

CONSTITUTING A LODGE

The Dispensation to form and open a new Lodge is limited and made returnable to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication next succeeding the date of issue; when, upon proper showing and application made, a perpetual Charter may be granted.

When a Charter has been granted, the Grand Master will appoint a day for constitution the new Lodge and installing its officers.

A Lodge can be constituted only by the Grand Master or by a Deputy specially commissioned for that purpose. The ceremony may be public or private. If it take place in the Lodge-room, a table or platform of convenient size, upon which to place the *symbolic* Lodge (*or* carpet), is placed about half way between the Altar and the West.

The *Symbolic* Lodge, used on such occasions, is a box, of an oblong shape (about 10 x 10 x 20 inches), in imitation of the Ark of the Covenant, neatly covered with white linen or muslin. A painting on canvas, representing the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple may be used.

The Altar and Great Lights are arranged as usual: the new Lodge should not be opened, but the officers should assume their proper stations and places, wearing their jewels and proper clothing; the brethren should be clothed.

At the time appointed for the ceremonies the Grand Master and his officers meet, either in the Lodge-room of the new Lodge or in a room convenient to it, and open the Grand Lodge. The new Lodge delivers a message to the Grand Master, as follows:

MESSENGER: Most Worshipful Grand Master, the officers and members of _____ Lodge, having heretofore assembled under a Dispensation authorizing and empowering them to work and conduct the business of Freemasonry, according to the customs and usages of the Craft, and their work and proceedings having received the approbation of our Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, have been granted a Charter, and are now desirous that their new Lodge should be constituted, and their officers installed, agreeably to the ancient usages and customs of the Craft; for which purpose they are assembled and await your pleasure.

GRAND MASTER: It is well; inform the brethren that in due time we will comply with their request.

If the ceremonies are to be performed in a church or public hall, the platform should be arranged, as nearly as practicable, like the Lodge-room, with sufficient space for the Altar and *Symbolic Lodge*, and for the ceremonial work.

In marching to the place where the ceremony is to be performed, the procession, under the direction of the Grand Marshal, will move in the following:

FORMATION

Grand Marshal	Tyler of Lodge, with drawn sword; Stewards, with white rods; Master Masons, by twos; Senior and Junior Deacons; Treasurer and Secretary; Senior and Junior Wardens; Brethren, carrying <i>Symbolic</i> Lodge, covered; Worshipful Master.
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GRAND LODGE

Grand Tyler, with drawn sword;
Grand Stewards, with white rods;
Masters and Past Masters;
Grand Bible Bearer, with Great Lights;
Grand Standard Bearer and Grand Sword Bearer;
Grand Orator and Grand Historian;
Grand Chaplain and Grand Lecturer;
Grand Secretary;
Past Grand Officers;
Junior Grand Warden, with vessel of oil and blue taper;
Senior Grand Warden, with vessel of wine and red taper;
Deputy Grand Master, with vessel of corn and white taper;
Grand Master,
Supported by the Grand Deacons, with blue rods.

On arriving at the church, or public hall, the procession halts; the brethren open ranks, face inward, and all, except the Grand Officers, march in reverse order, between the lines, into the room. The *Symbolic Lodge* is placed on the table prepared for it.

The Grand Master, preceded by the Grand Marshal, then advances between the lines of the Grand Officers, the procession following in reverse order.

As the Grand Master enters the room, the brethren are caused to stand and give the Grand Honors (3 x 3).

The Grand Officers march once around the *Symbolic Lodge*, halting in front of the West. The Great Lights are placed on the Altar; the Deputy Grand Master places the vessel of *Corn* and white taper (lighting it) at the East *or* the *Symbolic Lodge*; the Senior Grand Warden, the vessel of Wine and red taper at the West; and the Junior Grand Warden, the vessel of *Oil* and blue taper at the South.

The Grand Officers then march around to their respective stations. Instrumental music should be performed during the marching.

The ceremonies will then proceed substantially as in the private Lodge-room (due Masonic caution being exercised):

1. Selection of music (vocal or instrumental).
2. Prayer by the Grand Chaplain.
3. Oration.
4. Music (vocal or instrumental).

GRAND MASTER: Wor. Bro. Grand Marshal, form the officers and brethren of the new Lodge in front of and facing the East.

GRAND MARSHAL: Officers of _____ Lodge, form in line in front of the Grand Master. Members of _____ Lodge, form in line at rear of your officers.

DEP. GRAND MASTER: Most Worshipful Grand Master, these brethren, duly instructed in the mysteries of Masonry, have, for some time past, at stated periods, assembled as a Lodge, by virtue of a Dispensation granted them for that purpose, and now desire to be *constituted* into a *Regular Lodge*, agreeably to the ancient usages and customs of the Fraternity.

GRAND MASTER: Upon due deliberation, the Grand Lodge has granted the brethren of this new lodge a Charter, establishing and confirming them in the rights and privileges of a regular Lodge, which the Grand Secretary will now read.

The Grand Secretary reads the Charter.

GRAND MASTER: We will now proceed, according to ancient usage, to constitute these brethren into a regular Lodge.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I present Brother_____, whom the members of this Lodge, now to be constituted, have chosen for their Master.

GRAND MASTER: Brethren of_____ Lodge, are you satisfied with your choice? *(The members bow in token of assent.)*

The Master-elect then presents, severally, his Wardens and other officers, naming them and their respective offices.

GRAND MASTER: Brethren of _____ Lodge, are you satisfied with the choice of officers who will assist in the government of this Lodge? *(They bow as before.)*

CONSECRATION

GRAND MASTER: The Grand Officers will now assemble around the *Symbolic Lodge* under the direction of the Grand Marshal.

FORMATION



Grand Senior Deacon

Grand Master

Grand Junior Deacon

Deputy Grand Master

Grand Chaplain

Grand Lecturer

Grand Secretary

Grand Historian

Grand Junior Warden

Grand Standard Bearer

Grand Bible Bearer

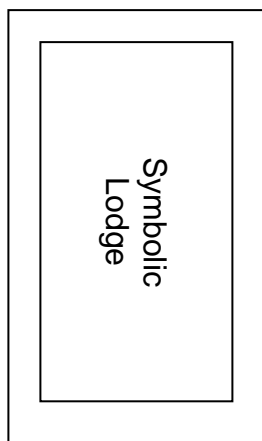
Grand Marshal

Grand Tyler

Grand Senior Steward

Grand Senior Warden

Grand Junior Steward



G. Deacons and G. Stewards cross rods.

Music should be rendered during the formation. When assembled, the Grand Marshal will remove the covering from the *Lodge*. The Grand Officers will kneel (on the right knee) and remain kneeling until the conclusion of the Dedication. The officers and members of the new Lodge remain standing in front of the East, faced to the West.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

GRAND CHAPLAIN: Great Architect of the Universe! Deign, from Thy celestial temple, from the realms of light and glory, to bless us in all the purposes of our present assembly. We humbly invoke Thee to give us at this, and at all times, *Wisdom* in all our doings, *Strength* of mind in all our difficulties, and the *Beauty* of harmony in all our communications.

Permit us, O Thou Author of Light and Life, solemnly to *Consecrate* this Lodge to the honor of Thy Holy Name. Glory be to God in the highest. Amen!

RESPONSE: So mote it be.

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER (*presenting vessel of corn*): Most Worshipful Grand Master, it has been our custom from time immemorial to pour Corn upon the *Lodge*, as an emblem of nourishment. I therefore present you this vessel of Corn, to be employed according to ancient usage.

Deputy Grand Master kneels.

GRAND MASTER (*strewing corn*): May the Giver of every good and perfect gift strengthen this Lodge in all its philanthropic undertakings.

RESPONSE: So mote it be.

GRAND SENIOR WARDEN (*presenting vessel of wine*): Most Worshipful Grand Master, Wine, an emblem of refreshment, having been used by our ancient brethren in the consecration of their Temples, I present you this vessel of Wine, to be used on the present occasion, according to ancient Masonic custom.

Grand Senior Warden kneels.

GRAND MASTER (*pouring wine*): May this Lodge be continually refreshed at the pure fountain of Masonic virtue.

RESPONSE: So mote it be.

GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN (*presenting vessel of oil*): Most Worshipful Grand Master, Oil is an emblem of that peace and joy which should animate every bosom on the completion of important undertakings. I therefore present you this vessel of Oil to be used according to ancient Masonic custom.

Grand Junior Warden kneels,

GRAND MASTER (*pouring oil*): May the Supreme Ruler of the Universe preserve this Lodge in peace, and vouchsafe to it every blessing.

RESPONSE: So mote it be.

GRAND CHAPLAIN: Grant, O Lord our God, that those who are now about to be invested with the government of this Lodge may be endued with wisdom to instruct their brethren in all their duties. *May Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth* always prevail among the members of this Lodge. May this bond of union continue to strengthen the Lodges throughout the world. Bless all our brethren, wheresoever dispersed, and grant speedy relief to all who are oppressed or distressed.

May we finish all our work here below with Thy approbation; and then may our transition from this earthly abode be to Thy heavenly temple above, there to enjoy light, glory and bliss, ineffable and eternal. Amen!

RESPONSE: So mote it be.

DEDICATION

GRAND MASTER (*arising and stepping forward, with his hands outstretched over the Lodge*): To the memory of the *Holy Saints John*, we dedicate this Lodge. May every brother revere their characters and imitate their virtues.

The Grand Officers arise. The following or other appropriate ode may be sung:

Air--Hebron.

When once of old, in Israel,
Our brethren wrought with toil,
Jehovah's blessing on them fell
In showers of Corn and Wine and Oil.

When then a shrine to Him above
They built, with worship,--sin to foil,-
On threshold and on corner-stone
They poured out Corn and Wine and Oil.

And we have come, fraternal bands,
With joy and pride and prosperous spoil,
To honor Him, by votive bands,
With streams of Corn and Wine and Oil.

During the music, the brethren of the new Lodge advance its procession, under the direction of the Grand Marshal, with their hands crossed over their breasts, and form semicircle in the West.

CONSTITUTION

GRAND MASTER * * * In the name of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington, I now Constitute and form you, my brethren, into a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. From henceforth I empower you to meet as a Lodge, constituted in conformity to the rites of our Institution and the Charges of our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity; and may the Supreme Architect of the Universe prosper, direct and counsel you ill ail your doings. Amen!

RESPONSE: So mote it be.

GRAND MASTER: Worshipful Brother Grand Marshal, make proclamation that _____ Lodge, No _____, has been regularly constituted.

GRAND MARSHAL: I am directed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master to proclaim, and I do now proclaim, that _____ Lodge, No _____, has been duly and regularly constituted in *Ample* Form.

The public Grand Honors are then given (3 x 3); and the Grand Marshal replaces the covering over the *Lodge*.

The Grand Officers return to their stations and places, and the officers and members of the new Lodge to their position in front of the East.

GRAND MASTER: This Lodge having been constituted, I will now install its officers. Worshipful Brother Grand Marshal, collect the officers' jewels and prepare for the installation.