

CONSTITUTION

Of the

**MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE
HALL GRAND LODGE**

Of

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Of the

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

And its

JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING

Adopted 2nd July, 1990

At it's 40th Annual Communication

Held at Treasure Cay Abaco Bahamas

Most Worshipful ZEPHANIAH a. BULLARD

Grand Master Presiding

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OPENING ODE

Within our Temple met again,
With hearts and purpose strong
We'll raise our notes of joyful praise,
With union in our song.

Around the Altar's sacred shrine,
May love's pure incense rise
Bearing upon its mystic flame
Our music to the skies.

AND are we yet alive,
And see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give
For His redeeming grace!

Preserved by power divine
To full salvation here,
Again in Jesu's praise we join,
And in His sight appear.

What troubles have we seen,
What conflicts have we passed,
Fighting's without, and fears within,
Since we assembled last!

But out of all the Lord
Hath brought us by His love;
And still He doth His 'help afford,
And hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast
Of His redeeming power,
Which saves us to the uttermost,
Till we can sin no more:

Let us take up the cross,
Till we the crown obtain;
And gladly reckon all things loss,
So we may Jesus gain.

READING OF THE ORIGINAL CHARTER 459



To all and every our Right Worshipful & loving Brethren, we, Thomas Howard, Earl of Effingham, Lord Howard, &c., &c., Acting Grand Master, under the authority of His Royal Highness Henry Frederick Duke of Cumberland &c., &c., &c., Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, sends greeting:

Know Ye, that we, at the humble petition of our right trusty and well-beloved Brethren Prince Hall, Boston Smith, Thomas Sanderson and several other Brethren, residing in Boston, New England in North America do hereby constitute the said Brethren into a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the title or denomination of the African Lodge, to be opened in Boston aforesaid, and do further at their said petition, hereby appoint the said Prince Hall to be Master, Boston Smith, Senior Warden, and Thomas Sanderson, Junior Warden, for opening the said Lodge, and for such further time only as shall be thought proper by the Brethren thereof, it being our will, that this our appointment of the above officers shall in no wise affect any future election of officers of the Lodge, but that such election shall be regulated agreeable to such by-laws of said Lodge as shall be consistent with the general laws of the society, contained in the Book of Constitution; and we hereby will and require you, the said Prince Hall, to take special care that all and every the said Brethren are or have been regularly made Masons, and that they do observe, perform, and keep all the rules and orders contained in the Book of Constitution; and further, that you do, from time to time, cause to be entered in a book kept for that purpose, an account of your proceedings in the Lodge, together with all such rules, orders and regulations, as shall be made for the good government of the same, that in no wise you omit once in every year to send to us, or our successors, Grand Masters, or to Rowland Holt, Esq., our Deputy Grand Master, for the time being, an account in writing of your said proceedings, and copies of all such rules, orders, and regulations as shall be made as aforesaid, together with a list of the members of the Lodge, and such a sum of money as may suit the circumstances of the Lodge and reasonably be expected, toward the Grand Charity. Moreover, we hereby will and require you, the said Prince Hall, as soon as conveniently may be, to send an account in writing of what may be done by virtue of these presents.



Given at London, under our hand and seal of Masonry, this 29th day of September, A.L. 5784, A.D. 1784.

"By the Grand Master's Command,
R. Holt, S. S. M."

"Witness
Hm. White, S. S."

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
of the
Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity
of Free and Accepted
Masons of the State of New York.
To All to Whom These Presents Come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, on the sixth day of March A. D. 1775, A. E. 5115 in a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the direction of J. H. Wall, Worshipful Master, and attached to a Regiment of the British Army under General Osgood, at or near the city of Boston in the Province of Massachusetts the following persons of African descent, to wit: Prince Hall, Oyon Bonham, Douglas Bluntie, Thomas Sanderson, Prince Ward, John Brown, Peter Ross, John Gant, Peter Stevenson, Benj. Starr, Bull Roberts, Richard Wiley, were initiated passed and then raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in due and ancient form.

WHEREAS, on the second day of March, A. D. 1784, A. E. 5164 the aforesaid brethren did make application to the Grand Lodge of England (Masters) for a Warrant of Constitution.

WHEREAS, on the twenty-ninth day of September, A. D. 1784, A. E. 5164, the aforesaid petition was received, the prayer granted and a Warrant of Constitution issued to the above named brethren under the name or title of "African Lodge" and number 555 upon the Register of the Grand Lodge (Masters) of England, designation, Prince Hall as Worshipful Master, Becket Smith as Sister Ward and Thomas Sanderson as Junior Warden conveying to them all the rights and privileges of a duly constituted Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons and to hold at the city of Boston in Massachusetts.

WHEREAS, on the twenty-seventh day of January, A. D. 1791, A. E. 5191, by command of the Grand Master with Brother Ford Knudson acting Grand Master, presiding the Grand Lodge of England (Masters) did nominate, ordain, constitute and appoint, the aforesaid Prince Hall, "a Provincial Grand Master of North America and Pennsylvania and Territories thereto belonging."

WHEREAS, on the twenty-fourth day of June, A. D. 1791, A. E. 5191, at a General Assembly of the Craft, held at the Golden Tavern, in Water Street, Boston, Mass. the aforesaid "African Lodge" did by the assumption of power, duties and responsibilities, constitute itself into a Grand Lodge under the name or title of the "African Grand Lodge" with Provincial Grand Master, Brother Prince Hall as Grand Master, Brother Peter Ward, Deputy Grand Master, Cyrus Fort (Hays), Senior Grand Warden, Brother George Whistler, Junior Grand Warden, Brother Peter Hall, Grand Treasurer and Brother Prince Ward, Grand Secretary, and

WHEREAS, on the twenty-fourth day of July, A. D. 1808, A. E. 5608, at a General Assembly of the said "African Grand Lodge," Brother Mrs. Prince, Deputy Grand Master, presiding, the name or title of the aforesaid "African Grand Lodge" was changed to "Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts" in memory of the late Most Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Prince Hall, who died December 7th, A. D. 1807, A. E. 5507, and

WHEREAS, on the sixteenth day of February, A. D. 1812, A. E. 5612, the aforesaid "Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts" under Most Worshipful Peter Ross, Grand Master, did constitute "Boys Lodge No. 1" in the city of New York, State of New York, and

WHEREAS, in the year A. D. 1812, A. E. 5612, the aforesaid "Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts" under Most Worshipful Samuel F. Bosty, Grand Master, did constitute "Oriental Lodge No. 2," "Rising Sun Lodge, No. 3" and "Hiram Lodge No. 4" each to hold in the city of New York, State of New York, and

WHEREAS, on the fourteenth day of March, A. D. 1815, A. E. 5645, at a General Assembly of the Craft, held in the city of New York, the aforesaid Lodge, to wit: "Boys Lodge No. 1," "Oriental No. 2," "Rising Sun No. 3," and "Hiram No. 4," by the assumption of power, duties and responsibilities, did establish and constitute themselves into a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New York and Territory, hereinafter belonging under the name or title of the "Boys Grand Lodge of New York," with Paul Drayton, Grand Master, Brother James Barrett, Senior Grand Warden, Brother Alexander Eaton, Junior Grand Warden, Brother G. W. Boyer, Jr., Grand Treasurer, and Brother Knud Knudsen, Grand Secretary, and

WHEREAS, on the thirteenth day of October, A. D. 1848, A. E. 5848, at a General Assembly of the Craft held in the city of New York, the aforesaid "Boys Grand Lodge" did reorganize the Free Masons of African descent in the State of New York, under the name or title of the "United Grand Lodge of New York" with Brother James Barrett, Grand Master, Brother Jacob Gibbs, Deputy Grand Master, Brother Alexander Eaton, Senior Grand Warden, Brother Arnold Kuhn, Junior Grand Warden, Brother Charles Kocher, Grand Treasurer, and Brother Knud Knudsen, Grand Secretary, and

WHEREAS, on the twenty-seventh day of December, A. D. 1877, A. E. 5877, at a General Assembly of the Craft held at Shiloh Church in the city of New York, the "Grand Lodge for the State of New York (National Compact)" and descendant from the "Boys Grand Lodge of New York," with the aforesaid United Grand Lodge of New York, did consolidate into one grand body under the name or title of "The Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York," with Brother John Chase, Grand Master, (Compact), Brother Alfred J. Aldridge, Deputy Grand Master, (United), Brother Robert F. McDougall, Senior Grand Warden, (United), Brother George W. A. Murray, Junior Grand Warden, (Compact), Brother J. A. Brown, Grand Treasurer, (United), and Brother William A. Collier, Grand Secretary, (Compact); and

WHEREAS, on the fifth day of June, A. D. 1918, A. E. 5918, at the seventy-fourth General Assembly of the Craft held in the Mother A. M. E. Zion Church in the city of New York, the aforesaid Grand Lodge did decree that the words "Prince Hall" shall forever follow immediately after its adopted name or title and does by virtue of these presents.

WHEREAS, on the eighth day of June, A. D. 1944, A. E. 5944, at a Regular Annual Communication of the Craft held in the Temple Building, 454 West 155th Street in the city of New York, the aforesaid Grand Lodge did decree that the name of this Grand Lodge shall be forever hereinafter known as The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York, and does by virtue of these presents.

WHEREFORE, be it known by these presents that J. Lewis Fair, Jr. by virtue of the authority in me vested as Grand Master of all Masons of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York and Jurisdictions there unto belonging, and at the request of Royal Eagle Lodge No. 45 St. George's Lodge No. 74 St. James Lodge No. 81 and Pride of Elmhurst Lodge No. 84 all Lodges of the Bahamas, and through legislation of this Grand Lodge while in session on the third day of June, A. D. 1948, A. E. 5948 in the city of Jamestown, State of New York, did grant authority to the aforesaid Lodge to withdraw from our Jurisdiction to form themselves into a Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Bahamas.



Henry A. R. Baker 32°
R. M. Grand Secretary

Lewis Fair, Jr. 33°
R. H. Grand Master

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 Grand 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 to 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 Treasurer, 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 that 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 of whatever kind now vested in or held in any manner by any person in trust for or for the use and benefit of or heretobefore 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, subscribed thereto or in support thereof, or which shall be payable to them in their capacity as Trustees, or be subject 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 the said Trustees, or the exercise by them of any powers 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 the 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 of 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

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

JURISDICTION

Sec. 1 This Grand Lodge has supreme jurisdiction over all matters of ANCIENT CRAFT MASONRY within the territorial limits of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and any other territory where no Grand Lodge exists.

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 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 include the granting CHARTERS to all Lodges or bodies within the jurisdiction, and 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 powers 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 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 controversy or discipline proper for Masonic investigation which may have arisen in any of the Lodges it has retained or has not attained original jurisdiction.

Sec. 6 All the decisions of this Grand Lodge when acting 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 un Masonic 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 Wardens 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 certificate 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.
attained original jurisdiction.

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.

ARTICLE V

MEETING

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 or in any Masonic District designated by the Grand Lodge at its previous Annual Communication. However, should the Masonic District so selected be unable, through unavoidable circumstances, to accommodate the Grand Lodge, the District Deputy Grand Master of such District, shall give the Grand Master at least ninety (90) days notice of their inability, in which event the Annual Communications shall revert to New Providence, sixty (60) days notice to this effect shall be given to each and every subordinate Lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction. It is, however, understood and agreed that New Providence shall always be termed "The Grand East."

Sec. 2 Special Communications 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.

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.

ARTICLE VII

ELIGIBILITY

Sec. 1 No brother shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master or Grand Warden, except he has been elected and installed and served one year in the chair as Worshipful Master of a subordinate Lodge or has been appointed an Honorary Past Master nor to any other office in the Grand Lodge unless he is a member of a Warranted Lodge under this Grand Jurisdiction.

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 Officers 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 is 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 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 purposes. Admitting of change at convenience, and not embraced in Ancient Landmarks or Constitutions, and are herein termed By-Laws, Regulations or Statutes.

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 assist 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.

ARTICLE XIV

DUTIES OF THE GRAND MASTER

- Sec. 1 It shall be the duty of the Grand Master to preside in the chair at all meetings of this Grand Lodge.
- Sec. 2 To supervise and govern the Fraternity according to this Constitution.
- Sec. 3 To visit in person or send his Deputies or other Grand Officers to visit all Subordinate Lodges.
- Sec. 4 To, in his best judgment, grant all dispensations authorized under this Constitution.
- Sec. 5 To discharge all the necessary functions of the Grand Lodge when the body is not in session.
- Sec. 6 To make all appointments authorized under this Constitution within thirty (30) days after the Annual Communication in June.
- Sec. 7 To require all Subordinate Lodges and individuals under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge to conform to Masonic Law.
- Sec. 8 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. 9 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 XV

POWERS 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 convene any Lodge within this jurisdiction, preside therein, inspect its minutes and proceedings.

Sec. 3. 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. 4 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. 5 To grant dispensation for a new Lodge, under the restrictions of this Constitution, upon the proper application of at least seven (7) Master Masons.

Sec. 6 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. 7 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. 8 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. 9 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. 10 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. 12 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.

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 powers, 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 Master, and attested by the Grand 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 certified 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, an 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 to 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 year 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, certificates, 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 moneys of the Grand Lodge, with the date of their receipt and pay over the same promptly to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore.

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 in correspondence with this Grand Lodge, 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 Lodges 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 this Grand Lodge 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, together with a request to each and every 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, an official bond, approved by the Grand Master, in the full penal 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 errors 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 deputed or 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 expenses, 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 JUDGES ADVOCATE. The Judges 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 of 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, dismiss ions, 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, names of honorary and life members and all other such information and statistics as the Grand Lodge shall direct.

Sec. 14 He shall transmit to each Lodge in this jurisdiction immediately by circular letter, a list of all suspensions, expulsion~ and reinstatements 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 installations, 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.

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

Announce the name and Masonic title of all who desire admission. He is to see that none enter without 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. the officers and members, unless by special permission of 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 data, documents and other material touching upon matters of interest to the Grand Lodge and its Subordinate Lodges for use 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 feasts of the Grand Lodge.

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, documents, 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 or his representative may direct from time to time: Provided, 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 from time to 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 on 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.

ARTICLE XVIII

REVENUES AND FUNDS.

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

- (a) Granting dispensation for a new Lodge.
- (b) Granting a warrant or Charter, in addition to the amount paid for dispensation.
- (c) Granting dispensation to confer three degrees at one time.
- (d) Granting other dispensations, funeral occasions excepted.
- (e) From Lodges for Grand Lodge Certificate.
- (f) Attesting a Grand Lodge Certificate.
- (g) From each person for the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason degree.
- (h) From each Master Mason on the roll of every Lodge, per year.
- (i) From every member affiliating from without this jurisdiction by demit.

Sec. 2 The funds of the Grand Lodge shall be divided into three (3) parts as follows:

- (a) Charity.
- (b) Operating.

© Permanent.

Sec. 3 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. 4 The Operating Fund shall be for the purpose of liquidating the immediate expenses 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 cheques, the same to be drawn by the Grand Treasurer, countersigned by the Grand Master and/or the Grand Secretary.

Sec. 5 All other revenues not otherwise provided for, shall comprise the Permanent Fund of this Grand Lodge.

Sec. 6 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. 7 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.

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.

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 on 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. 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 committees, 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.
- (g) Committee on Budget.
- (h) Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

- (i) Committee on Work and Lectures.
- (j) Committee on Grand Master's Address.
- (k) Committee on Printing.
- (l) Committee on Audit.
- (m) Committee on resolutions,

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 to 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 Lodges, 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.

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 ON 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, papers, vouchers and accounts of the Grand Lodge, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and note the general condition and make a written report 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.

ARTICLE XXV

COMMISSIONS

Sec. 1 COMMISSION ON APPEALS. The Grand Master shall appoint five (5) Commissioners as and when required to be styled the Commission on Appeals, who shall be members of the Grand Lodge. The Judge Advocate shall be the Chief Commissioner.

Sec. 2 The Commission shall hear and consider appeals in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

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 nonaffiliated 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 of 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 Commission of Appeals during the session of the Grand Lodge, and the decision of the Grand Lodge upon the report of said Commission shall be conclusive upon all parties.

Sec. 11 The expense which may be incurred by the Commissioners 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.

ARTICLE 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 communication; 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 after the expiration of one (1) year from the date of sentence.

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

12. Presentation of motions, resolutions, etc. and reference to Committees.

ARTICLE XXVII

DECISIONS OF THE GRAND MASTER

Sec. 1 Decisions rendered upon Masonic Law by the Grand Master shall not have the force nor effect 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.

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 ceremony
5. Report of the committee on credentials.
6. Committee arrangement etc.
7. Reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
8. Address of the Grand Master and reference to Committee.
9. Report of Grand Officers and reference to committee.
10. Unfinished business from last session.
11. Reading of communication, charges, appeals, etc.
12. Presentation of motions, resolutions, etc. and reference to Committees.
13. Report 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 XXX

AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1 No amendments to this constitution shall be made or have any effect, 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 (2/) 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.

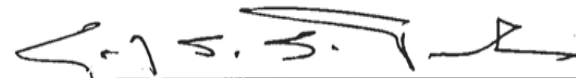
Sec. 3 These Statutes may be amended at any Annual Communication at the Grand Lodge by a two-thirds (%) vote, provided that a notice of such proposed amendment shall have been given and the amendment proposed presented in writing at a previous Annual Communication.

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.



CLYDE B. BETHELL
Grand Trustee-Chairman



CYRIL S.S. FOUNTAIN B.A., LI. B.
Judge Advocate



EVERETT W. EVANS
Grand Lecturer



EDWARD B. TURNER
Member

CLOSING ODE

Now let our social labours closing
Homage of the heart we pay;
Each in confidence reposing,
Kindest thoughts that ne'er decay.

Let us each in time's commotion,
Heavenly light and truth implore;
Thus we'll pass life's stormy ocean,
Landing on a happier shore.

BLEST be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and ears .

- We share our mutual woes;
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.