

## **LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION**

The Grand Master may, upon the petition of fifteen or more Master Masons, properly recommended by the nearest or most convenient Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons working under charter, grant Dispensations to form new Lodges within the limits of this Jurisdiction, or in foreign territory where no Grand Lodge exists.

Upon receiving the Dispensation, the Master named therein will convene the petitioners; read, or cause to be read, the Dispensation (which must be copied at length upon the records of the Lodge); announce the names of the other officers selected, and open the Lodge in *due form* on the M. M. Degree.

By-laws should then be adopted, fixing the place and dates for the stated communications, fee for the degrees, annual dues, etc.; after which, petitions may be received and such other business transacted, as may be necessary

Such dispensations, together with the By-Laws, books of records and returns of the Lodge under dispensation shall be returned to the Grand Secretary on or before the 31st day of May preceding the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, when the Grand Lodge may annul the dispensation, order a perpetual charter, or continue the dispensation until the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

The officers of a Lodge U. D. are not to be installed, but the following charges may appropriately be given by the Grand Master, if present, or by a special deputy duly commissioned by him:

### **CHARGE TO THE MASTER**

GRAND MASTER: Worshipful Master (*who rises*), having been selected, as its Master by the Brethren of this new Lodge, and appointed by the Grand Master, you cannot be insensible to the duties which devolve upon you as its head, nor to your responsibility for the faithful discharge of those duties and for the success of your Lodge. Upon you, more than upon any other member, rests its future, and much will depend upon the skill and assiduity with which you manage its concerns.

The prerogatives of the Master of a Lodge are so numerous, so varied, and so interwoven with each other, that it is difficult to specify them in detail.

You have the authority to convene your Lodge upon any emergency; but all members should be duly notified. You should be present to preside at all communications of your Lodge; yet you may call any Brother to the Chair to preside temporarily while you yourself are present. Still you are at all times responsible for the proceedings, as much so as though the gavel were held by you in person. You have the right to fill temporarily all vacancies that may occur in the Lodge offices. There is no advancement by right. If the Senior Warden be absent, the Junior Warden does not *ex-officio* fill the West. Being responsible for the proper conduct of the affairs of the Lodge, you have the power to appoint all committees. You have the right to control and terminate discussions. This power should not be used in a haughty, arbitrary or dictatorial manner; but it should be exercised with the determination to administer impartial justice, to the end that the peace and harmony of the Lodge be preserved and its prosperity secured. You are to determine all questions of order, and you ought to be the best judge of what to do and how to do it. Your decisions should not be made in such a manner as to call forth criticism, but rather to secure the best results for the good of the Lodge.

In order to preserve the good name of the Institution, you must exercise a careful supervision over the actions of your Brethren; see that the laws of Freemasonry be not violated, and that all the Brethren "come under the tongue of good report"; cause careful investigation into all un-Masonic conduct, but do not hastily or publicly criticize another's acts without first giving him opportunity to be heard.

Patience and kindness on your part will elicit unselfish devotion from others, while carelessness and indifference to your duties will merit contempt and result in failure.

Leadership is comparatively simple, but it requires constant exertion, a clear understanding of the principles and tenets of the Fraternity, and a thorough knowledge and observance of its laws and regulations. Be cautious in your behavior, courteous to your Brethren, and faithful to your Lodge. Visit the sick and afflicted and tender them sympathy and relief. Become well acquainted with each member of your Lodge; study his nature; be ready to give due praise to his earnest efforts, and to guide him in case he err. Familiarize yourself with the Masonic Code of this Jurisdiction and thoroughly commit the Standard Work.

The Masonic drama presents a beauty and sublimity calculated to arouse a desire for excellence in every intelligent mind. In each symbol is a practical thought, and each points to higher attainments in the present life and in the life to come. Upon all suitable occasions remind the Brethren that Masonry is founded upon the great moral principles set forth in the sacred volume which we receive as the rule and guide of our faith. Exhort them to govern themselves by these principles, as well with the world at large as with each other. Teach them to reverence the Three Great Lights, comprehending the Holy Bible, the perfect Square, and the extended Compasses, the beautiful symbolism of which is familiar to you, and the explanations of which include some of the most important duties inculcated in our Fraternity.

Impress upon the members of your Lodge the dignity and high importance of Masonry, and admonish them never to disgrace it. Exhort them to be good men and true; to be sober, industrious, charitable, upright in their dealings, friendly in their social intercourse, and to live in love and peace, having consciences void of offense, and unspotted from the world. Thus admonished and thus acting, they will convince mankind of the value of the Institution.

### **CHARGE TO THE WARDENS**

Brothers Senior Warden and Junior Warden (*who rise*), you have the advantage of having a leader in your Worshipful Master; consequently you are partially relieved from making decisions and initiating the work of your lodge. Yet you should ever be ready to assist the Master and to advise with him in matters that may be for its welfare.

In case of the Master's absence, it will devolve upon one of you to perform higher duties. If you would perform those duties in accordance with the obligations you owe the Lodge and merit the approbation of the Brethren, you should thoroughly prepare yourselves to discharge them acceptably by becoming proficient in the work of the degrees and familiar with the rules and regulations of the Fraternity.

No Lodge can be regularly opened nor continue its work or business without the presence of the Master or a Warden, and it should never suffer for want of proper instruction. By freely giving of your ability to assist the Master during his term of office, you will become better equipped to guide the destiny of your Lodge, should necessity arise, and will be able to conduct its business and work with a greater satisfaction to yourselves and to your Brethren.

What you have seen praiseworthy in others, you should heartily emulate; and what in them may appear 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. From the interest which you have evinced in the organizing of this Lodge, and your reputation as good citizens and Masons, I entertain no doubt that you will so conduct yourselves in office as to merit the approbation of your Brethren and the testimony of a good conscience, and that the just reward which is due for meritorious services will be rendered in your advancement to higher stations.

## CHARGE TO THE BRETHREN OF THE LODGE

\* \*Brethren of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, you have been formed under Dispensation into a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, and are empowered to confer the several degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry, and to transact the necessary business incident thereto.

Your authority is strictly limited by the law of the M.'W.'.Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington, and your continuance as a Lodge under dispensation is subject to the will and pleasure of the Grand Master, who may at any time revoke the authority under which you are now working.

It is your duty, as officers and members, strictly to obey the law. In order to do so, you should carefully study all of its provisions, as any departure therefrom may subject you to censure, and might even result in the recalling of the Dispensation.

Lodges are first established *under Dispensation* as a test of the ability of the officers and brethren to perform properly the duties incumbent upon them; and if, after due trial, they be found worthy and well qualified, they are constituted and formed into *regular* Lodges, with full power to work under Charters.

In addition to observing the law, it will also be your duty to conform to the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge in regard to the Work. The Grand Lodge has its own esoteric Work, and has a Grand Lecturer to teach it. Every Lodge must practice said Work and Lectures; any departure therefrom, without express authority from the Grand Lodge, is subject to discipline. The Monitor adopted by the Grand Lodge must be used, and no other.

An inordinate desire on the part of Lodges under dispensation to confer degrees results too often in the admission into our Fraternity of some who are not worthy and well qualified. No one should ever be solicited to become a member, and you should bear in mind that the stability of a Lodge depends upon the quality of its members, and not upon the number upon whom its favors are bestowed. As the strength of a chain is that of its weakest link, so the standing of a Masonic Lodge is measured by its weakest member. I especially admonish you to inquire carefully into the character and standing of those who seek admission into our Fraternity. No man can of himself shed lustre upon Freemasonry nor add to its glory. We confer favors upon those whom we accept; and we should know beyond question that the recipients are worthy of what we have to impart. I charge you to guard well the portals of this Lodge, as we have a right to know that every one whom you make a Freemason is entitled to be greeted as a friend and Brother by the entire *Fraternity* wheresoever dispersed throughout the globe.

Finally, my Brethren, be of one mind; live in peace; let nothing disturb that pure, warm and holy love which our ritual enjoins. Follow these instructions and your Lodge will flourish.

## PROCLAMATION

By the power in me vested, and in tile name of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington, I proclaim \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge duly established and qualified to enter upon the dispatch of such business as may regularly come before it.