

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GRAND COMMANDERY
OF
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, INC.
AND
THE APPENDANT ORDERS
OF
MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND

Originally adopted October 21, 1936

Revised and Consolidated with By-laws March 26, 2010

PREAMBLE

TEMPLAR MASONRY is a charitable, benevolent, educational, and religious secret society, adhering to its own peculiar ancient customs and rituals, including the ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry. Its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction are secret and thereby a test of membership is provided, though a Sir Knight be traveling in foreign countries and among those who would otherwise be strangers.

It is religious in that it teaches monotheism, the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Commandery is in session, worship of God and our Lord Jesus Christ is ever a part of its ceremonial, and to its neophytes and Sir Knights alike are constantly addressed lesson of morality; yet it is not theological.

It is educational in that it teaches a perfect system of morality, based upon the Sacred Law, by a prescribed Ceremonial.

It is benevolent in that it teaches relief of the poor and distressed as a duty and exemplifies the duty by relief of sick and distressed Sir Knights, by caring for the widows and orphans of Sir Knights, and by providing for the education of orphans and the children of the needy, irrespective of race, color or creed.

It is charitable in that none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the improvement and promotion of the health and happiness of mankind irrespective of race, color or creed.

It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may foregather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of training, of worship, and of charity.

The corporation is organized for the purposes of managing and administering the charities heretofore established by and owning and holding title to the funds heretofore belonging to the charitable voluntary association known as "The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island" and/or the Constituent Masonic bodies operating as Commanderies under charter from that voluntary association, as well as the charities and funds hereafter established by or belonging to the corporation or any Constituent

Commandery of the corporation, and other charitable, religious, and educational purposes generally, including the practice and teaching of the charitable, benevolent, religious, and educational principles and precepts of Templar Masonry; provided that

No part of the net earnings, income, or profits of the business of the corporation shall ever be divided among the members or inure to the benefit of any private individual, or be used or appropriated for other than charitable, religious, or educational purposes; and

No part of the activities of the corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND SEAL

NAME

Section 1. (a) This body shall be known and designated as, "The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island."

(b) The corporate name shall be "The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, Inc."

SEAL

Section 2. The seal of the Grand Commandery is as represented by the device herewith shown, and shall be kept by the Grand Recorder.



ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The members of the Grand Commandery are and shall be:

- (a) All its Past Grand Commanders, Past Deputy Grand Commanders, Past Grand Generalissimos and Past Grand Captain Generals, so long as they shall remain members of its Constituent Commanderies.
- (b) The Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General of each of its Constituent Commanderies.
- (c) Each Past Commander of its Constituent Commanderies and all such Past Commanders as may have demitted from other jurisdictions and have been elected to membership by the Grand Commandery so long as they remain members of its constituent Commanderies.
- (d) All Knights Templar of other Grand Commanderies who have been elected honorary members. Such membership shall not confer the right to vote.
- (e) All members of the Grand Commandery shall be members of the Corporation. Only voting members of the Grand Commandery shall be voting members of the Corporation.

ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. A Past Commander of a Commandery in another jurisdiction who is a member of a Commandery in this jurisdiction may be admitted to membership in this Grand Commandery, with the rank of Past Commander, by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Grand Commandery present and voting at a stated conclave, after his petition for membership shall have been received and referred to a committee of three members and report made thereon.

Said petition for membership shall state the facts of the former and present membership of the petitioner, and shall be accompanied by a certificate under seal of the Grand Commandery of which was formerly a member, setting forth the fact of such former membership, and by a certificate from a Commandery in this jurisdiction that he is a member thereof.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Section 3. Any distinguished Knight Templar of another Grand Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America (hereinafter called the "Grand Encampment") may be elected an honorary

member by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting. This action shall not confer on him the right to vote.

ARTICLE III

JURISDICTION OF GRAND COMMANDERY

Section 1: The Jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery shall extend over the territorial limits of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

ARTICLE IV

CONCLAVES

Section 1: This Grand Commandery shall reconvene during the period encompassed by the first weekend after Labor Day and the fourth weekend in October, at such time and place within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations as the Grand Commander shall select, for the election of officers and the transaction of annual business. The Corporation shall hold its annual meeting on the same date and at the same location as the annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery for the election of officers and the transaction of annual business.

Section 2: This Grand Commandery shall reconvene for a Semi-Annual Conclave during each term of office of a Grand Commander for the transaction of business. The Semi-Annual Conclave shall be held not more than seven months following the most recent Annual Conclave and not less than seven months previous to the next scheduled Annual Conclave and shall be within the State in which the last previous Annual Conclave was not held.

SPECIAL CONCLAVES

Special conclaves of the Grand Commandery may be called by the Grand Commander; and shall be called by him upon the written request of a majority of the Commanderies.

Special Conclaves of the Corporation may be held at any time upon order of the Grand Commander and President or a majority of the Board of Directors.

Special Conclaves of the Grand Commandery shall also be considered as Special Conclaves of the Corporation.

NOTICE OF CONCLAVES

Notice of each Conclave shall be mailed, postage prepaid, to each person who by the records of the Grand Commandery appears to be a member at the last known address of such person as appears upon the records of the Grand Commandery, not less than

fifteen days before the date of the Annual Conclave and not less than five days before the date of a Special Conclave.

BUSINESS OF SPECIAL CONCLAVES

No business shall be transacted at a Special Conclave of the Grand Commandery except that specified by the Grand Commander in the notice therefor.

QUORUM

Section 2. A quorum of the Grand Commandery shall consist of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an officer authorized to convene the same, provided three or more Commanderies are represented.

VOTE

Section 3. A member, who is such by reason of serving a Constituent Commandery as Commander, Generalissimo, or Captain General may vote at any Conclave in person or by proxy duly appointed to represent him at that Conclave, provided that such proxy shall be a member in good standing of the same Constituent Commandery. No other member may be represented or vote by proxy. No member shall be entitled to more than one vote except in the case of a member who is also acting as proxy for another member. A proxy shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of his Constituent except for taking his rank in Grand Commandery. A proxy must, at the time of his service, present a properly authenticated certificate of his appointment, and shall not by virtue of his delegated authority become a member of Grand Commandery.

A Past Commander of a Constituent Commandery shall be a voting member of the Grand Commandery but not of the Corporation. No Past Commander (except such as are then serving as Commander, Generalissimo or Captain General of a Constituent Commandery) who is unable to attend any Conclave of the Grand Commandery may be represented by a proxy.

A presiding officer shall vote only in case of a tie, when he shall decide the issue.

APPEAL

Section 4. During a conclave an appeal lies 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 in writing shall have full force and effect, but they must be reviewed by the Grand Commandery at its next annual conclave. If such decisions involve the construction of the Laws of the Grand Encampment or of the Laws of the Grand Commandery, an appeal lies to the Grand Commandery.

ARTICLE V

POWERS AND DUTIES

POWERS

The Grand Commandery is vested with the following powers and prerogatives but the enumeration shall not be construed as 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 Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations 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 to form new Commanderies and to fix the fee therefor. The fee shall not be less than One Hundred Dollars and shall be paid in advance.
- (d) It may prescribe Regulations for the government of its Constituent Commanderies and may revoke any Charter. It may approve or order the relocation or consolidation of any of its Constituent Commanderies.
- (e) It may require its several Constituent Commanderies to pay such portion as it may deem proper of the 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 insure 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 arise among them.
- (h) It shall on or before July 1 of each year, pay to the Grand Encampment such an amount as may be prescribed by the Grand Encampment as assessments for each member of its Constituent Commanderies, as shown by the returns of such Grand Commandery at its annual conclave next before July 1.

ARTICLE VI

APPEAL TO THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT

APPEAL

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 VII
OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The officers of the Grand Commandery shall be:

A Grand Commander,
A Deputy Grand Commander,
A Grand Generalissimo,
A Grand Captain General,
A Grand Senior Warden,
A Grand Junior Warden,
A Grand Prelate,
A Grand Treasurer,
A Grand Recorder,
A Grand Standard Bearer,
A Grand Sword Bearer,
A Grand Warder,

ELECTION AND APPOINTMENTS

Section 2. The first six of the above officers and the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder shall be elected. The remaining officers, the Grand Prelate, Associate Grand Prelates, a Grand Captain of the Guard, a Grand Organist, Associate Grand Organists, Deputy Grand Warders, a Grand Sentinel, Division Commanders, an Inspector Instructor, and Associate Inspector Instructors shall be appointed by the Grand Commander. The Officers of the Grand Commandery shall be the officers of the Corporation.

NOMINATIONS

Section 3. Nominations may be made for the elective officers, and as to each office the election shall be by ballot if more than one name be in nomination for that office; otherwise election for such office may be made by such means as the presiding officer shall determine.

TENURE OF OFFICE

Section 4. All elected Grand Officers shall hold office until their respective successors shall have been duly elected and installed.

ELIGIBILITY

Section 5. No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Commandery, except that of Grand Prelate, Associate Grand Prelate, Grand Organist or Associate Grand Organist unless he shall be at the time a member thereof.

VOW OF OFFICE

Section 6. Each Officer of the Grand Commandery, before entering upon the exercise of the duties of his office, shall take the following vow, viz: "I, (A.B.), do promise and 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, and 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."

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. 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 those of 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 ones are hereinafter set out for specific Officers.

GRAND COMMANDER

Section 2. The Grand Commander shall be the President of the Corporation and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors at which he is present. It is the prerogative and duty of the Grand Commander to exercise, as occasion may require, all the rights appertaining to his office in accordance with the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment and the Constitution of this Grand Commandery. The Grand Commander also 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 Commanderies in his jurisdiction and to see that the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery are duly and promptly observed.
- (b) To appoint all Committees and all Officers not made elective, and to fill all vacancies, such appointees to serve until the next Annual Conclave.
- (c) To grant during any recess of the Grand Commandery Dispensations for the formation of new Commanderies. No Dispensation shall be issued unless the following requirements are met:
 1. A petition of nine or more duly qualified Knights Templar.
 2. The consent and recommendation of the nearest Commandery in that Jurisdiction, provided that if the new Commandery is to be located in a city having more than one Commandery, two of such Commanderies must consent and recommend and provided further that if the Commanderies in such city have concurrent jurisdiction, then all the Commanderies therein stationed must consent and recommend. A

Dispensation when issued shall be in force until the next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery.

- (d) During any recess of the Grand Commandery to arrest the Charter or Dispensation of a Commandery, to place a Commandery under probation under such conditions as he shall determine until the next Annual Conclave, or to suspend from office any Officer of the Grand or of a Constituent Commandery, but in no case shall such suspension affect 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 Conclave of the Grand Commandery for its final action.
- (e) To visit and preside in any Commandery within his jurisdiction and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the Order may require, always adhering to the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery.
- (f) To grant Dispensations to Constituent Commanderies including but not limited to the following:
 - 1. To hold special Conclaves for the conferring of the Orders at places within their jurisdictions other than those named in their Charter, and
 - 2. To permit them to receive petitions and ballot thereon at the same stated Conclave or Special Conclaves, after such notice as he may deem proper.
 - 3. On convenient occasions to relax, but not without the express approval of the Board of Directors to strengthen the requirements of these Grand Constitutions on such occasions that he feels that such action is necessary to further the interests of Templar Masonry in this jurisdiction.
- (g) To recommend Grand Representatives whenever a vacancy occurs. It shall be the duty of each Grand Representative to answer at least one roll call of Grand Representatives at the Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery in every 3 year period to continue to hold his commission unless a reason for his not appearing is presented in his behalf to the Grand Conclave and a majority vote is received from the members present to retain his commission.

DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER

Section 3. The Deputy Grand Commander shall be the Vice President of the Corporation. The Deputy Grand Commander, in the event of the death, removal, absence from the jurisdiction or the mental or physical incompetency of his superior, shall act as Grand Commander and President. At all other times, he shall perform such duties as may be assigned him by the Grand Commander or the Grand Commandery.

DISABILITY OF OFFICERS

Section 4. In case of the absence, death, removal or disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General shall severally act as Grand Commander in order according to rank. At all other times, they shall perform

such duties as may be assigned them by the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, or such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations.

GRAND TREASURER

Section 5. The Grand Treasurer shall be the Treasurer of the Corporation. The Grand Treasurer shall report to the Grand Commander, or presiding officer, as often as may be requested. He shall have under his supervision and control all the moneys, funds, and assets of the corporation except as otherwise provided in this Constitution. He shall keep an accurate account of all moneys by him received and paid, and at the Annual Conclave shall render an account thereof and of all funds in his possession duly audited by the Finance Committee. He shall pay from such funds or money, charging such disbursements to the proper appropriations thereof, only on warrants on the Grand Treasurer signed by the Grand Commander and attested by the Grand Recorder. No warrant shall be issued unless the Grand Commandery shall have made by vote an appropriation to cover it, save that in cases of emergency or necessity, warrants approved in writing by the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander, and a majority of the members of the Finance Committee may issue on the General Fund to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate in any one year ten percentum (10%) of the total of that fiscal year's budget.

During the interim period between the close of the fiscal year of the Grand Commandery and the Annual Conclave, the Treasurer may draw against the General Fund for such necessary charges as salaries, rent, telephone, and Annual Conclave and office incidentals, and he will, immediately after the adoption of the new budget at the Annual Conclave, charge such expenditures as have been made during this interim period to their proper classifications in the new budget. Any other emergency expenditure necessary during this interim period may be made upon approval, in writing, of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, and a majority of the Finance Committee. He shall give bond for the faithful performance of his duties in such amount (not less than ten thousand dollars) and with such surety or sureties as the Grand Commander shall approve, the expense of such bond to be borne by the Grand Commandery.

The Grand Treasurer by virtue of his office shall be a voting member and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Grand Fund of the Grand Commandery; he shall also by virtue of his office be a voting member of the Educational Foundation Committee of the Grand Commandery.

GRAND RECORDER

Section 6. The Grand Recorder shall be the Clerk of the Corporation. The Grand Recorder shall annually communicate to the Grand Master, the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, and to the Grand Recorders of each of the other Grand Commanderies, the roll of officers of the Grand Commandery, and such other matters as may give information as to the condition of the Order in the Jurisdiction, or may

conduce to the general good of the Order. He shall forward to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment on or before the first day of July of each year, the Annual Returns and Dues of the Grand Commandery. He shall annually transmit to the Grand Master and the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment copies of all the printed Proceedings and of the Laws adopted by the Grand Commandery. He shall, under the Seal of Grand Commandery, attest all papers requiring the same. He shall collect all moneys due the Grand Commandery and pay same over promptly to the Grand Treasurer. He shall record the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery in suitable format. He shall, under the direction of the Grand Commander, answer communications and shall report his doings at the Annual Conclave; and shall have such other duties not hereinbefore set out as are enumerated in the Constitution of the Grand Encampment. He shall give a similar bond as that required of the Grand Treasurer, the expense of same to be borne by the Grand Commandery.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Upon his installation, the Grand Commander shall appoint the following standing committees:

- On Jurisprudence, five members,
- On Finance, one member for a term of three years,
- On Charters and Dispensations, three members,
- On Credentials, six members,
- On Printing, three members,
- On Necrology, three members,
- On Time and Place, three members,

and such other special committees and members to positions and duties as he may deem advisable. These duties shall include the appearance of at least one member of the committee at the Annual Conclave, or at a special Conclave if so directed by the Grand Commander, to read the Committee Report and answer any and all questions that may arise in reference to the report in order that any and all members may be eligible for reappointment or reelection.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

JURISPRUDENCE

Section 2. The Committee on Jurisprudence shall consist of five members whose duty it shall be to consider and report upon all decisions, recommendations and suggestions of the Grand Commander, which decisions, recommendations and suggestions shall be presented to said committee at least ten days prior to the Annual Conclave. They shall examine and report upon all questions of Templar law and usage that may be referred to them; all propositions to revise, alter or amend Templar law and Regulations and all resolutions or orders appertaining to procedure and practice. They shall consider and

report upon all By-laws of Commanderies, additions and amendments thereto that may be referred to them by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander.

FINANCE

Section 3. The Committee on Finance shall consist of three members, appointed after the adoption of this Amendment as follows: One to serve until the next Annual Conclave, one to serve until the Second following Annual Conclave, and the third to serve until the Third following Annual Conclave, and thereafter, one member to be appointed at each Annual Conclave for a term of three years, whose duty it shall be to examine and certify to the correctness of the books and vouchers of the Grand Treasurer and of the Grand Recorder, and of the Educational Foundation Committee, also the securities held by the Trustees of the Grand Fund and all other moneys and securities of the Grand Commandery. The Committee shall be authorized to engage such professional assistance for the performance of its duties as it shall deem necessary. This Committee shall also make such recommendations regarding the finances as may be advisable together with a budget of appropriations. The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee from among its members.

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

Section 4. The Committee on Charters and Dispensations shall consist of three members whose duty it shall be to examine the work, records and condition of Commanderies under dispensation and all petitions for Charters and mergers and to report thereon to the Grand Commander and the Grand Commandery.

CREDENTIALS

Section 5. The Committee on Credentials shall consist of six members whose duty it shall be to ascertain the number present, together with their names, rank and Commandery and report to the Grand Commandery as early as may be practical at every conclave those entitled to seats therein. The Committee shall also register all invited guests.

PRINTING

Section 7. The Committee on Printing shall consist of three members whose duty it shall be to supervise the publishing of the proceedings and shall have authority to decide what shall be printed therein, and the Grand Recorder shall act under the advice and direction of said Committee in all matters of printing.

NECROLOGY

Section 8. The Committee on Necrology shall consist of three members whose duty it is to report memorials upon deceased members and to present such report at the Annual Conclave.

TIME AND PLACE

Section 9. The Committee on Time and Place shall consist of three members appointed by the Grand Commander whose duty shall be to work with the Grand Commandery and the Grand Commandery Officers, and with members of corresponding committees of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts to obtain the use of functional space for the Annual Conclave, to negotiate any hotels and providers, and provide the most appropriate venues and ancillary services available to the Grand Commandery.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of no less than 10 nor more than 25 Sir Knights. The first six directors shall be elected by the membership and shall consist of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo, the Grand Captain General, the Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Recorder. The remaining Directors shall consist of Past Grand Commanders of this Grand Commandery and shall be elected by plurality vote of the Grand Commandery present at the Annual Conclave in accordance with the requirements of this Grand Constitution.

Section 2. Each Director shall hold office as such until the next Annual Conclave following his taking office, and each grand officer of the corporation shall hold office as such until the next Annual Conclave following his election or appointment and until his successor is chosen and qualified.

Section 3. The Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder shall be entitled to reasonable compensation for their services. Other grand officers may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. A grand officer may receive reasonable compensation for services performed outside of those required by his customary duties as such officer if, and in such amount as, the Board of Directors shall determine.

Section 4. In the absence of direction or other action by the Corporation, and between regular Conclaves, the Board of Directors shall have the power to do and transact any and all business of the Corporation in any way relating to its property, real and personal, or the carrying out of its purposes. The Board shall have such other powers and duties as are elsewhere prescribed in this Grand Constitution, but shall be, at all times, subject to the direction of the corporation by actions taken by the members duly convened in Annual or Special Conclaves.

Section 5. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held in conjunction with each Annual Conclave and without further notice. Other regular meetings may be held at such time and place and upon such notice as the Board shall from time to time determine. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the Grand Recorder upon order of the Grand Commander and President or upon written request

signed by two Directors other than the Grand Commander and President. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held anywhere.

Section 6. Notice of the time and place of any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, mailed, postage prepaid, to a Director at his last known address as it appears upon the books of the corporation, at least two days before the date of the meeting, shall in any event be sufficient notice of the meeting to such Director. Any Director may waive notice of any meeting of the Board by a writing filed with the Grand Recorder before or after the meeting. Any Director present at any meeting of the Board shall be deemed to have due notice of such meeting.

Section 7. Nine members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board, and action by a majority of those present when a quorum is present shall be sufficient action of the Board, but fewer than a quorum may adjourn from time to time or *sine die*.

ARTICLE X

THE GRAND FUND

Section 1. The invested funds of the corporation, together with all accretions, donations, and additions thereto, shall constitute the Grand Fund.

Section 2. The income of the Grand Fund may be expended for charitable and other Templar purposes as may be determined from time to time by the corporation or the Grand Commandery with the concurrence of the corporation by general or specific vote, provided that no part thereof shall inure to the benefit of any private individual. All unexpended income of this Fund, and all donations to the same, shall annually be added to the principal of the Fund.

Section 3. The principal of the Grand Fund shall not be expended for any purpose except the general charitable purposes of the corporation, and then only after due notice is given to each member of the corporation at least thirty days prior to the Conclave at which such expenditure is to be authorized and by affirmative vote of four-fifths of the members present and voting at such Conclave.

Section 4. The Grand Fund shall be administered by a Board of Trustees entitled "The Trustees of the Grand Fund of the Grand Commandery K. T. of Massachusetts and Rhode Island" and constituted in the manner following, viz: The Grand Commander and the Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of said Board, who shall each be entitled to one vote; and there shall be elected at the Annual Conclave each year one member for a term of three years, who, during his term of service, shall be a member of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, Inc. and who shall hold no other office in the Grand Commandery. Any vacancy occurring in the Board shall be filled for the

remainder of the term by the Grand Commandery by election at any Annual or special Conclave.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the said Board to hold in trust and custody for the benefit of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, Inc. the property comprising said Grand Fund, and to attend to the care and safe and profitable investment thereof. They shall not be liable for any loss in connection with any investment made or retained by them in good faith. They shall make a detailed report in writing, of the condition of said Grand Fund at each Annual Conclave. The books of records and accounts of the Grand Fund shall be kept by the Grand Treasurer, and held at the principal office of the Grand Commandery, subject to examination at any time by any member of the Board of Trustees.

The Grand Treasurer, ex-officio, shall be the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees and his bond as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery shall include his bonding as Treasurer of the Grand Fund. He shall, together with one elected Trustee, sign or endorse all securities when transferred or sold and he shall, together with one elected Trustee, sign all checks or drafts drawn on the Grand Fund.

At the first meeting of the Trustees after the Annual Conclave the Trustees shall elect one of the elected Trustees to be Chairman of the Board and he shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall not be the Grand Commander or the Grand Treasurer. He shall also present the report of the Trustees of the Annual Conclave. He shall have power to call meeting of the Board on ten (10) days' written or electronic notice to each member of said Board. Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum of all meetings and no change in the securities of the Fund shall be made without the vote of approval of at least three (3) members of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XI

PREPAYMENT FUND FOR DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. Any member of a Constituent Commandery may prepay all future dues and assessments payable to the Grand Commandery and through the Grand Commandery to the Grand Encampment by payment to the Corporation of an amount determined from time to time by a Board of Trustees who shall be The Trustees of the Grand Fund of the Grand Commandery, K. T. of Massachusetts and Rhode Island as constituted in *Section 4* of ARTICLE X hereof.

Section 2. The amount of such payment shall be based on the age of such member and sufficient on an actuarial annuity basis to provide sufficient amounts from income and principal during the life of such member for the payment of such dues and assessments payable in respect of such member. Such amounts shall be determined and published by said Board from time to time as may be required by changes in annual payments due

the Corporation and the Grand Encampment, subject to the approval thereof by the Annual Conclave of the Corporation.

Section 3. The Prepayment Fund shall be administered as a separate fund by the Board of Trustees as to investment and accounting as provided in ARTICLE VII hereof. Payments from the income and principal of the Fund shall be made annually only to the Corporation for the stated purposes of the Fund in respect of the living members who have made appropriate prepayment relative thereto.

Section 4. The Grand Recorder shall adjust the return of any Constituent Commandery required by *Section 2* of ARTICLE XIX hereof to reflect receipt of amounts from the Prepayment Fund in respect of any such Constituent Commandery.

Section 5. Any unexpended income of this Fund shall annually be added to the principal of the Fund. In the event that the principal of this Fund in the opinion of the Board of Trustees is in excess of the amount reasonably required for the purposes of the Fund, the Board may recommend the transfer of such excess amount to the principal of the Grand Fund, subject to an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting at any Annual Conclave provided notice of such action has been included in the notice thereof.

ARTICLE XII

THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Section 1. The Educational Foundation Fund shall consist of all moneys heretofore received or allocated to the Educational Foundation as maintained by the predecessor voluntary association, and these moneys which hereafter shall be received for the purpose from assessments, fees, and contributions, or which shall be specifically allocated to the Educational Foundation from any source, together with all interest or other income therefrom.

Section 2. The Educational Foundation shall be administered under rules and regulations, approved by the corporation and consistent with the Regulations of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation Committee of the Grand Encampment, adopted by a committee to be known as The Educational Foundation Committee consisting of the Grand Commander and President, the Deputy Grand Commander, and the Grand Treasurer, *ex officio*, and five additional members, each of whom shall be a member in good standing of one of the Constituent Commanderies.

The five members aforesaid shall be appointed by the Grand Commander and President in such manner that the term of one member shall expire at each of the first five Annual Conclaves held after the adoption of this Grand Constitution, unless he be sooner removed by the Grand Commander and President. Thereafter, as the term of each member expires, a member shall be appointed for a term of five years subject to earlier removal by the Grand Commander and President. In case of a vacancy for any cause,

the Grand Commander and President shall forthwith appoint a successor to serve for the balance of the term of the member whose office became vacant.

Section 3. The books and accounts of the Educational Foundation Committee shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant satisfactory to the Finance Committee as Constituted pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island and the auditor's report shall be included in the report of the Finance Committee at the Annual Conclave. The Committee shall also prepare and file such reports as may be required by the Knights Templar Educational Foundation Committee of the Grand Encampment, and each such report shall be embodied as a part of the annual report of the Committee to be made at the Annual Conclave, which full report shall be printed in the proceedings of such Annual Conclave.

ARTICLE XIII

DISPENSATIONS AND CHARTERS

NEW COMMANDERY

Section 1. Dispensations for forming and opening new Commanderies may be issued by the Grand Commander during the recess of the Grand Commandery upon petition of not less than nine Knights Templar residing within the jurisdiction and possessing the constitutional qualifications.

DISPENSATION IN FORCE

Section 2. Dispensations so issued shall be in force only until the next Annual Conclave unless continued by vote thereof.

CONSENT NECESSARY

Section 3. No Dispensation shall be issued without the consent of the Commandery nearest to the place where the new one is to be located if within forty (40) miles by land travel; and, if in that town or city, there is more than one, the consent of two shall be obtained.

FEE FOR DISPENSATION

Section 4. The Grand Commandery shall charge and receive for each Dispensation issued for a new Commandery, the sum of five hundred dollars, which shall be paid to the Grand Recorder before the Dispensation is issued.

FEE FOR CHARTER, LOST OR DESTROYED

For every Charter originally granted and for every duplicate Charter granted in place of one lost, destroyed or so fragile that its use is deemed inadvisable, the Commandery receiving it shall pay to the Grand Commandery, the sum of four hundred dollars.

CHARTER GRANTED

Section 5. Charters shall be granted by vote of the Grand Commandery only, and at a stated conclave held not less than eleven months from the date of Dispensation.

Section 6. When the Charter of a Commandery is surrendered or arrested, the funds and other property of such extinct Commandery become the property of the Grand Commandery.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERS OF CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

MEMBERSHIP

Every Constituent Commandery shall consist of the following officers:

- *Commander,
- *Generalissimo,
- *Captain General,
- *Senior Warden,
- *Junior Warden,
- Prelate,
- *Treasurer,
- *Recorder,
- Standard Bearer,
- Sword Bearer,
- Warder,
- Sentinel,
- Captain of the Guard
- Three Guards,

and such individual Knights Templar as may be members of such constituent Commandery.

ARTICLE XV

OFFICERS OF CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

ELECTION

Section 1. The Officers designated by an asterisk in ARTICLE XI shall be elected by ballot.

APPOINTMENTS

All others shall be appointed by the Commander. In addition to the officers listed above, the Commander is required to appoint an Assistant Treasurer should the elected Treasurer of the Commandery be over age 70, and to appoint an Assistant recorder should the elected Recorder of the Commandery be over age 70.

NOMINATIONS

Section 2. Nominations may be made for the elective Officers, and as the election shall be by ballot, provided more than one name be in nomination; otherwise, the election may be made by voice vote.

TENURE OF OFFICE

Section 3. Officers of Constituent Commanderies shall hold office and discharge the duties thereof for the terms for which they are elected or appointed and until their successors are duly installed.

DUTIES OF COMMANDER

Section 4. It is the duty of the Commander of a Constituent Commandery to see that the Officers and Members of his Commandery duly observe the By Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Commandery, the Constitution, Rules, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, and the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment; to see that accurate records are kept and just accounts rendered; that regular returns to the Grand Commandery are made annually and that the annual dues are promptly paid. It is his duty, together with the Generalissimo and Captain General, to attend all Conclaves of the Grand Commandery. He may call special conclaves of the Commandery at his pleasure provide that prior notice is sent to the Sir Knights of the Commandery, such notice to contain the time and place of the Special Conclave and the business to be transacted. No prior notice is required if the Special Conclave is for the purpose of a Templar Burial Service.

OTHER OFFICERS

Section 5. The duties of other officers are such as are traditionally appropriate, and such as are described in the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, and such as may be assigned by the Commandery or by the Commander.

VOW OF OFFICE

Section 6. Each Officer of a Constituent Commandery, before entering upon the discharge of the duties of his office, shall take the following vow, viz.: "I (A.B.), do promise and 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 the Grand Commandery of this jurisdiction, and the By Laws of this Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office in which I am about to be installed, to the best of my ability."

BONDS

Section 7. Each Recorder and Treasurer and every Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of funds of Constituent Commanderies shall give a bond for the faithful performance of his duties under such regulations as the Grand Commandery may enact.

DISABILITY OF OFFICERS

Section 8. In the case of the temporary absence, disability, removal, or mental or physical incapacity of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall act as the Commander. In case of like disability of both Commander and Generalissimo, the Captain General shall act as the Commander. In case of 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, the Captain General shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of the like disability of the Captain General or his advance as above, 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 like disability of all three officers, a Dispensation may issue 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 vary this procedure for reasons he may deem sufficient, and may issue a Dispensation to fill any vacancy.

VACANCIES

Section 9. Subject to the provisions of Section 8 of this Article the Grand Commander may authorize a special election to fill a vacancy or vacancies in Commandery offices.

ARTICLE XVI

BY LAWS OF CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

BY-LAWS

No By Laws of any Commandery shall be valid until the same shall be approved by the Grand Commandery, provided, however that the Grand Commander may approve By Laws, or Amendments thereto adopted during recess, subject to review at the next stated conclave of Grand Commandery.

ARTICLE XVII

CONCLAVES OF CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

CONCLAVES

Section 1. Every Constituent Commandery shall hold a stated Conclave at least quarterly, at such time and place as may be specified in its Charter or designated in the

By Laws. Petitions for Orders or for membership shall be acted upon at Stated Conclaves only. No petition may be balloted on in less than one week from presentation to the Commandery, provided that the Grand Commander may by Dispensation, authorize the presentation of and ballot upon such petition at the same Conclave.

SPECIAL CONCLAVES

Section 2. Special Conclaves may be called at the pleasure of the Commander or set by action of the Commandery and 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 Dispensation. The notice or summons for all special Conclaves shall specify the business to be transacted, and none other shall be considered at such Conclave.

QUORUM

Section 3. A quorum of a Constituent Commandery consists of nine members entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to open the same.

BUSINESS TRANSACTED

Section 4. All business of a Commandery shall be transacted in an open Commandery of Knights Templar.

APPEAL

CONSTITUTION, LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Section 5. 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, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, or the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, or the By Laws of the Commandery, an appeal may be taken to the Grand Commandery by a Constituent Commandery, but pending the decision of the appeal, such ruling of the Commander shall be in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XVIII

JURISDICTION OF CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

JURISDICTION

Section 1. All Constituent Commanderies shall have concurrent jurisdiction within the territorial limits of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

ARTICLE XIX
ANNUAL RETURNS BY CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

Section 1. Every Constituent Commandery shall return to the Grand Recorder a list of its officers immediately following its annual election, together with the date of their election and installation.

Section 2. Every Constituent Commandery shall make annually to the Grand Recorder on or before the first of August, a return of the Roll of Officers and members and of all the candidates for the Orders accepted or rejected up to and including June 30 next preceding and pay to this Grand Commandery ten dollars for every Knight receiving the Order of the Temple; and an amount equal to one-half the annual dues charged by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts on June 30th at the beginning of the year of calculation rounded to the next lowest even dollar plus the amount of Per Capita dues assessed by the Grand Encampment for every member returned and from the sum thus collected shall be paid the Per Capita for every member levied by the Grand Encampment. A Commandery failing to make said annual return on or before the first day of August shall pay a penalty of twenty five dollars. Payment of the foregoing amounts shall be made in three installments as follows: fifty (50) per cent on or before the 31st day of December, twenty-five (25) per cent on or before the thirtieth day of April and the balance on or before the first day of August, the first two installments to be estimated upon the official return of membership for the preceding year and the third installment computed on the official return of membership to and including the thirtieth day of June preceding such first day of August.

Section 3. No assessment of any nature shall be levied against any Commandery in this Jurisdiction unless the proposition is presented in writing at a Conclave of this Grand Commandery, and action taken on the same at the next Annual Conclave of this Grand Commandery.

ARTICLE XX
ORDERS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Section 1. The Orders of Knighthood shall not be conferred upon anyone who has not received the Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, Royal Arch Mason, Royal Master, Select Master and Super-Excellent Master; nor upon anyone who is not an affiliated Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason, and Super-Excellent Master.

For Members who petitioned for the Orders on or before October 17, 1987, membership in good standing in Lodge and Chapter only is necessary to maintain membership in a Commandery.

Section 2. Petitions for the Order, or for membership can neither be received or acted upon, except at Stated Conclaves.

Section 3. The petition for every candidate for the Orders in any Commandery under this jurisdiction shall be made on a form as presented in Appendix A and signed by the applicant.

Such form shall include but not be limited to the name (printed), full address, home telephone number, email address, date, city, state and country of birth, occupation, employer, and the Lodge, Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and Council of Royal and Select Master Masons to which the applicant is currently a member or to which he has applied. It shall also be signed by the applicant and by the sponsor. If the petition is signed by three sponsors, no further investigation of the applicant shall be required.

REJECTED APPLICANT

Section 4. The petition of one who has been rejected cannot be renewed until the expiration of at least six months after such rejection, if still residing in the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of the Commandery petitioned. If the petitioner applies to any other Commandery, his petition cannot be acted on at any time within three years after his rejection without the unanimous ballot of the Commandery by which he was rejected.

Section 5. No Commandery shall confer the Orders of Knighthood or either of them upon any sojourner whose place of residence is within any Country, State, District, or Territory or jurisdiction in which there is a Commandery, or one who has not resided for six months within the jurisdiction of the Commandery, unless consent of the Commandery having territorial jurisdiction and of the Grand Commander, where there is one, is first obtained; Provided, however, that it shall be lawful for any Commandery to receive the petition and confer the Orders upon any person connected with the Armed Forces of the United States of America who shall have been stationed within its jurisdiction for at least six months prior to the presentation of his petition; and in the event of a violation of this section, the Commandery so offending shall be subject to discipline and be required to pay over to the Commandery having jurisdiction the amount of fees received for such admission.

ARTICLE XXI FEES AND DUES IN CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

FEES FOR ORDERS

Section 1. No Constituent Commandery shall confer the Orders of Knighthood for a less sum than forty dollars, at least thirty dollars of which, in compliance with *Section 134* of the Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, shall be paid before the Order of the Red Cross is actually conferred, and any balance shall be paid before the Order of the Temple is conferred.

FEES FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. Fees for Life Membership or exemption from dues shall be a fixed sum equal to at least the amount of fifteen times the sum required as annual dues, and in no case to be less than sixty dollars. Life Membership or exemption from the payment of dues shall not be given as a favor, as a compliment, or for services rendered the Order, or for any fact or reason other than the payment in cash of a fixed sum of money lawfully established by By Law which must apply alike to all members.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

Section 3. All money received for Life Membership shall be separately invested in the name of the Commandery and the management and investment of the same shall be in the care of a Board of Trustees who shall be chosen by the Commandery in annual conclave. Said Trustees shall make report to the Commandery of the condition and amount of the fund and how the same is invested at each annual conclave.

INCOME EXPENDED

Section 4. The income only of the Life Membership Fund shall be used except by two-thirds vote of the members of the Commandery present and voting, due notice in writing to that effect having been made and continued one month with order of notice.

ALLOTMENT TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

Section 5. One-tenth of the fees paid by each successful candidate for the Orders shall be allotted and paid into a Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund shall be administered by a Committee of three Trustees, one of whom shall be elected each year at the time of its annual election of officers and who shall serve for a term of three years. No member of the Board of Trustees shall be over age 75. In addition to the money deposited in it in accordance with Section 4 above, the Permanent Fund shall be the repository of all donations, bequests, gifts, etc. other than those specifically to be held by the Life Membership Fund. Each year the Treasurer may (but is not required to) transfer to the general funds of the Commandery an amount equal to the dividends and interest realized by the Fund in that year. Additional Funds may be transferred to the Commandery's general funds only after there has appeared in the monthly notice of a pending Conclave a specific dollar amount to be transferred and then only if at the Conclave next following the notice there is a two-thirds vote in favor of such a transfer made by those members of the Commandery present.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Section 6. A Commandery may elect as an Honorary Member a member of another Commandery provided the election to honorary membership shall be by unanimous ballot after due reference to a committee, and ballot to be had at some subsequent stated conclave. This Honorary membership does not confer the right to vote nor any

rank or standing in the Commandery nor does it create any liability for dues. It is merely complimentary. The election by a Commandery of one of its own members to honorary membership shall not exempt him from the payment of annual dues or assessments to the Grand Commandery.

Section 7. A Commandery may elect as a plural member a member of another Commandery in this jurisdiction. A petition for plural membership must be accompanied by a certificate of good standing issued by the Commandery of which the petitioner is a member. A dual member is entitled to all the rights and privileges of full membership in both Commanderies except that he cannot be any combination of Commander, Generalissimo or Captain General in more than one Commandery at the same time and is subject to all dues and assessments of both Commanderies. Loss of active membership by action of either Commandery shall cause loss of membership in both Commanderies; provided, however, a dual member may demit from either Commandery.

Section 8. Any member of a Constituent Commandery who is in good standing on the records of the Commandery by reason of payment in full of all dues or assessments to date may request a demit from the Commandery and the Recorder shall read such request at the next stated Conclave and then issue the demit forthwith without vote of the Commandery. No demit may be issued to any Sir Knight who is not currently in good standing on the records of his Commandery.

ARTICLE XXII

UNIFORM

Section 1. The uniform of this Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies shall be that prescribed by their regulations.

ARTICLE XXIII

TACTICS

The Manual of Tactics and Drill of this Grand Commandery shall be that most recently submitted by the Committee on Inspection and Tactics and approved at the Stated Conclave of the Grand Commandery.

ARTICLE XXIV

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Grand Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at any conclave, notice of such alteration or amendment having been presented in writing at a previous conclave and printed in the call for the conclave at which action is to be taken. Amendments as proposed may be modified by the Grand Commandery, but modifications must be distinctly and plainly germane to the subject.

REPEALING CLAUSE

Section 2. All Constitutional provisions, acts or decisions or parts of same inconsistent with this Constitution are hereby repealed and are declared null and void.

ARTICLE XXV

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the corporation shall commence on the first day of November and end on the thirty-first day of October of the following calendar year.

APPENDIX A

FORM OF PETITION FOR THE ORDERS

To the Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General and Sir Knights of
Commandery No., Knights Templar:

The undersigned represents that he received the degree of Master Mason in
. Lodge No., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of
. ; that he is at the present time a member of Lodge No., under the
jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of;

that he received the degree of Royal Arch Mason in Chapter No., under the
jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of ; and that he is at the present time a member of .
. Chapter No., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of ;
(or, that he has petitioned Chapter No., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter
of for the Capitular Degrees and that he will be affiliated with
. Chapter No., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of);

that he received the degree of Select Master in Council No., under the jurisdiction
of the Grand Council of ; and that he is at the present time a member of
. Council No., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of ; (or, that he
has petitioned Council No., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of . . .
. for the Cryptic Degrees and that he will be affiliated with
. Council No., under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of);

that he is a firm believer in the Christian principals, and that he has not petitioned any other
Commandery; (or, that he petitioned Commandery No., on
., and that he was); that for the year immediately
prior to the

(date) (elected or rejected)

date of this petition he has resided within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
of (or, in the case of Subordinate Commanderies, of the Grand Encampment of
Knights Templar of the United States of America) and that for the latter half of that year within the
jurisdiction of Commandery No., of ; that he is desirous
of receiving the Orders of Knighthood conferred in your Commandery, and if found worthy, promises to
conform to the ancient usages and customs of the Order.

He was born on the day of A.D., ; in the State of
. His place of
residence is (street, town, State, Zip Code)
His email address is His occupation is that of
. He has read this petition and signs his full name thereto.

(Sign)

Dated

We vouch for the good character and Masonic standing of the petitioner and recommend his admission.

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