

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Before entering upon the discharge of his official duties, every officer of a Chartered Lodge must be regularly installed. (A re-elected or re-appointed officer must be re-installed.) The importance of conducting this ceremony with dignity and a proper degree of solemnity and impressiveness must not be overlooked.

This ceremony may be conducted in public or in the presence of Masons only, with the necessary changes.

It is the prerogative of the retiring Master to install his successor in office, who, on assuming the East, may install the remaining officers. This right may be waived, and any competent and well-qualified Past Master of a Lodge may, by proper request, act as Installing Officer. If the Grand Master, or his Deputy, be present, deference and respect are to be shown to his will and pleasure.

At the hour appointed for installation, the Lodge being open on the Master Mason degree the Marshal, by direction of the Master, or installing Officer, will see that the Jewels of the officers to be installed, together with a small Bible, Square and Compasses, a Rule (twenty-four inch gauge), a Plumb Line, the Book of Constitutions (Code), the Charter, a copy of the By-Laws, the Deacons' and Stewards' Rods and the Tyler's Sword, are placed for convenient use, on a stand near the East.

In all movings from place to place by the brethren during the ceremony there should be strains of music.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Secretary, you will announce the names of the officers elected and appointed to govern this Lodge. As their names are called, the brethren will take positions standing in a semi-circle, west of the Altar.

INST. OFFICER: Brethren of _____ Lodge, No. _____ you have heard the names of the brethren who have been selected as officers of your Lodge for the ensuing year. If any brother present knows of any just cause why any of the brethren should not be installed into office, he will make it known now.

The officers-elect are seated.

INST. OFFICER: Brother Marshal, are you satisfied that the brother selected to preside over this Lodge is eligible, and well skilled in the noble science and royal art?

MARSHAL: I am satisfied, Worshipful Sir (***conducting the new Master in front of the East***), and I now present to you our worthy Brother _____ to be installed as the Worshipful Master of Lodge, No. _____. We believe him to be of good morals and of great skill, true and trusty; and, as he is a lover of the whole Fraternity wheresoever dispersed, we doubt not that our confidence in him is worthily bestowed.

INST. OFFICER: Brother Marshal, you will place our brother at the Altar, there to receive the benefit of prayer, and to take his official obligation.

The Marshal will conduct the Master-elect to the Altar and cause him to kneel, facing the East:

In like manner the Chaplain will be conducted to the Altar, where he will kneel, facing the West, and (the brethren being called up) offer the following:

**In the absence of the Master-elect, or should valid objection be made to the installation of the brother named as Worshipful Master, which cannot be harmonized or settled, the ceremony of Installation cannot proceed until ordered by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. In other cases, the installation of the brother or brothers objected to, alone, will be deferred.*

PRAYER

CHAPLAIN: Most Holy and Glorious Lord God We approach Thee with reverence and implore Thy blessing on this brother, selected to preside over this Lodge, and now prostrate before Thee. Fill his heart with Thy fear; that his tongue and actions may pronounce Thy glory. Make him steadfast in Thy service. Grant him firmness of mind. Animate his heart and strengthen his endeavors. May he teach Thy judgments and Thy laws, and be Thy true and faithful servant. Bless him, O Lord, and bless the work of his hands. Accept us in mercy. Hear, Thou, our prayer, and grant our earnest supplications. Amen!

RESPONSE: So mote it be.

The Chaplain will arise and be reconducted to his place The Master-elect will remain kneeling at the Altar.

INST. OFFICER: Brother _____, you will now repeat your official obligation:

I solemnly promise, upon the honor of a Mason, that, in the office of Master of _____ Lodge, No. _____, I will, to the best of my ability, strictly comply with, abide by and enforce the Constitutions and Regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington, the By-Laws of _____ Lodge, No. _____, and all Ancient Masonic Usages, so far as the same shall come to my knowledge. ***The brethren are then seated.***

The Master remains kneeling.

INST. OFFICER: My Brother, previous to your investiture, it is necessary that you signify your assent to those Ancient Charges and Regulations, which point out the duty of the Master of a Lodge.

You agree to be a good man and true, and strictly to obey the moral law?

You agree to be a peaceable citizen, and cheer-fully to conform to the laws of the country in which you reside?

You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the government, but patiently submit to the law and the constituted authorities?

You agree to pay a proper respect to the civil magistrates; to work diligently, live creditably and act honorably toward all men?

You agree to hold in veneration the original rulers and patrons of Freemasonry, and their regular successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their stations; and to submit to the awards and resolutions of your brethren, when in Lodge convened, in every case consistent with the constitutions of Freemasonry?

You agree to avoid private piques and quarrels, and to guard against intemperance and excess?

You agree to be cautious in your behavior, courteous to your brethren, and faithful to your Lodge?

You promise to respect genuine brethren, and to discountenance imposters and all dissenters from the original plan of Masonry?

You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master and to his officers when duly installed; and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge (or general assembly of Masons) that is not subversive of the principles and groundwork of Masonry?

You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate the social virtues, and to propagate the knowledge of the mystic art?

You admit that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovation in the body of Masonry?

You promise a regular attendance on the committees and communications of the Grand Lodge, on receiving proper notice, and to pay attention to all the duties of Masonry on convenient occasions?

You admit that no new Lodge can be formed without permission of the Grand Master or his Deputy, and that no countenance shall be given to any irregular Lodge, or to any person clandestinely made therein?

You admit that no person can be regularly made a Mason in, or admitted a member of, any regular Lodge without previous notice and due inquiry into his character?

You agree that no visitor shall be received into your Lodge without due examination or satisfactory evidence of his having been initiated in a regular Lodge?

These are the Regulations of Free and Accepted Masons. Do you submit to these Charges, and promise to support these Regulations, as Masters have done in all ages before you?

MASTER-ELECT: I do.

INST. OFFICER: Brother, in consequence of your cheerful conformity to the Charges and Regulations of our Ancient Fraternity, you are now to be installed Master of _____ Lodge, No. _____, in full confidence of your skill and capacity to govern the same.

Brother Marshal, you will conduct the Worshipful *Master-elect* to the East.

INST. OFFICER: My Brother, with pleasure I now invest you with the Jewel of your Office, the *Square*.

As the Square is used by the operative mason to fit and adjust the stones of a building, that all its parts may properly agree, so you, as Master of this Lodge, are admonished, by the symbolic meaning of the Square, to preserve that moral deportment among the members of your Lodge which should always characterize the good and pure, especially the good Mason; and to exert your authority to prevent ill-feeling or angry discussion arising to impair the harmony of their meetings.

You will now receive in charge the various implements used in your Lodge.

The Marshal, as they are referred to, will hand the implements to the Master, who will retain them respectively during the explanation by the Installing Officer, and then return them to the Marshal.

INST. OFFICER: First, I present you with the Three Great Lights of Masonry: the Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses.

The Bible, the Great Light of Masonry, will guide you to all truth; it will direct your paths to the temple of happiness, and point out to you the whole duty of man.

The Square teaches us to regulate our actions and harmonize our conduct by the principles of morality and virtue.

The Compasses teach us to limit our desires in every station, that, rising to eminence by merit, we may live respected and die regretted.

I also present you with the Rule and Line. The Rule directs that we should punctually observe our duty, press forward in the path of virtue, and, inclining neither to the right nor to the left, in all our actions have *eternity* in view.

The Line teaches us the criterion of moral rectitude; to avoid dissimulation in conversation and action, and to direct our steps in the path, which leads to *immortality*.

The Book of Constitutions you are to search at all times. Cause it to be read in your Lodge, that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts it enjoins.

You now receive in your special charge the Charter, by the authority of which this Lodge is held. As its lawful custodian, you are carefully to preserve and duly transmit it to your successor in office.

You will also receive in charge the By-Laws of your Lodge, which you are to see carefully and punctually executed.

And, lastly, I place in your hands the Gavel, an additional insignia of your rank and authority. Wield it, my brother, with prudence and discretion--firmly, but never arbitrarily to the end that good order and harmony may be preserved.

I now seat you in the Oriental Chair, and cover you with that distinction which, in this Lodge, it is your privilege alone to wear.

Installing Officer will take the Master by the hand, place him in the chair, place a hat on his head, uncover and then call up the Lodge. The Master will also rise and hold his gavel on his left breast with his right hand.

INST. OFFICER: Worshipful Master, behold your brethren. Brethren, behold your Worshipful Master and join with me in giving the Grand Honors.

The Grand Honors are given (3 x 3). If the ceremony be private the brethren may form a procession, single file, and, under direction of the Marshal, make three circuits of the hall. As he passes the East, each brother will salute the Master (who remains standing in his place), in the manner peculiar to the several degrees; during which may be sung or other appropriate:

INSTALLATION ODE

Air—America

1. Hail, Masonry Divine,
Glory of Ages shine;
Where'er thy Lodges stand,
May they have great command,
And always grace the land;
Thou are divine.
2. Great fabrics still arise,
And grace the azure skies—
Great are thy schemes;
Thy noble orders are
Matches beyond compare;
No art with thee can share;
Thou are divine.
3. Hiram, the architect,

Did all the craft direct
How they should build;
Sol'mon, great Israel's king,
Did mighty blessings bring,
And left us room to sing,
Hail, Royal Art!

W.M. seat the lodge.

Newly Installed Master may now install other officers. This privilege, however, is usually waived in favor of the original installing officer, and in such case the Master uncovers.

INST. OFFICER: Brother Marshal, you will now conduct the Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary to the Altar for obligation. *(To those Officers standing)* Place your right hand over your heart and repeat after me: I solemnly promise, upon the honor of a Mason, that I will, to the best of my ability, strictly comply with the Constitutions and Regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington, the By-Laws of _____ Lodge, No. _____, and all Ancient Masonic Usages, so far as the same shall come to my knowledge, and will carefully and punctually perform all the duties appertaining to my office.

In presenting the officers, the Marshal will announce the name of the brother and the office to which he has been elected, re-elected. or appointed; and, when installed, conduct him to his station or place in the Lodge.

SENIOR WARDEN

INST. OFFICER: Brother _____, you have been elected Senior Warden of this Lodge, and will now be invested with the jewel of your office *(the Marshal places the jewel)*. The Level reminds us that we are descended from the same stock and partake of the same nature; and, although distinctions among men are necessary to preserve subordination, yet no eminence of station should make us forget that we are brethren and that he who is placed on the lowest spoke of fortune's wheel may be entitled to our regard; because a time will come, and the wisest knows not how soon, when all distinctions but that of goodness shall cease, and death, the grand leveler of human greatness, reduces us to the same state.

Your regular and punctual attendance is essentially necessary. In the absence of the Master, you are to govern the Lodge; in his presence, you are to assist him in the government of it.

Your fitness for such important duties doubtless led to your selection for the office by your brethren; and it will be your duty, in evincing your love for Masonry and your attachment to the Lodge so to act as to justify the full confidence of your brethren. Bro. _____, *look well to the west:*

JUNIOR WARDEN

Brother _____, you have been elected Junior Warden of this Lodge, and will now be invested with the Jewel of your office. The Plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations; to hold the scales of justice in equal poise; to observe the just medium between intemperance and pleasure, and to make our passions and prejudices coincide with the line of our duty.

To you is committed the superintendence of Craft during the hours of refreshment; it is, therefore, indispensably necessary that you should not only be temperate and discreet in the indulgence of your own inclinations, but also careful to observe that none of the Craft convert the means of refreshment into intemperance and excess.

Your regular and punctual attendance is particularly requested; and we have no doubt that you will be ever watchful, whether at labor or refreshment, that the *high twelve* of observation may not find you with your work, and that of the Craft you superintend, unperformed. Bro. _____, *look well to the South.*

TREASURER

Brother _____, you have been elected Treasurer of this Lodge, and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. It is your duty to take charge of the stocks and other property of the Lodge; *to receive all moneys from the hands of the Secretary, keep just and regular accounts of the same, pay them out by order of the Worshipful Master and consent of the Lodge.* We trust that your regard for the Fraternity will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

SECRETARY

Brother _____, you have been elected Secretary of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. As the prosperity and success of the Lodge in a great measure depend upon the ability faithfulness and assiduity of the Secretary, the office you assume carries with it great responsibilities, of which, we trust, you have a full appreciation. It is your duty to *observe the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master; record all proceedings of the Lodge proper to be written, transmit a copy of the same to the Grand Lodge when required; receive all moneys due the Lodge, pay them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt there for.* Your good inclination to Masonry and your Lodge will induce you to discharge the duties of your office with fidelity; by so doing you will merit the esteem and applause of your brethren.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Brother _____, you have been elected Secretary-Treasurer of this Lodge and will now be invested with the jewel (s) of your office. As the prosperity and success of the Lodge in a great measure depend upon the ability faithfulness and assiduity of the Secretary-Treasurer, the office you assume carries with it great responsibilities, of which, we trust, you have a full appreciation. It is your duty to *observe the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master; record all proceedings of the Lodge proper to be written, transmit a copy of the same to the Grand Lodge when required; take charge of the stocks and other property of the lodge; receive all moneys due the Lodge, keep just and regular accounts of the same, pay them out by order of the Worshipful Master and consent of the lodge.* Your good inclination to Masonry and your Lodge will induce you to discharge the duties of your office with fidelity; by so doing you will merit the esteem and applause of your brethren.

CHAPLAIN

[Rev.] Brother _____, you have been appointed Chaplain of this Lodge. The Holy Bible [which is the chart and textbook of your sacred calling] is the Great Light of Masonry, and forever sheds its benignant rays upon every lawful assemblage of Free and Accepted Masons. From it we learn our duty to God, our neighbors and ourselves.

Teach us from its life-giving precepts, and you will have faithfully fulfilled your sacred and important trust. It is fitting that an emblem of the sacred volume should be the jewel of your office, with which you will now be invested.

MARSHAL

Brother _____, you, have been appointed Marshal of this Lodge, and will now be invested with the baton as the appropriate emblem of your office. It is your duty to form and conduct all processions of the brethren of the Lodge on all public occasions; and to attend to such other interests, in the practice of our rites, as occasion may require and the Worshipful Master direct.

DEACONS

Brothers _____ and _____, you have been appointed Deacons of this Lodge, and will now be invested with the jewels of your office; and we place in your hands these rods, which you will bear in the performance of official duty as symbols of your deputed authority. It is your province to attend on the Master and Wardens, and to act as their proxies in the active duties of the Lodge, such as in the reception of candidates into the different degrees of Masonry, the introduction and accommodation of visitors, and in the immediate practice of our rites. The Square and Compasses, as badges of your office, we entrust to your care, not doubting your vigilance and attention. You will repair to your respective places in the Lodge.

STEWARDS

Brothers _____ and _____, you have been appointed Stewards of this Lodge, and will now be invested with the jewels of your office; and we place in your hand these rods, which you will bear in the performance of official duty, as symbols of your deputed authority. You are to assist the Deacons and other officers in the performance of their respective duties; and, when the Lodge is at refreshment, it will be your province to see that the tables are well furnished, and to extend to members and visiting brethren such attentions as circumstances may suggest. Your regular and early attendance at our meetings will afford the best proof of your zeal, and of your attachment to the Lodge.

ORGANIST

Brothers _____, you have been appointed Organist of this Lodge, and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. Under the Worshipful Master, you will conduct the musical services of the lodge. As the harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, may the harmony over which you preside strengthen and support every gentle and ennobling emotion of the soul.

TYLER

Brother _____, you have been appointed Tyler of this Lodge, and will now be invested with the jewel and implement of your office. As the sword is placed in the hands of the Tyler to enable him effectually to *guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, and see that none pass or repass but such as are duly qualified*, so it should admonish us to set a guard over our thoughts, a watch at our lips, and post a sentinel over our actions; thereby preventing the approach of every unworthy thought, word, or deed, and preserving consciences void of offense toward God and man. We trust your regard for good order will prompt you to the faithful discharge of your duties.

An appropriate ode may now be sung, after which the installing Officer will deliver the following:

CHARGE TO THE MASTER

INST. OFFICER: Worshipful Master (*who rises*), the superintendence and government of the brethren who compose this lodge having been committed to your care, you cannot be insensible to the obligations, which devolve on you as their head, nor to your responsibility for the faithful discharge of the important duties pertaining to your office.

The honor, reputation and usefulness of your Lodge will materially depend upon the skill and assiduity with which you manage its concerns, while the happiness of its members will be generally promoted in proportion to the zeal and ability with which you propagate the genuine principles of our Institution.

As a pattern for Imitation, consider the great luminary of nature, which, rising in the East, regularly diffuses light and luster to all within its circle. In like manner it is your province to spread and communicate light and instruction to the brethren of your Lodge. Forcefully impress upon them the dignity and high importance of Masonry, and seriously admonish them never to disgrace it. Charge them to practice *out* of the Lodge those duties which they have been taught *in* it; and, by amiable, virtuous and discreet conduct, to convince mankind of the goodness of the Institution; so that, when a person is said to be a member of it, the world may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour out its sorrow; to whom distress may prefer its suit; whose hand is guided by justice, and whose heart is expanded by benevolence.

In short, by a diligent observance of the By-Laws of your Lodge, the Constitutions of Freemasonry, and, above all, the Holy Scriptures, which are given as the rule and guide of your faith, you will be enabled to acquit yourself with honor and to merit the confidence reposed in you.

CHARGE TO THE WARDENS

INST. OFFICER: Brothers Senior Warden and Junior Warden (*who rise*), you are too well acquainted with the principles of Freemasonry to warrant a distrust that you will be found wanting in the discharge of your respective duties. What you have seen praiseworthy in others, you should carefully emulate; and what in them may have appeared defective, you should in yourselves amend.

You should be examples of good order and regularity; for it is only by due regard for the laws, in your own conduct, that you can expect obedience to them from others.

You are assiduously to assist the Worshipful Master in the discharge of his trust, diffusing light and imparting knowledge to all whom he shall place under your care. In the absence of the Master, you will succeed to higher duties; your acquirements, therefore, must be such that the Craft may never suffer for want of proper instruction. From the spirit which you have hitherto evinced, I entertain no doubt that your conduct will be such as to merit the applause of your brethren and the testimony of a good conscience.

CHARGE TO THE LODGE

INST. OFFICER: . . . Brethren of _____ Lodge, No. _____, such is the nature of our constitutions, that as some must, of necessity, teach and rule, so others must, of course, learn and obey. Humility in both is an essential duty. The officers who have been selected to govern your Lodge are sufficiently conversant with the rules of propriety and the laws of the Institution to avoid exceeding the powers with which they are entrusted, and you are of too generous disposition to envy their preferment. I, therefore, trust that you will have but one aim to please each other, and to unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness.

Finally, my brethren, as this Fraternity has been formed and perfected in so much unanimity and concord, in which we greatly rejoice, so may it long continue. May you long enjoy every satisfaction and delight which disinterested friendship can afford. May kindness and brotherly affection distinguish your conduct as men and Masons. Within your peaceful walls may your children celebrate, with joy and gratitude, the annual recurrence of this auspicious solemnity. And may the tenets of our profession be transmitted through your Lodge, pure and unimpaired, from generation to generation.

INST. OFFICER: Brother Marshal, you will make proclamation that the officers of _____ Lodge, No. _____ have been duly installed.

PROCLAMATION

MARSHAL: I am directed to proclaim, and I do now proclaim, that the Worshipful Master, Wardens and other officers selected to govern _____ Lodge, No. _____, have been duly installed into their respective stations and places.

A CLOSING ODE

May be sung; after which the W.M. will call up the brethren and the Chaplain will pronounce the benediction.

BENEDICTION

CHAPLAIN: Almighty and Everlasting God! From Whom cometh every good and perfect gift, send down upon Thy servants here assembled the healthful spirit of Thy grace, that they may truly please Thee in all their doings. Grant, O Lord, power of mind and great understanding unto those whom we have this day clothed with authority to preside over and direct the affairs of this Lodge; and so replenish them with the truth of Thy precepts, and adorn them with humility of life, that, both by word and good example, they may faithfully serve Thee, to the glory of Thy Holy Name, and to the advancement, for all good purposes, of our beloved Institution. Amen!

RESPONSE: So mote it be.