and enforce all laws and regulations for the Government of the Fraternity and to alter, amend and repeal the same at will; and its enactments, edicts and decisions upon all questions shall be the Supreme Masonic law of its jurisdiction and shall be strictly obeyed by all Lodges, Masons and Adopted and Concordant Bodies.

ARTICLE III

POWERS

Sec. 1: Its powers are legislative, executive and judicial and are limited only by the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry and its own Constitution and Laws, and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Act 1975.

Sec. 2: Its Legislative powers extend to every case of Legislation not expressly delegated by law to the Lodges, and its Constitution and Regulations are final and binding upon all Lodges, Masons and affiliated Masonic bodies under its jurisdiction, until altered or repealed.

Sec. 3 All general government powers, whether legislative, executive or judicial, and all powers necessary to enforce or carry into effect the provisions of this Constitution, are reposed in the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 4 Its Executive powers included the granting of CHARTERS to all Lodges or bodies within the jurisdiction, and to Lodges in other territory where no Grand Lodge exists; the revocation or suspension thereof; and the issuing of special dispensations for all purposes permitted by any of the provisions of the Constitution.

Sec 5. The Judicial power of this Grand Lodge are of two (2) kinds, and may be exercised by the Grand Lodge, or delegated, and are:

“a” ORIGINAL – Embracing all matters of controversy which may arise between any of the Lodges under its jurisdiction, between a member or members thereof,

or between members of different Lodges, and the enforcement of discipline upon its own members, its Lodges; or non-affiliated Masons within its jurisdiction.

“b” APPELLATE – Embracing the revision of all matters of controversy or discipline proper for Masonic investigation which may have arisen in any of the Lodges is has retained or has not attained original jurisdiction.

Sec. 6 All the decisions of this Grand Lodge when acting in its Appellate capacity shall be final in all cases.

Sec. 7 A Lodge shall not have the right to appeal from its own decision upon the trial of a brother for unmasonic conduct.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Sec. 1 This Grand Lodge shall be composed of all its Grand Officers, the Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, Past Grand Treasurers, Past Grand Secretaries, and the Representatives from each Lodge, who shall be the Master and Warden thereof, or a Proxy duly elected by the Lodge according to the rules prescribed by this Constitution of the Grand Lodge; also all Past Masters of Lodges under this jurisdiction who shall have been elected and installed and have served one year in the chair as master, and honorary Past Masters to whom a Past Master’s certificated has been duly issued; but this Grand Lodge may at its pleasure, and by duly altering its Constitution, enlarge or diminish the number and qualifications of its members, provided no one can be a member of this Grand Lodge unless he be a member of some Lodge within this jurisdiction.

Sec. 2 The following Grand Officers shall be elected biennially at the Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge:

- Grand Master,
- Deputy Grand Master,
- Senior Grand Warden,
- Junior Grand Warden,
- Grand Treasurer,
- Grand Secretary,
- Three (3) Grand Trustees.

Sec. 3 The following Grand Officers shall be appointed by the Grand Master at the Annual Communication, or within thirty (30) days thereafter, or as vacancies may occur, to hold office at his pleasure, namely:

- A District Deputy Grand Master for each Masonic District,
- A Grand Lecturer,

A Grand Chaplain,
 Two (2) Judges Advocate,
 A Grand Marshall,
 A Grand Standard Bearer,
 A Grand Sword Bearer,
 A Grand Pursuivant,
 A Grand Orator,
 An Assistant Grand Secretary,
 An Assistant Grand Treasurer,
 A Grand Historian
 A Senior Grand Deacon,
 A Junior Grand Deacon,
 Two (2) Senior Grand Stewards,
 Two (2) Junior Grand Stewards,
 A Grand Librarian,
 A Grand Medical Director,
 A Grand Director of Ceremonies,
 A Grand Musical Director,
 A Grand Organist,
 A Grand Tiler,
 A Grand Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence,
 A Grand Public Relations Director
A Grand Convention Director

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

Sec. 1 the Annual Communications of this Grand Lodge shall be held commencing the first Monday after St. John's The Baptist Day in the Month of June in each year in New Providence, the Grand East.

MID-WINTER MEETING

Sec. 2 The Grand Lodge shall hold an annual Mid-Winter meeting to keep the membership informed and updated on matters concerning the Grand Lodge and to provide training for Masters, Wardens and Master Masons desirous of becoming Lodge or Grand Lodge officers. Notice of the dates for the Mid-Winter meeting shall be given at the previous Grand Lodge sessions, but in no event later than 90 days before the beginning of the meeting.

Sec. 3 Special Communication may be called by the Grand Master, but no legislation affecting the general interest of the Craft shall be made, repealed nor

changed except that which has been specified in the notice of the Communication.

Sec.4. No member of any Subordinate Lodge of this Jurisdiction shall wear a Masonic emblem having connected therewith the emblem of another organization, Lodge, Society or Order. (of what is known as a combination emblem.)

Sec. 5. No Master Mason in the Jurisdiction of The Bahamas shall wear any type of earrings during any Masonic Functions, Parades or Meetings, unless it is required ritualistically or at a function or meeting permitting the same.

Sec. 6. No Master Mason in the Jurisdiction of The Bahamas shall wear any clothing with Masonic Emblems or the name of a Local Lodge in an establishment of entertainment (nightclubs or bars etc.) where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed. Masonic rings, Masonic lapel pins, and Shrine emblems are exempted.

Sec. 7. The Mason's hair style must be such that the wearing of his top hat or bola is not prohibited. Plaits or locks must not be visible.

ARTICLE VI

QUORUM

Sec. 1. The Grand Lodge shall not be opened nor shall any business be transacted therein, unless there be present representatives from at least Four (4) of the Warranted Lodges, except upon occasions of ceremony, when the Grand Master, or his representative, with a sufficient number of brethren, may open the Grand Lodge and transact the business for which it is called.

CONCERNING GRAND OFFICERS, ELECTIONS

Sec. 2. Qualification. No person shall be eligible for an office in the Grand Lodge unless he be a permanent member thereof, except the office of Grand Chaplin, which office may be filled by any minister who is affiliated with a Subordinate Lodge.

Sec. 3. Electioneering. Electioneering is improper in any manner for Grand Lodge officer or for officer in a Subordinate Lodge and is prohibited. Any member found guilty of such offense shall be ineligible for office in the Grand Lodge or a Subordinate Lodge at the communication or annual election. Neither shall any member of the Grand Lodge or a Subordinate Lodge electioneer for anyone else.

Sec.4. Adoption of a resolution by a subordinate lodge stating the qualification and recommending one of its members for an elective office in the Grand Lodge, and, the one time mailing of a copy of said resolution to the secretary of each subordinate lodge, Grand Lodge Officer, shall not be considered a violation of this section provided the Resolution does not contain any solicitation of support.

Sec.5. No lodge or member of the Craft may cause to be printed or distributed before or at any Grand Lodge or a Subordinate Lodge, any card, letter, ticket or favor for or in the interest of any candidate for office in the Grand lodge or a Subordinate Lodge and the Grand Master or Master of a Subordinate Lodge shall not receive or entertain the nomination of any candidate where either he, his lodge, or others on his behalf has violated this provision.

Sec.6. Penalty for an offence under sections 3 through 5 may result in suspension or expulsion from Freemasonry.

ARTICLES VII

ELIGIBILITY

Sec. 1: It is agreed in Article 10 Sec.1 of our Constitution that our Principal Officers shall be elected biennially at the Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge.

Sec. 2: The Candidate for Grand Master must be a serving Deputy Grand Master or a Past Deputy Grand Master or a Past Grand Master.

Sec. 3: Candidacy for Deputy Grand Master must be a sitting Grand Warden.

Sec. 4: Candidacy for Senior Grand Warden Must be a sitting Junior Grand Warden.

Sec. 5: The Candidate for Junior Grand Warden must be a Past Master, Actual or Virtual.

ARTICLE VIII

VACANCIES

Sec.1 Whenever a Vacancy shall occur in any Grand Office, the Grand Master may appoint any member of the Grand Lodge to discharge the

duties of the office until the vacancy shall be filled at the next Annual Communication.

ARTICLE IX

FRANCHISE

Sec. 1 The elective Grand Officers shall be chosen by ballot and by the highest number of votes cast, unless there be but one candidate in nomination, when an election may be had by a show of hands.

Sec. 2. Each member of the Grand Lodge shall have one (1) vote as such, and no second vote shall be allowed to the same brother, unless as a representative or proxy of a Lodge; except to the Grand Master or presiding officer, who, in case of a tie vote, shall always have a second vote.

Sec. 3. Each Lodge shall be entitled to three (3) votes if represented by the Master and Wardens, or either of them, or by proxy.

ARTICLE X

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Trustees shall be elected biennially at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, as the final order of business on the last day of the Annual Communication, unless a different time be fixed by a vote of two thirds of the Grand Lodge Members present.

Sec. 2. Every Officer and member of the Grand Lodge must be a member of a warranted lodge under this jurisdiction. Cessation of membership in a lodge operates to terminate membership in this Grand Lodge.

Sec. 3. The elective Grand Officer shall be elected by written ballot, the highest number of votes cast being necessary for a choice, except, in the case of a unanimous election, when one (1) ballot shall be cast.

Sec. 4. If there is one objection to the casting of a unanimous vote for election to office, the majority of all votes cast are necessary in order to elect.

Sec. 5. The tenure of **all elected officers, is for two (2) years**, and whenever a vacancy shall occur in any Grand Office, the Grand Master shall appoint a member of the Grand Lodge to discharge the duties of said office until it shall be filled at the next Annual Communication, and until his successor is installed, unless otherwise provided for in this constitution. The tenure of appointed officers is until the next annual communication.

Sec. 6. Installation of the Grand Officers shall take place before the close of the Annual Communication, and unless otherwise directed, shall be the last order of business.

ARTICLE XI

PROXIES

Sec. 1. A Lodge may, at a special Communication, by a majority vote, elect one of its members who is a Past Master or Honorary Past Master as proxy to represent it in the absence of its Master and Wardens, at the next succeeding Communication of the Grand Lodge. Such proxy shall not be permitted to act as representative in the Grand Lodge unless there shall have been filed with the Grand Secretary, a certificate of his election, signed by the Master of the Lodge, attested by its seal and signature of its Secretary; provided that during the presence of the Master and Warden, any proxy given by the Lodge for that purpose is suspended.

ARTICLE XII

MASONIC LAW

Sec. 1. The actions of Freemasons in this Grand Lodge or Subordinate Lodges, or in their individual characters, is regulated and controlled;

- (a) By Ancient Landmarks,
- (b) By written Constitution,
- (c) By Usages, Customs, Rules, Edicts, Resolutions and lawful judicial actions.

Sec. 2. Ancient Landmarks are those principles of Masonic Government and policy which are the only part of Masonic Law or Government and policy which are the only part of Masonic Law or rule of government that may never be altered or disturbed and such of them as are lawful to be written are usually, but not wholly, engrafted in written constitutions and general or special legislation.

Sec. 3. A Constitution is a written contract or law adopted by Freemasons for the Government of a Grand Lodge and its Subordinate Lodges and their members including fundamental provision constitutionally adopted which is to be permanent in its character.

Sec.4. Usages, Customs, Rules, Edicts, and Regulations are those Masonic rules of action adopted by competent authority for local or temporary purpose. Admitting of change at convenience, and not embraced in Ancient Landmarks or Constitutions, and are herein termed By-Laws, Regulations or Statutes.

Sec.5. Hazing Prohibited. Hazing is a criminal offense and shall not be tolerated by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of The Bahamas. Any departure from the ritual of Prince Hall Masonry which includes physical hazing is specifically prohibited. A charge of Un-Masonic conduct shall be submitted to a local Lodge or the Grand Lodge if any Subordinate Lodge, Master Mason or candidate participated or permits hazing in any form. A Subordinate Lodge, Master Mason or Candidate charged and found guilty of hazing by a tribunal shall be expelled from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of The Bahamas. It is an offense to participate in hazing, for a candidate to allow himself to be hazed or to be aware of hazing and not report it to the Grand lodge.

A Lodge, Mason or Candidate charged with hazing shall be immediately suspended until the trial and any appeal is concluded.

ARTICLE XIII

DUTIES OF THE GRAND LODGE

Sec. 1. It is the duty of the Grand Lodge to receive appeals, redress grievances, and remove all complaints of the several Lodges, officers or members of Lodges working under its jurisdiction; to grant warrants; to relieve distressed brethren, their widows and orphans; to assets from time to time by such contributions to Masonic and other non- Masonic charities and other purposes as may appear proper for the benefit of the Craft; and to do all such other acts as are required by the Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas or directed in other parts of this Constitution. In fact, all such things as are best calculated to assure the attainment of the object of Masonry.

Sec. 2. Grand Master Presides In Any Lodge – Holds and Authorizes Elections. If a lodge be deprived of its installed officers who could lawfully open it, the Grand Master, in person or by proxy, may congregate and open it, and hold an election therein to fill vacancies caused by death, permanent disability or refusal to act.

Sec. 3. Grand Master Appoints Inspectors. The Grand Master may assign Grand Officers and competent Masters or Past Masters to inspect the halls, books, methods and work of particular lodges and make reports to him as he shall direct. Provided, the Grand Lodge shall not be put to expense therefore without its express direction; nor shall any lodge be made liable for any cost attending such inspection without its consent.

ARTICLE XIV

DUTIES AND POWER OF THE GRAND MASTER

Sec. 1. To preside over the Grand Lodge; exercise general and special supervision over lodges in the jurisdiction, inspect their work and require a strict compliance with this Constitution and the Rules of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 2. To convene the Grand Lodge at the Grand Lodge at the Grand East when there shall appear to him to be an emergent occasion therefore.

Sec. 3. To take command of the Grand Officers and call upon them for advice and assistance on business relative to the craft.

Sec. 4. To appoint the Committee of the Grand Lodge, not otherwise provided for.

Sec. 5. To decide questions of Masonic law and order with the advice and counsel of the Committee on Jurisprudence and render opinions thereon subject to review by the Grand Lodge. A copy of every opinion made by the Grand Master during recess of the Grand Lodge shall, as soon as rendered, be sent by him to the Grand Secretary, who shall cause the opinion to be published immediately in the Masonic Family News, P.H.A.

Sec. 6. To issue edicts for the government of a subordinate lodge to be effective immediately upon issue and to remain in full force and effect during his term.

Sec. 7. To grant dispensations during the recess of the Grand Lodge for the formation of new lodges, and in person or by proxy to set them regularly to work. Such dispensation shall expires with the closing of the next succeeding annual communication.

Sec. 8. To appoint brethren to fill vacancies in office in the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 9. The Grand Master shall appoint annually a District Deputy Grand Master in each of the District as determined by the Grand Lodge.

Each member so appointed shall be presented with an apron of suitable design and the year of service be imprinted thereon in full view. The design, type and cost of these aprons shall be submitted annually by the Grand Secretary to the Finance Committee for its approval, and the approval of the Grand Lodge.

Each District Deputy Grand Master shall receive mileage and per diem when in attendance at the Grand Lodge for the year in which he shall serve.

Sec. 10. To sign the minutes of the proceeding of the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE XV

POWER OF THE GRAND MASTER

The Powers of the Grand Master shall be:

Sec. 1. To summon the Craft to meet whenever he may deem it necessary or expedient.

Sec. 2. To make Masons at sight, at any time and any place, a Lodge being opened by him for that purpose and he may summon such brethren as are necessary to assist him.

Sec. 3. To require the attendance of and information from any Grand Officer respecting his office, together with all books, papers or documents relating to the same.

Sec. 4. To dismiss, until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, any officer of a Lodge from the function of his office for just cause, and to arrest the charter of any Lodge for dereliction of duty, or other unmasonic conduct, and to present at aforesaid Annual Communication the reasons in writing for such dismissal or arrest.

Sec. 5. To grant a dispensation to a Lodge to elect and install its officers, when such Lodge may have failed to elect and install its officers at the proper time.

Sec. 6. To grant such other dispensation as may be required and applied for in accordance with the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of this Grand Lodge.

Sec. 7. Should the Grand Master be dissatisfied with the conduct of any of his elected officers, he may submit the cause of complaint to the Grand Lodge, and should it appear to a majority of the brethren present that the complaint be well founded, he may displace the Grand Officer and appoint another, provided

always, that no elected Grand Officer can be removed unless with the approbation of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 8. It is his prerogative to do such other things as are inherent in and pertain to his office, in accordance with Ancient Usage, and not in conflict with this Constitution.

Sec. 9 He is Ex-Officio Chairman of any and all committees.

Sec. 10. In case of a vacancy in the Grand Lodge through death or other cause, he may fill the vacancy through a temporary appointment of some duly qualified brother.

Sec. 11. To present at each Annual Communication a written report, setting forth therein, all his official acts during the year, exhibiting the general condition and progress of the Craft under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and recommending such legislation and measures as his judgment and experience may suggest for the improvement and perpetuation of the Institution.

Sec. 12. To install his successor in office, if practicable, assisted by skillful brethren, at his discretion, and when such installation is made, proclaim and salute him in ample form as the "Grand Master of Masons".

ARTICLE XVI

DUTIES OF THE ELECTIVE GRAND OFFICERS

Sec. 1 DEPUTY GRAND MASTER. In the absence of the Grand Master or in the event of his temporary inability to act, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the Deputy Grand Master for the time being, and he shall during the Communications and Vacations of the Grand Lodge, act under the direction of the Grand Master in all matters pertaining to his office.

Sec. 2. In case of death, absence, permanent or temporary inability of the Grand Master, or of a vacancy in his office, the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden shall in succession, assume the power, prerogatives and duties for all purposes of the office immediately superior to their then existing office.

Sec. 3. GRAND WARDENS. It shall be the duty of the Grand Wardens to assist in the affairs of the Grand Lodge and diligently to endeavour to preserve the Ancient Landmarks throughout the jurisdiction.

Sec. 4. GRAND TREASURER. It shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer to give receipts for all monies of the Grand Lodge received by him from the

Grand Secretary, depositing the same within seventy-two (72) hours in some depository or depositories that have been approved by the Grand Lodge, payable on his order as Secretary, in the name of the Grand Lodge, payable on his order as Grand Treasurer, signed by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

Sec. 5. To pay all orders duly drawn under the general regulations or special direction of the Grand Lodge, and certificate by the Grand Secretary.

Sec. 6. To attend on the grand Lodge or its presiding Officer with the books and all documents relating to his office when required; and also attend the meeting of any committee whose duty it may be to act in relation to the fiscal concerns of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 7. He shall execute and file in the office of the Grand Master within fifteen (15) days after his installation, and official bond, approved by the Grand Master, in the full penal sum as designated by the Grand Lodge, premium for which shall be paid by the Grand Lodge; conditioned that he will faithfully perform the duties of his office as prescribed in this Constitution, and at the expiration of his term of office, he shall forthwith pay over and deliver to his successor in office, or of such other person or persons as the Grand Lodge may designate to receive the same, all monies, securities, evidence of debt, books, writings and property of the Grand Lodge in his keeping or under his control, with all proper assignments when the same shall be necessary.

Sec. 8. He shall report annually to the Grand Lodge, or otherwise when called on by the same, the amount of his receipts, and the expenditures for the years preceding, exhibiting the various sums disbursed, under separate heads, and presenting every item as passed by the Grand Lodge that the Grand Lodge may have a distinct statement of the disposal of their funds; he shall at the same time report the amount of the securities in his hands, or under his control, for funds invested by order of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 9. GRAND SECRETARY. He shall record the transactions of the Grand Lodge in writing.

Sec. 10. He shall have the custody of the Seal of the Grand Lodge, and shall affix or authorize to be affixed, the same to all patents, warrants, certificated, and other documents issued by the authority of the Grand Lodge as well as to such as the Grand Master, in conformity with the established laws of the Craft may direct.

Sec. 11. He shall, as soon as possible, furnish the first named person of every committee with a copy of the records and papers which relate to the business of such committee.

Sec. 12. He shall receive, duly file, and safely keep all petitions, applications, appeals, books, papers and documents of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 13. He shall sign, seal and certify all instruments and documents in writing from the Grand Lodge; and notify all members thereof of all meetings of the same.

Sec. 14. He shall receive and keep a proper account of all money of the Grand lodge, with the date of their receipt and pay over the same promptly to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt thereof.

Sec. 15. He shall report annually to the Grand Lodge the amount of monies received by him by items and dates, and the specific source from which it was received; also the Lodges that have neglected to render proper returns of their elections, members and dues, and such general facts regarding the state and condition of the Lodges as may be proper for the information and action of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 16. He has charge of the correspondence of the Grand Lodge, under its general rules, at the direction of the presiding officer, and in conformity with the established usages of Masons, and shall make annual communication to several Grand Lodges, and to the respective Lodges under this jurisdiction, immediately after the election of Grand Officers, of the persons so elected, and of such matters generally as have relation to the Craft at large, or may affect the government of such Lodge in particular.

Sec. 17. When communicating with the respective Grand Lodges with whom a correspondence is preserved, the result of any election of officers of the Grand Lodged wherein a change may have been made, he shall accompany the same with the signature of the Grand Master, and duly authenticated under the Seal of the Grand Lodge that they will forthwith, and as often thereafter as by any change of Grand Officers it may be rendered necessary and important, to furnish this Grand Lodge a similar document.

Sec. 18. He shall attend with any books, papers, or writings under his control, or in his custody on all communications of the Grand lodge, and whenever required by the Grand Master also to attend upon the Grand Master on Masonic business when required.

Sec. 19. He shall compile and assist the committee on Printing with the printing of the Grand Lodge proceedings.

Sec. 20. He shall provide at the expense of the Grand Lodge, all the blank forms necessary for use of the Grand Lodge, and such as may be required for use of the Lodges in transmitting their annual return and other reports of the Grand Lodge or Grand Secretary.

Sec 21. He shall make and retain in his office, duplicates of all Lodge warrants hereafter issued.

Sec.22. Whenever any change or amendment is made in this Constitution, By-Laws or the Regulations, he shall have such change or amendment printed upon slips, giving the page section and clause, suitable for inscription in the proper place, and distribute the same gratis to the Lodges, and to all others upon application.

Sec. 23. He shall execute and file in the office of the Grand Master, within fifteen (15) days after his installation, and official bond, approved by the grand Master, in the full penal sum as designated by the Grand Master, in the full penal a sum as designated by the Grand Lodge; conditioned that he will faithfully perform the duties of his office as prescribed in this Constitution, and at the expiration of his term of office, he shall forthwith deliver over to his successor in office, or to such other person or persons as the Grand Lodge may designate to receive them, all monies, books, papers, documents, writings and property of the Grand Lodge in his keeping or under his control, with all proper assignments when the same shall be necessary.

ARTICLE XVII

DUTIES OF APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS

Sec. 1. DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS. The existing Masonic Districts shall remain as now organized, subject to the alterations by the Grand Lodge at any Annual Communication.

Sec. 2. Every District Deputy Grand Master shall be well skilled in the standard work, and in the law, customs and usages of the Craft. He shall be a Past Master in good standing in some Lodge in the district for which he is appointed, and shall receive a warrant of his appointment, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary.

Sec. 3. They shall have power to appoint commissioners to hear and determine matters of controversy that may arise within their Districts; to visit officially every Lodge at least once a year, and all necessary expense incurred in the discharge of this duty shall be paid by the Lodge so visited; they shall examine its books and other records, and see that they are properly kept; to point out error s ascertained in their conduct and mode of working, and to instruct them in every particular wherein the Deputies find they may require or desire information; to receive and secure the funds and property of any dormant or extinct Lodge in their districts; to prepare a report for the year ending on the 30th day of April yearly, on the general condition of Masonry in their several Districts, and of their several acts therein, with such particulars as they may deem

necessary, transmitting said report to the Grand Master on or before the 1st day of June in each year; and to perform such other service and execute duties as may be entrusted to them by the Grand Master or by the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 4. GRAND LECTURER. The Grand Lecturer shall be a Master Mason of Masonic skill and learning, and shall have power to appoint one or more competent assistants in each District in the jurisdiction.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer to impart the standard work and lectures, approved and determined by the Grand Lodge, to the Lodges or brethren in this jurisdiction in such manner as the Grand Lodge may prescribe.

Sec.6. Every Lodge shall adopt and practice the standard work and lectures as imparted by the Grand Lecturer or the Assistant Grand Lecturers and no other; and any Lodge violating this provision without express authority from the Grand Lodge shall be subject to punishment.

Sec. 7. The Grand Lecturer or the Assistant Grand Lecturers shall be entitled to receive from each Lodge visited their necessary and proper traveling expense, together with their board, during the time spent with the Lodge. The Grand Lecturer shall make an annual report of the state of proficiency of the Lodge he or the Assistant Grand Lecturers may visit.

Sec. 8. It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer to see that the standard work in the three degrees is exemplified at least once a year in each Masonic District, and the expense of such exemplification shall be provided for by the Budget Committee.

Sec. 9. JUDGE ADVOCATE. The Judge Advocate shall be members of the Bar of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and Master Masons in good standing in a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. They shall be appointed by and hold office at the pleasure of the Grand Master and be his Legal advisers with such other duties as the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge may prescribe.

Sec. 10. A Judge Advocate shall be the Chairman or the Commission on Appeals.

Sec. 11. ASSISTANT GRAND TREASURER. The Assistant Grand Treasurer shall assist the Grand Treasurer in the performance of his duties.

Sec. 12. ASSISTANT GRAND SECRETARY. The Assistant Grand Secretary shall assist the Grand Secretary on all occasions. He shall keep an alphabetical file of all deaths, suspensions, expulsions, members dropped from rolls for non-payment of dues, restorations, reinstatements, demittions, affiliations, names and numbers of those initiated, passed and raised, officially reported to the Grand Secretary's office from the Lodges,

specifying the date of such action by the Lodge, with such other information as may be embodied in such reports, together with the name and number of the Lodge from which received, and at the proper time to allow a free inspection of said register to all Master Masons in good standing.

Sec. 13. The Assistant Grand Secretary shall also keep a register of all Past Masters and dates of their services, name of honorary and life member and all other such information and statistics as the Grand Lodge shall direct.

Sec. 14. He shall prepare for the Grand Secretary's signature then transmit to each Lodge in this jurisdiction, immediately by circular letter, a list of all suspensions, expulsions and reinstatement of which he shall have been notified by the Lodges.

Sec. 15. GRAND CHAPLAIN. It shall be the duty of the Grand Chaplain to attend the Annual and other Communications of the Grand Lodge, there to offer up to the Grand Architect of the Universe, the prayers of the brethren, and to invoke His blessing upon their labors; he shall also attend on all funeral processions of the Grand Lodge, all dedications, consecrations, and constituting of new Lodges, and visit the sick members of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 16. GRAND MARSHALL. It shall be his duty to proclaim the Grand Officers at their installation, to introduce the Representatives of all Grand Lodges in fellowship with this Grand Lodge, also other visitors to the Grand Lodge and to see that proper ceremonies on public occasions be duly observed.

Sec. 17. GRAND STANDARD BEARER. He shall carry the standard of the Order in procession and public ceremonies.

Sec. 18. GRAND SWORD BEARER. He shall carry the sword before the Grand Master in processions, and perform such other duties as by ancient usage pertain to his office.

Sec. 19. GRAND PURSUIVANT. He shall attend at the door of the Grand Lodge, to receive the reports of the Grand Tiler, and announce the name and Masonic title of all who desire admission. He is to see that none enter without their proper clothing and decorations; he shall execute the orders of the Grand Master in the business of the Grand Lodge and shall be the custodian of the regalia of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 20. GRAND ORATOR. He shall deliver the orations of the Grand Lodge upon such occasions as directed by the Grand Master.

Sec. 21. GRAND HISTORIAN. He shall be a competent and duly qualified brother who shall prepare and write a history of this Grand Lodge, and collect,

classify, arrange and file from time to time, all available date, documents and other material touching upon matters of interest to the Grand Lodge and its Subordinate Lodges for us in the preparation of subsequent historical records.

Sec. 22. GRAND DEACONS. It shall be their duty to bear the messages of the Grand Master and Grand Wardens throughout the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 23. GRAND STEWARDS. It shall be their duty to superintend the feast of the Grand Lodges.

Sec. 24. GRAND LIBRARIAN. He shall be a competent and duly qualified brother who shall, by and with consent of the Grand Master borrow, purchase, collect from time to time, books, papers, document, medals and other matters of Masonic interest and value, for the edification of the brethren of this jurisdiction.

Sec. 25. GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES. The duties of the Grand Director of Ceremonies shall be such as the Grand Master or his representative may direct from time to time: Provided, he need not be a regular Grand Lodge member,

Sec. 26. GRAND MUSICAL DIRECTOR. His duties shall be as the Grand Master of his representative may direct from time to time: Provided, he need not be a regular Grand Lodge he need not be a regular Grand Lodge member.

Sec. 27. GRAND ORGANIST. He shall assist the Grand Musical Director and perform such other duties as the Grand Master or his representative may direct form time: Provided, he need not be a regular member of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 28. GRAND TILER. He shall guard the outer door of the Grand Lodge and see that none enter previous to the opening, except the officers and members, unless by special permission of the Grand Master.

Sec.29. CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE. It shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Correspondence to examine all the Printed or written proceedings of other Grand Lodges, and report at each communication whatever may seem of interest or benefit to the Craft. He shall prepare and make a full report of all inter-jurisdictional correspondence during the year, with such recommendations as deemed proper.

Sec. 30. GRAND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR. He, in consultation with the Grand Master, shall be responsible for all public relations of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 31. **Grand Convention Director. He shall be the principal co-ordinator and negotiator with proposed venue operators for hosting conventions and special events.**

ARTICLE XVIII
REVENUES AND FUNDS

Sec. 1. The revenue of this Grand Lodge shall be derived from the following:

▪ Membership Certificate	\$ 20.00
▪ Identification Cards	\$ 5.00
▪ Dispensation for third degree	\$ 30.00
▪ Dispensation to establish a new lodge	\$ 30.00
▪ New Lodge Charter	\$ 50.00
▪ Other Dispensation	\$ 25.00
▪ Healing Fee	\$ 30.00
▪ Demits- Members from other Jurisdiction	\$ 50.00
▪ Re-instatement fee for Death plan	\$ 25.00
▪ Re-instatement in Lodge	\$ 20.00
▪ Death Plan	\$ 60.00
▪ Per Capita Tax	\$ 20.00
▪ MM on Raising (Regalia)	\$ 10.00
▪ Past Masters Membership Dues	\$ 30.00

Sec. 2: **Any Master Mason who does not pay his Grand Lodge relief dues and assessments as required is automatically dropped from the roll of the Subordinate Lodge and the Grand Lodge. Any Master Mason who fails to pay his relief dues and assessments when required may be restored to the rolls for the amount of his dues or assessments or both plus a penalty of \$5.00 within 90 days of the required dated for the payment of dues and assessments.**

Sec. 3: **Prior to a Master Mason being dropped from the rolls of his Subordinate Lodge for non-payment of dues, his situation must be brought before his Local Lodge and voted on by the Local Lodge, Prior to a Master Mason over sixty-five (65) years of age being dropped from the rolls of his Subordinate Lodge, the Worshipful Master must contact the Grand Master in writing explaining the Master Mason's conditions.**

**TO WHOM GRAND LODGE DUES AND ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE
PAID**

Sec.4. All Secretaries of Local Lodges are hereby made Grand Lodge Agents to collect Grand Lodge Relief Dues and Assessment, giving receipts therefore, and no other member or officer of a Local Lodge is authorized or charged with the duty of collecting Relief Dues and Assessments.

Sec.5. All Actual Past Grand Masters of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of The Bahamas shall be exempted from paying Grand Lodge dues.

Sec.6. The Most Worshipful Grand Master is exempted from paying dues in any Masonic Body within the Jurisdiction of The Bahamas.

Sec. 7. The funds of the Grand Lodge shall be divided into three (3) parts as follows:

- (a) Charity
- (b) Operating
- (c) Permanent

Sec.8. The Charity Fund shall be the revenue derived from such social functions promulgated by the Committee on Charity and Employment, or such other funds as the Grand Lodge may direct, and shall be for such purposes as may be defined in ARTICLE XXIII, Section 7, of this Constitution.

Sec.9. The Operating Fund shall be for the purpose of liquidating the immediate expense of the Grand Lodge during the interim between its regular Annual Communications as designated by the Budget Committee. Withdrawals from this fund must be through the system of bank cheque, the same to be drawn by the Grand Treasurer, countersigned by the Grand Master and/or the Grand Secretary.

Sec.10. All other revenues not otherwise provided for, shall comprise the Permanent Fund of this Grand Lodge.

Sec.11. The withdrawal of monies from the Charity Fund shall be by bank cheque, signed by any two (2) of the three (3) principal elected officers, i.e., Grand Master, Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary.

Sec.12. The withdrawal of monies from the Permanent Fund shall be by draft drawn upon the Grand Treasurer, signed by the Grand Master and Grand Secretary.

HOW GRAND LODGE FUNDS ARE TO BE HANDLED BY SUBORDINATE LODGES

Sec. 13. **All Subordinate Lodges are hereby declared independent in control of its own funds, but the Grand Lodge dues and assessments are to be handled and strictly accounted for by the Local Lodge Secretary under the supervision of the Worshipful Master. No funds collected belonging to the Grand Lodge shall be spent by a Local Lodge while in its custody.**

Sec. 14. **The Secretary of the Local Lodge shall not hold the Grand Lodge Dues and Assessments past the specified due dates.**

Sec. 15. **When a Secretary Lodge collects Grand Lodge Dues and Assessments from Master Masons and willfully fails or refuse to send such Grand Lodge Dues and Assessments to the Grand Secretary, in case of death of a Master Mason who has paid, the Subordinate Lodge shall become responsible for payment of such relief as would have been paid by the Grand Lodge, and the Worshipful Master and Secretary shall be subjected to suspension by the Grand Lodge.**

DEATH BENEFIT PLAN

Sec.16. **A Masonic Death Plan is established to handle all Charitable Donations in behalf of deceased Master Masons. Payments shall be made in November. All moneys in the Masonic Death Plan will be kept in an interest bearing account. Charity Donations to beneficiaries of deceased Master Masons are mandatory. If moneys are not available none will be disbursed. No donations will be given to an Estate. In case of any controversy, the Grand Master and the Board of Directors will determine who the recipient will be.**

Sec. 17. **When a Master Mason who is square and in good financial standing dies, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of his Lodge to file a sworn statement in the form of a death proof blank furnished by the Grand Lodge. Said death proof blank shall be signed by the Master, and Secretary of the Local Lodge. The Grand Lodge upon immediate request shall be furnished all death proofs. It shall be the duty of the Local Lodge Secretary to secure from beneficiaries, proper affidavits, a funeral program or a certified copy of death from relatives or Beneficiaries and other information that may be required by the Grand Secretary in connection with the settlement of the death claim.**

Sec.18. The Masonic Death Plan benefits shall be granted only to the named beneficiaries, who shall have priority of entitlement thereto in order hereinafter named, provided that such beneficiary is living at the time. A check will be mail or delivered to the Local Secretary or the beneficiary providing that such beneficiary is not disqualified to receive such benefits under any of the provisions hereinafter enumerated in this section. In the event such beneficiary is not living at the time a relief check is ready for delivery to him or her, neither such beneficiary nor his estate shall be entitled to or receive such relief benefits, but same shall pass to the next beneficiary entitled thereto, in order of the priority hereinafter outlined. The order of priority is as follow:

- (1)- (A) Designated beneficiary**
- (b) Legal Widow**
- (c) Mother**
- (d) Unmarried sister**
- (e) Father**
- (f) Married sister and/or brother**

The Grand Lodge shall have the exclusive right to determine to whom payments shall be made in the event of any dispute concerning who is the appropriated payee.

(2) – A Master Mason may designate the beneficiary of benefits to be paid at his death, by completing the triplicate, a Designation of Beneficiary form obtained for the Grand Secretary. Said form must be executed either before the Worshipful Master and the Secretary of the Lodge, or a Notary Public, and forwarded to the Grand Secretary through the Secretary of the Lodge, who shall record the same. Said Designation shall become effective only upon receipt by the Grand Secretary.

ARTICLE XIX

SALARIES

Sec.1. The salaries or honorariums of Grand Lodge Officers shall be such as is appropriated from time to time by the Grand Lodge, exclusive of necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

ARTICLE XX

EXPENSES

Sec. 1. The expenses incurred by any Grand Lodge Officer or Committee while functioning under the order of the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, shall be within the limits set by the Budget Committee and shall be paid from the Operating Account.

Sec. 2. In the computation of time relative to the salaries of Grand Lodge Officers, the year shall be considered as commencing on the day after the closing of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 3. Each elective Grand Officer, when in attendance at the Annual or Special Communication of the Grand Lodge, and who resides outside the city where such Communication is held, shall receive his per diem expenses to and from such sessions.

ARTICLE XXI

REGALIA

Sec. 1. **The jewels worn by the Grand Officers shall be of gold metal, pendant to a purple ribbon or gold collar. The aprons shall be of white satin or Lamb's Skin with the appropriate jewels embroidered thereon in gold, and the apron trimmed with purple and gold bullion fringe.**

Sec. 2. Each Officer of and representative of the Grand Lodge shall appear therein with proper jewel and clothing.

ARTICLE XXII

STYLE OF GRAND OFFICERS

Sec.1. The style of the Grand Master is "Most Worshipful"; of the remaining officers, "Right Worshipful".

ARTICLE XXIII

COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES

Sec.1. Within thirty (30) days after the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall appoint the following standing committee, each to consist of three (3) or more members:

- (a) Committee on Credentials.
- (b) Committee on Charters and Warrants.
- (c) Committee on By-Laws.
- (d) Committee on Charity and Employment.

- (e) Committee on Jurisprudence.
- (f) Committee on Grievance.
- (g) Committee on Budget
- (h) Committee on Foreign Correspondence
- (i) Committee on Fraternal Recognition**
- (j) Committee on Appeals**
- (k) Committee on Work and Lectures.
- (l) Committee on Grand Master's Address.
- (m) Committee on Printing.
- (n) Committee on Audit.
- (o) Committee on Resolutions.
- (p) Committee on Necrology.**

Sec.2. Special committees may also be appointed by the Grand Master whenever it shall be necessary.

Sec.3. Committees shall not sit while the Grand Lodge is actually in session, except by permission, but they shall all report before the close of the Annual Session. All Committee reports shall be in writing and upon Forms furnished by the Grand Secretary, and at the close of the Annual Session they shall be filed with the other records of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 4. COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS. The duty of the Committee on Credentials shall be list properly and report to the Grand Lodge the names of all officers and other members of the Grand Lodge; stating the names and numbers of the Lodges represented, the names and official positions of all Masters, Wardens, Past Masters and Grand Representatives present, and the names of the Lodges represented by proxies and those holding the same.

Sec.5. COMMITTEE ON CHARTERS AND WARRANTS. The Committee on Charters and Warrants shall examine all applications for charters or warrants for new Lodges, applications for duplicate charters or warrants and all cases for forfeited charters or warrants.

Sec.6. BY-LAWS. The Committee on By-Laws shall examine the By-Laws of all Lodge, also those presented for approval and any alterations or amendments thereto.

Sec.7. COMMITTEE ON CHARITY AND EMPLOYMENT. The Committee on Charity and Employment shall examine all applications for assistance from the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge, and consider and report upon the necessities

of any worthy and indigent Master Mason, his widow or orphans, whose conditions may claim the attention of the Grand Lodge; also to operate and maintain the Employment Department of the Grand Lodge.

Sec.8. COMMITTEE ON JURISPRUDENCE. The Committee on jurisprudence shall consider all questions, resolutions and discussions of Masonic Law and Usage, and Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. The Judge Advocate and Grand Lecturer shall be members of this Committee.

Sec.9. COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCE. The Committee on Grievance shall examine and consider with such recommendations as may be proper, all documents and papers relating to any matters of complaint or grievance appertaining to Masonic discipline and conduct.

Sec.10. COMMITTEE ON BUDGET. The Committee on the Budget shall consider the expenditures of the Grand Lodge and recommend at each Annual Communication, a budget for the ensuing year, embracing emergency appropriations over which the Committee on Budget shall have jurisdiction. They shall have general supervision over the Operating Account.

Sec.11. COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence shall establish and maintain intercourse with Grand Lodges outside the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Sec.12. COMMITTEE ON WORKS AND LECTURES. The Committee on Works and Lectures shall examine into all matters relative to the secret work, lectures and ceremonies, and shall recommend such changes as may be deemed necessary and advisable.

Sec.13. COMMITTEE OF GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS. This Committee shall examine the Grand Master's report of the condition of the Craft, and any suggestions or recommendations he may offer for the general good and improvement of the method of the Grand Lodge and report their opinions to the Grand Lodge.

Sec.14. COMMITTEE ON PRINTING. With the Grand Secretary as Chairman, the Committee shall superintend any incidental printing ordered by the Grand Lodge; and shall cause to be printed the proceedings and other necessary reports and documents unless otherwise provided for by the Grand Lodge.

Sec.15. COMMITTEE ON AUDIT. The Committee on Audit shall semi-annually compare the books, paper, vouchers and accounts of the Grand Lodge, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and note the general condition and make a written reports on the same.

Sec.16. COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS. The Committee on Resolutions shall examine all resolutions submitted and make a written report of their opinions of the same to the Grand Lodge.

Section. 17. APPEALS: The Committee on Appeals shall consist of three permanent members of the Grand Lodge with qualification of Judge of the Supreme Court as provided by the constitution of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to be appointed by the Grand Master, one to serve one year, one to serve two years, one to serve three years, the oldest in point of service to be chairman, and the vacancy each year to be filled for a term of three years. The judicial power of the Grand Lodge shall be vested entirely in this Committee.

The Committee on Appeals shall have exclusive and final jurisdiction, subject, however, to the right of any parties aggrieved to appeal to the Grand Lodge, to hear and determined all trials of Masters of Lodges and controversies between different lodges and the trials of all such charges for breaches of Masonic laws by members of lodges as the Grand Master may direct; provided, however, that the Grand Master shall not refer to said Committee for trial charges preferred against a member of a lodge, not an officer, unless requested by the lodge in which the accused holds membership so to do. Provided, further, that upon the failure of such lodge to request such reference, members of the lodge constituting ten percent of the entire membership may, in writing, request such reference to the Grand Master, in which event he shall be authorized to refer the charges to the Committee, which shall have jurisdiction of the trial of the offense.

If the Committee on Appeals of the Grand Lodge shall declare a trial irregular, or the sentence illegal, the trial is thereby made void, held for naught and the accused is ipso factor restored to the same status in his lodge and the fraternity that he held at the time charges were preferred, but he may be retried on the same or new charges.

If the Committee on Appeals of the Grand Lodge shall restore to good standing a Mason who has been suspended or expelled, he is not thereby restored to membership in his lodge, so far as it affects his standing with the Craft at large, and he may obtain certificate of that fact from the Grand Secretary, which certificate shall operate as a demit.

SECTION.18. NECROLOGY: The Committee on Necrology shall make a report on the death of distinguished craftsmen, and such appropriated notice of other deceased brethren as, in its opinion, ought to be made.

SECTION.19. Committee on Fraternal Recognition. The Committee on Fraternal Recognition shall consider and report on requests for recognition

by the Grand Lodge from other Grand Lodges and also investigate other Grand Lodges from whom this Grand Lodge may seek recognition.

ARTICLE XXV

CHARGES, TRIALS AND APPEALS.

Sec.1. The Grand Lodge shall have original jurisdiction to hear and determine charges which may be preferred against a non-affiliated Mason; also in all matters of controversy which may arise between Lodges, or between a Lodge and its Master or between a Lodge and a member, or the members of another Lodge, or members of different Lodges; and when charges are preferred in any of the foregoing cases, it shall be the duty of the Grand Master, or District Deputy Master of the District in which the controversy shall arise, to appoint by his warrant, a commission consisting of not more than five (5) nor less than three (3) disinterested brethren who shall have attained the rank of Master and shall hail from at least three (3) different Lodges, to hear and determine the same.

Sec.2. Subordinate Lodges shall have with the Grand Lodge, concurrent jurisdiction over any non-affiliated Mason residing within the territorial jurisdiction of said Lodge, and original jurisdiction over any of its members except its Master; and when charges are preferred in a Lodge, a Commission shall be appointed by the Master, consisting of not less than three (3) and not more than five (5) members of the said Lodge, to take testimony in the case, and report the same to the Lodge for its judgment.

Sec.3. After the service of charges against a brother or Lodge, the commission shall appoint a time and place for the trial, and summon the parties and their witnesses and any Master of a Lodge may issue a like summons for witnesses at the request of either party.

Sec.4. When the trial is concluded, the commission shall, as soon as possible, make its report of the facts found by it and its determination of the matter, and give notice thereof to each of the parties; a majority of the commissioners must concur in the recommendations for the commission, a copy of which must be filed with the Grand Secretary.

Sec.5. The decision of the Lodge shall be final, unless an appeal shall be taken there from to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge within six months; in which case it shall be the duty of the commissioners, upon receiving notice of such appeal, to transmit their report, together with all papers and proceedings in the case, to the Grand Secretary, unless they have already filed a copy.

Sec.6. No brother shall be suspended nor expelled before nor without a fair and impartial trial after previous service of formal charges.

Sec.7. The appellant shall also within thirty (30) days after notice of the decision of the Lodge, give notice of intention to appeal, to the opposite party.

Sec.8. The decision of the Grand Master shall be final, unless a further appeal be taken within thirty (30) days after notice thereof.

Sec.9. When notice of appeal to the Grand Lodge shall have been filed with the Grand Secretary, that office shall immediately, or as soon as received, send to the Chief Commissioner of Appeals, all papers and reports having reference to the case, to the end that the Commissioner of Appeals may have time to examine the appeal in advance of the meeting of the Grand Lodge.

Sec.10. The appeal shall be heard before **the Committee** on Appeals during the session of the Grand Lodge, and the decision of the Grand Lodge upon the report of said Committee shall be conclusive upon all parties.

Sec.11. The expense which may be incurred by **the Committee** in conducting a Masonic trial shall be borne by one or both of the parties to the controversy, as may be determined by the Commissioners and set forth in their report, and payment of such expense may be enforced in the same manner as Lodge or Grand Lodge dues, or by proper Masonic discipline.

Sec.12. Charges against a Master of a Lodge for misconduct while holding the office of Master shall be presented to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

Sec.13. Charges preferred which, if proven would not constitute a Masonic offence, may be and should be dismissed by the body before which the same may have been preferred.

ARTICLES XXVI

PENALTIES AND RESTORATION

Sec. 1. The penalties which may be inflicted for the violation of Masonic Law shall be:

- (a) Reprimand or censure,
- (b) Suspension from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, which shall be for a definite or an indefinite time.
- (c) Expulsion.

Sec.2. A Lodge having expelled a member, may restore such expelled Mason to the rights of Masonry at any time by a majority vote, notice of a motion

to do so having been made at a preceding stated communicated; provided, however, that such restoration shall not be made when the Grand Lodge shall have affirmed the decision on appeal.

Sec.3. The Grand Lodge shall have power to restore an expelled Mason to the rights of Masonry at any time by a Majority vote, notice of a motion to do so having been made at a preceding stated communication; provided, however, that such restoration shall not be made when the Grand Lodge shall have affirmed the decision on appeal.

Sec.4. When the Grand Lodge restores a brother to the rights of Masonry; he remains unaffiliated until restored to membership in a Lodge.

ARTICLE XXVII

DECISIONS OF THE GRAND MASTER

Sec.1. Decisions rendered upon Masonic Law by the Grand Master shall not have the force nor effort of fundamental law, but when approved by the Grand Lodge they shall have the effect of an approval of the fact in the particular case or instance and must be observed by the Lodges for guidance in similar matters.

ARTICLE XXVIII

SEAL OF THE GRAND LODGE

Sec.1. The Seal of the Grand Lodge shall be in possession of the Grand Secretary.

ARTICLE XXIX

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Sec.1. The Order of business of the Grand Lodge shall be:

1. Calling the Grand Lodge to Order.
2. Calling the Roll of Officers.
3. Calling the Roll of Lodges
4. The usual solemn opening ceremonies.
5. Report of the Committee on Credentials.
6. Committee arrangements, etc.

7. Reading and approval of the Minutes of the last sessions.
8. Address of Grand Master and reference to Committee.
9. Reports of Grand Officers and reference to Committee.
10. Unfinished business from last session.
11. Reading of communications, charges appeals, etc.
12. Presentation of motions, resolutions, etc. and reference to Committee.
13. Reports of Special and Standing Committee.
14. Presentation and consideration of amendments, etc.
15. Miscellaneous business.
16. Election and installation of officers.
17. Closing the Grand Lodge.

Sec.2. Should the order of business not be concluded at the session at which it is first called, it shall be commenced at the succeeding session where it was left off, and so on, throughout the communication: Provided, that the reading of the Minutes shall be the first business in order at each continuing session.

ARTICLE XXX

STYLE OF OPENING THE GRAND LODGE

Sec.1. When presided over by the Grand Master; the Grand Lodge shall be declared opened in “ample form”; by the Deputy Grand Master, opened in “due form” and when by either the Senior or Junior Grand Wardens, opened “in form”.

ARTICLE XXXI

AMENDMENTS

Sec.1. No attachments to the constitution shall be made or have any effects, until it shall have been proposed in the Grand Lodge, in writing, in resolution form, signed by at least seven (7) Master Masons in good standing, at its Annual Communication in June, and shall have been adopted by the Grand Lodge at the same Communication.

Sec.2. If any such amendment shall be adopted, it shall be published under the caption “PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION”, and

sent to all the Lodges in this jurisdiction. It shall then be adopted in like manner by the Grand Lodge at the next succeeding Annual communication by a vote of at least two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the members present voting for it and registering their votes through a roll call of Lodges by the Grand Secretary; but no general regulation shall be adopted inconsistent with this Constitution, and all former Constitutions are hereby repealed.

Sec.3. These Statutes may be amended at any Annual Communication at the Grand Lodge by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote, provided that a notice of such proposed amendment shall have been given and the amendment proposed presented in writing at a previous Annual Communication.

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful and Worshipful Grand Officers and Grand Lodge Representatives, GREETINGS:-

On Behalf of the Committee appointed to consider the CONSTITUTION of this MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS of the COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMA ISLANDS and its Jurisdiction thereunto belonging, we herewith submit this report on its recommendations relative to the said Constitution.

ARTICLE XXXII

REGIONALIZATION

BY-LAWS

FOR

SUBORDINATE LODGES

OF

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE

HALL GRAND LODGE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE

BAHAMAS

AND JURISDICTION

OPENING
My Hope Is Built

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874
Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1886
Tune: THE SOLID ROCK,
Meter: LM with Refrain

1. *My hope is built on nothing less
 than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
 but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain:

- On Christ the solid rock I stand,
 all other ground is sinking sand;
 all other ground is sinking sand.*
2. *When Darkness veils his lovely face,
 I rest on his unchanging grace.
 In every high and stormy gale,
 my anchor holds within the veil
 (Refrain)*
 3. *His oath, his covenant, his blood
 Supports me in the whelming flood.
 When all around my soul gives way,
 He then is all my hope and stay.
 (Refrain)*
 4. *When he shall come with trumpet sound,
 O may I then in him be found!
 Dressed in his righteousness alone,
 Faultless to stand before the throne!
 (Refrain)*

By-Laws
For The Subordinate Lodges Jurisdiction
Of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas
Free and Accepted Masons Prince Hall Affiliated
ARTICLE I

LODGE

The Subordinate Lodges are collectively known as the Lodge of Jurisdiction of The Bahamas possessing all powers and privileges granted by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, unto whose Constitution, Laws and Edicts, implicit respect and obedience's shall be paid by all members.

ARTICLE II

COMMUNICATION

SECTION I

The regular communication of the Lodges of Jurisdiction shall be held for the transaction of business and work.

The Lodges of this Jurisdiction shall convene at 8:00 p.m. and no later than 8:30 p.m. Day Light Saving Time and Eastern Standard Time, The said communication shall not be held when the date set falls when the Grand Lodge is in session, or on a public holiday.

SECTION 2

The Worshipful Master of his lodge may call a Special Communication at any time he shall deem it necessary, provided that the requisite Dispensation has been obtained from the Most Worshipful Grand Master; and that no business other than that for which the dispensation has been granted shall be conducted.

SECTION 3

At a regular communication the order of business shall be as follows, unless the Worshipful Master shall otherwise direct:

1. *Opening the Lodge*

2. *Roll Call of Officers*
3. *Minutes of the Last Regular Communication*
4. *Minutes of Special Communication*
5. *Sickness and Distress*
6. *Receipt of Dues, Taxes, etc.*
7. *Reports on petitions previously referred*
8. *Balloting on petitions*
9. *Presenting and referring petitions*
10. *Communications and Bills, etc*
11. *Reports of other Committees*
12. *New Business*
13. *Unfinished Business*
14. *Election and Installation of Officers*
15. *Conferring of Degrees*
16. *Closing*

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS

SECTION I

The elected officers of the Lodges shall be the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected at the first regular communication in December each year, and shall be installed on or before the 27th day of December. The Appointed Officers shall be Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Tiler, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Marshall, Master of Ceremonies, Organist and Assistant Secretary.

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION I

The Worshipful Master shall preside over all meetings of his respective Lodge, and enforce due observance of the Laws of his respective Lodge; see that all Officers discharge their duties, convene special meeting as he deems necessary; and appoint all committees not otherwise provided for; have the casting vote in all cases of a tie; issue notices to members to visit the sick; sign all authorize drafts on the treasury, and all other legal document presented for his signature; appoint the Chaplain, Senior Deacon, and Tiler.

SECTION 2

The Senior and Junior Wardens shall assist the Worshipful Master in the discharge of his duties, and in his absence perform them according to

custom. The Senior Warden shall appoint the Junior Deacon, and the Junior Warden shall appoint the Stewards.

SECTION 3

The Treasurer shall receive all monies and bills from the Secretary, giving him the receipt of the same; he shall deposit the monies into the Lodge's bank account; pay all orders regularly signed by the Worshipful Master, and attested by the Secretary, with the consent of the Lodge. He shall carefully number and file all vouchers of receipts and disbursements; submit a report of all monies received and disbursed, submit, quarterly report on finances of the Lodge, and surrender his books for examination on expiry of his term of office, and shall submit his books to The Audit Commitment annually, or at any time as requested by the Lodge. The Treasurer shall only be exempted from dues during his term of officer at the discretion of the Worshipful Master of his Lodge for the faithful and zealous performance of his duties and shall receive such other compensation as the Lodge may from time to time decide.

SECTION 4

The Secretary shall keep a full and impartial account between the Lodge and its members; make and keep a complete and just record of all the proceedings of the Lodge; write all documents required of him by virtue of his office; draw all authorized orders on this Treasury, signed by the Worshipful Master, attested by him, and impressed with the seal of the Lodge. He shall have the seal in his exclusive possession, and be responsible therefore, should it be used unlawfully. He shall receive all monies due to the Lodge, paying it over to the Treasurer, and taking his receipt therefore. He shall notify all members who are in arrears for dues and taxes; file all vouchers of receipts and disbursements. He shall submit to the Lodge a full report of all monies received and expensed paid, together with the number of admissions, suspensions etc, at the First regular meeting in December each year; submit quarterly reports on the finances of the Lodge and surrender all books and property of the Lodge in his possession at the expiration of his term in office. He shall also submit to the Lodge such reports as may reasonably be required. He shall have an Assistant Secretary appointed by the Worshipful Master. The Secretary shall only be exempted from dues during his term of office at the discretion of the Worshipful Master of his Lodge for the faithful and zealous performance of his duties and shall receive such other compensation as the Lodge may from time to time decide.

SECTION 5

The Tiler shall attend all communications of the Lodge, guard the outer door of the Lodge; communicate with the Junior Deacon within, report the names of all persons claiming admission. The Tiler shall keep the Lodge room clean and tidy, see that the Lodge's property is properly

secured after meetings, and be responsible thereof, should it be unlawfully removed; report the loss or damage of the same and serve all notices not sent through the mail. The Tiler shall only be exempted from dues during his term of office at the discretion of the worshipful Master of his Lodge for the faithful and zealous performance of his duties.

SECTION 6

Any officer who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings, without acceptable excuse, may be required to vacate his office; in which case the Worshipful Master of his Lodge shall appoint another member to perform those duties for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE V

MEMBESHIP

SECTION 1

All petition for membership shall be made in writing, on the form prescribed, signed by the petitioner, and recommended by two financial members of the Lodge; applications shall be accompanied by the recent medical certificate, police record, and two (2) recent photographs of the petitioner.

SECTION 2

The membership fee shall be subject to the provisions as set out in clause A of the Schedule (hereinafter referred to as "the Schedule"). The membership fees shall be inclusive of Administrative fee; the dues for the Masonic year; Masonic Aprons (Master Mason Apron and the White/Lamb Skin apron); Masonic Books (The More Light Ritual, and the Craft and Symbols); and Masonic Apparel (a pair of Masonic Gloves, a Masonic Cap, and two (2) Masonic Shirts).

SECTION 3

All applications shall be presented at a regular communication, and if received, be referred to the Investigation Committee and the Grand Secretary for processing. When a candidate is reported favorable, a ballot shall be taken; which ballot must be unanimous for the candidate to be elected. Should the ballot be foul or cloudy to the extent of one ballot, the Worshipful Master of his Lodge in his discretion, may order a second ballot, and in extreme cases, a third ballot, but no more. The fees accompanying an application, which has received and adverse ballot, shall be returned to the petitioner. A candidate so rejected may submit a further application after a period of six (6) months.

SECTION 4

A petitioner duly elected for membership, shall be duly notified; and should he fail to present himself for degrees within three months after such

notification, unless prevented by some emergency, he shall forfeit all claims on this Lodge in respect of money and degrees.

SECTION 5

The Membership of this Lodge are those who have been raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason; or regularly affiliated therewith; who have not been dishonorably discharged from membership; nor excluded for un-Masonic conduct; nor un-affiliated for the non-payment of dues.

ARTICLE VI

ACCOUNTS

The funds of the Lodge shall be deposited into an Account at a bank approved by the Lodge. All cheque drawn on this account shall be signed by the Worshipful Master, Secretary, and Treasurer, with the consent of the Lodge,

ARTICLE VII

DUES AND TAXES

SECTION 1

Each member shall pay dues at the rate per month as provided in clause B of the Schedule referred to below, and that amount may be amended by the Worshipful Master, with the majority consent of the elected officers and the majority of the Brother present.

SECTION 2

Each member shall pay Death Tax; and the Grand Lodge Tax as provided in clause C of the Schedule. The Grand Lodge shall determine the Grand Lodge Tax. The Worshipful Master of the Lodges may also impose any other Taxes, as the circumstances of the Lodges shall require.

SECTION 3

Any member indebted to the Lodge for non-payment of dues and taxes for a period of there (3) months, shall be notified in writing by the Secretary. He shall make such payments to the Lodge in person within six (6) weeks after such notification. Should he fail to do so, he shall be declared non-financial, and he shall have no further financial claim on his Lodge, unless the Lodge shall determine otherwise because of extreme circumstances.

SECTION 4

A member indebted for six (6) months or more shall present a medical certificate along with his payment. The Lodge reserves the right to request a medical certificate of a member who is non-financial and stricken off the roll.

ARTICLE VIII**SICK BENEFITS****SECTION 1**

Any financial member of the lodge, becoming sick, and unable to perform his usual avocation, shall notify the Lodge, and shall be entitled to receive charitable contributions approved or collected by the Lodge.

SECTION 2

The Sick Committee shall consist of the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden and two (2) other members of the Lodge, the Senior Warden as Chairman.

ARTICLE IX**DEATH AND BURIAL****SECTION 1**

Upon the death of a financial member of the Lodge, The Prince Hall Family Death Benefit Plan shall pay the sum provided in clause D of the Schedule to the person or persons previously designed by the deceased member, and such person or persons shall have no financial claim on the Lodge.

SECTION 2

Upon the death of a financial member whose family may request a Masonic burial, the Worshipful Master shall, through the Secretary and the Tiler summons all members of the Lodge to attend the funeral. An invitation shall be extended to all affiliated Lodges. The dress shall be black suit, black shoes and socks, black hat, black bowtie, plain white

gloves, and lambskin apron. The Marshall shall have the power to turn away any member not so attired. The Worshipful Master shall appoint six (6) pallbearers, who shall take charge of the deceased until interred.

SECTION 3

A worthy and financial Brother of his respective Lodge in any recognized jurisdiction who shall have taken ill and need to be cared for by the brethren, shall notify his respective Worshipful Master or for the sojourning brother anyone of the Worshipful Masters of District shall employ a suitable person or select two brothers to remain a night with the Brother giving him the proper attention. When a stranger is employed by the Worshipful Master, the Brethren shall make frequent visits. Any Brother failing to comply will be subject to the fine prescribed in clause K of the Schedule.

ARTICLE X

AFFILIATION AND TRANSFER

SECTION 1

Any Master Mason in good standing, who desires affiliation with a Lodge, shall submit his petition, together with a demit bearing the seal and relevant signatures of the Lodge from which he hails. The fee for such affiliation is provided in clause E of the Schedule.

SECTION 2

In the case of a suspended Master Mason, he shall submit, with his petition, a recent medical certificate, police record, photograph, and a fee as provided in clause F of the Schedule. The petition shall be referred to the Investigation Committee, and balloted for, as in the case of an initial application. A petitioner rejected by the ballot, may submit a further petition after a period of six (6) months.

SECTION 3

Any member of this Lodge requesting transfer to another affiliated Lodge shall make application in writing, pay all outstanding dues, taxes, etc. owing to his Lodge, and a fee as provided in clause G of the Schedule for the preparation of the Demit. No such transfer shall be granted to a member, against whom charges have been preferred, or who is involved in any investigation, until all matters relating thereto have been resolved.

SECTION 4

Any member of this Lodge, who has been in arrears for three (3) years or more, and applying for re-affiliation, shall be assessed at the

amount provided in clause H of the Schedule in order to make him financial.

ARTICLE XI

EXEMPTIONS

SECTION 1

A financial member of his respective lodge, who shall have reached the age of sixty-five years, and applying for exemption of dues, shall be so exempted only by the vote of the majority of the members presented, if such petition be defected, a further request may be made after a period of one (1) month.

SECTION 2

All members who have been exempted form dues, shall pay taxes as determined by his respective Lodge from time to time.

ARTICLE XII

RULES OF CONDUCT

SECTION 1

Any member of the Lodge who fails to attend at least one (1) regular communication in every three (3) months, without satisfactory explanation, may be fined as provided by clause I of the Schedule

SECTION 2

Any member of the Lodge who shall make known the business transactions of the Lodge to any person other than a member in good standing, may be reprimanded, fined, or suspended as the lodge may determine.

SECTION 3

Every member shall conduct himself in Lodge in such a manner as not to disturbed the harmony of the same. He shall not be disrespectful, or be disorderly, and shall be attentive. He shall obey all commands from the Chair, address the East, and pay reverence as ordered by the Constitution. Offenders against the rule may be fined as provided by clause J of the Schedule.

SECTION 4

Any member desiring to speak upon any question before the Lodge, shall rise, and respectfully address the officers of the Lodge. When an Officer and a member shall rise on any point, the Officer shall have first preference; when two officers, the Senior shall be first, and when two members, the Master shall decide.

SECTION 5

In discussion or debate of any question before the Lodge, no members shall speak more than twice (2) on the same subject, nor more than once, until all who desire to speak shall have spoken.

SECTION 6

Any member who has been suspended, or expelled, shall not be admitted to Lodge during such period, nor shall any member who has been convicted of felony, or other high misdemeanor, retain his membership in his Lodge.

SECTION 7

Any Master Mason who shall become intoxicated or found intoxicated at any Masonic event shall be fined as provided by clause J in the Schedule.

SECTION 8

Any Master Mason whose behavior is disorderly, unbecoming of a Master Mason; or whose behavior is deemed a disgrace as the Lodge may determine at any Masonic event may be reprimanded or suspended and shall be fined as provided by clause J in the Schedule.

ARTICALE XIII

AMENDMENTS AND BINDING

SECTION 1

Any member desirous of altering or amending any of these By-Laws shall propose the amendments in writing, stating the Article and Section to be amended, at a regular communication. Such proposal shall lay over at least one (1) month for consideration, at which time it must be taken up. Alterations or amendments must receive the approval of the Grand Lodge in session for adoption.

SECTION 2

The Worshipful Masters of the Lodge may amend the By-Laws with the majority consent of the elected officers, the By-Laws Committee, and the Grand Lodge at any time and from time to time by written instrument

which shall be effective only upon receipt thereof by the By-Laws Committee.

SECTION 3

Every member of the Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons Prince Hall Affiliated of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas acknowledge reading and understanding the terms and conditions of the By-Laws, and agrees that they shall be bound thereby.

SECTION 4

EXCEPT as specifically amended herein the terms and conditions of the By-Laws shall remain in force and effect and the amendment (s) shall read as a single integrated document with all the terms used and having the meaning as set forth in the By-Laws.

SCHEDULE HEREINBEFORE REFERRED TO

A. Membership Fees

The membership fee shall be five hundred and fifty (\$550.00) dollars with one hundred and fifty (\$150.00) dollars accompanying the application; two hundred (\$200.00) dollars shall be paid before the first (1st) degree and the balance of all monies to be paid before the second (2nd) degree.

B. Monthly Dues

The monthly dues shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) per month.

C. Taxes

The Grand Lodge Tax shall be twenty (\$20.00) per year; and the Death tax shall be sixty (\$60.00) per year.

D. Prince Hall Family Death Benefit Plan

The Prince Hall Family Death Benefit shall be two thousand (\$2,000.00) dollars.

E. Administrative Affiliation Fee

The administrative fee for such affiliation shall be one hundred (\$100.00) dollars.

F. Suspended Master Mason

The processing fee of one hundred and fifty (\$150.00) dollars shall be paid by a suspended Master Mason, and the processing fee shall be non-refundable.

G. Preparation of Demit

An administrative fee of twenty dollars shall be paid for the preparation of the demit.

H. Re-affiliation

A fee of two hundred and fifty (\$250.00) shall be paid for re-affiliation in order to make him financial.

I. Absenteeism of Regular Communication

A fine of ten (\$10.00) dollars shall be paid by any Master Mason who failed to attend at least one (1) regular communication in three months without satisfactory explanation.

J. Fine

The fine for such an offence shall be twenty (\$20.00) dollars or any such fine as the Worshipful Master deems fit, but such fine shall not exceed three hundred (\$300.00) dollars.

K. Fine

The fine for such an offence shall be ten (\$10.00) dollars or any such fine as the Worshipful Master deems fit, but such fine shall not exceed fifty (\$50.00) dollars.

Closing
Abide with Me

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847
Music: W.H. Monk, 1923-1889
Tune: EVENTIDE
Meter: 10 10.10 10

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1. *Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*
 2. *Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changes not, abide with me.*
 3. *I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*
 4. *I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears not bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.*
 5. *Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

**CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

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JUDGE ADVOCATE

EDWARD TURNER
JUDGE ADVOCATE

GEORGE CAREY
ATTORNERY AT- LAW

SO MOTE IT BE,

MARCH 31ST, 2010 A.D., 6010 A.L.