



**CONSTITUTION  
STATUTES  
AND  
REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
GRAND COMMANDERY  
OF  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
OF THE  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
2025**



**CONSTITUTION,  
STATUTES, AND REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
GRAND COMMANDERY OF  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA  
(FOR INFORMATION DESIRED, NOT HEREIN PROVIDED,  
REFER TO GRAND ENCAMPMENT  
CONSTITUTION, STATUTES, AND REGULATIONS)**

REVISED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER  
DANIEL C. RICKETTS, 2025-2026  
AND SUPERVISED BY THE GRAND COMMANDERY OFFICERS

REVISED AND EDITED BY  
JOE E. TURNER, PGC HON; CHAIRMAN, CODE REVISION  
RYAN C. NEALEY; MEMBER, CODE REVISION  
WILLIAM T. WHITE, MEMBER, CODE REVISION

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ATTEST:  
MARK A. BRADLEY  
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND RECORDER

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**CONSTITUTION, STATUTES, AND REGULATIONS  
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TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

**(FOR INFORMATION DESIRED NOT HEREIN PROVIDED, REFER TO  
GRAND ENCAMPMENT STATUTES AND REGULATIONS)**

**CONSTITUTION**

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**ARTICLE I. NAME**

**Section 1. Name.** This body is known as the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia, and its territorial jurisdiction is the State of Georgia.

**ARTICLE II. POWERS**

**Section 1. Derived Powers.** This Grand Commandery, deriving its powers from the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, acknowledges its allegiance to the same; and accepting the Constitution and Code of Statutes prescribed by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, hereby enacts the following Statutes and Regulations, subservient thereto, for the more perfect government of its affairs.

**Section 2. Orders.** Under the Powers vested, it claims and exercises authority over the Orders of Knighthood, consisting of the Order of the Red Cross, Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple, as defined by adopted Ritual of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. And it claims and exercises authority over the several Constituent Commanderies at all times comprising this Grand Body. Therefore, it may grant Dispensations and Charters for the Institution and Constitution of Commanderies vested with authority to confer said Orders in regular form, and to transact business for government as may be necessary, under authorized Statutes and Regulations. It may enact laws and Regulations for its own government and its Constituent Bodies.

It may censure, suspend, or expel members of its own Body, or members of Constituent Bodies, for any violation of its Statutes and Laws. It may arrest the Charter of a Constituent Body and temporarily or permanently withdraw the vested powers from said Body, or dissolve its organization; and generally, it may exercise all powers and privileges as are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. And, at all times, as an organization of Knights Templar, or as individuals composing same, observing obedience to the laws of the country.

## **ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION, PROXIES, TITLES**

**Section 1. Officers.** This Grand Commandery consists of the following Officers and members:

The Right Eminent Grand Commander,  
The Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander,  
The Grand Generalissimo,  
The Grand Captain General,  
The Grand Senior Warden,  
The Grand Junior Warden,  
The Grand Prelate,  
The Grand Treasurer,  
The Grand Recorder,  
The Grand Standard Bearer,  
The Grand Sword Bearer,  
The Grand Warder.  
The Grand Sentinel,

(The Grand Sentinel, Grand Captain of the Guard, and up to two Grand Custodians, are to be appointed by the Grand Commander at each Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery), all Past Grand Commanders, all Past Deputy Grand Commanders, all Past Grand Generalissimos, all Past Grand Captain Generals, all Past Commanders of Constituent Commanderies; and the Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General of each Commandery within this jurisdiction, so long as they remain members of a Constituent Commandery. The above indicated members shall be entitled to one vote each in all proceedings of this Grand Body, if he be present, except the Grand Prelate, Grand Sentinel, and Grand Captain of the Guard, unless they are either qualified as a Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, or Past Commander. (Grand Custodian adopted by Resolution May 13, 1981.) It shall be the duty of the Grand Custodians to maintain a general supervision over the promotion of the Ritualistic work. They shall make an annual written report to the Grand Commandery and shall report to the Grand Commander at such times as he may direct.

**Section 2. Must Be Member.** No person shall be eligible to any office in this Grand Commandery who is not a member of a Constituent Commandery, and who is not or has not been a Commander of a Commandery of Knights Templar; except as to the offices of Grand Prelate, Grand Sentinel, Grand Captain of the Guard, which offices may be filled by any Sir Knight of this Constituency in good standing.

**Section 3. Proxies.** Each Constituent Commandery is entitled to three votes, when represented in the Conclaves of this Grand Commandery by its Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General. If the three ranking elective officers are in attendance, each is entitled to one vote

and cannot delegate his voting power to another. If either the Commander, Generalissimo, or Captain General, or all of them, be not present, and if through them or either of them, the Commandery is to be represented by Proxy, it shall be necessary for the Proxy to have a legal proxy from said officer or officers, and the holding of said proxy shall disqualify the holder from the right to cast his own vote as a past Commander. A proxy of either of the above named Commandery Officers may be held by a Recorder or other member of same Commandery who may not be a Past Commander, but he shall have no vote in his own name. A Proxy hereby authorized must be in print or in writing and duly signed by the Sir Knight making the same.

**Section 4. Titles.** The honorary Title of the Grand Commander is Right Eminent and the official title is Grand Commander; that of the Deputy Grand Commander is Very Eminent and the official title is Deputy Grand Commander; and the honorary title of the remaining Grand Officers, and of the Commanders is Eminent (Grand Captain of the Guard accepted). The honorary title shall be used in addressing or referring to an officer, and when so used, shall immediately precede the official title, e.g. — Right Eminent Grand Commander, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Eminent Grand Warder, etc. The official title only shall be used by an officer when necessary to designate his rank or official station.

#### **SECTION 5. Honorary Titles.**

Honorary titles may be conferred upon a Sir Knight who has rendered LONG, OUTSTANDING AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE in the cause of Templary. This Grand Commandery may confer the honorary title of Honorary Past Grand Commander, Grand Treasurer Emeritus, Grand Recorder Emeritus, and Grand Prelate Emeritus on a Sir Knight who is proposed in writing by a member of Grand Commandery to the Grand Recorder's office by March 1, and is approved by The Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General and the Grand Recorder, who shall then forward the nomination with supporting documentation to the Grand Master of Grand Encampment for his approval. Such nomination shall then be presented at the Grand Conclave Session of Grand Commandery for approval by a 3/4 majority of the voting members.

The holder of such honorary title shall have no right, by virtue of such honorary title, to exercise any of the functions or powers of the office as to which he holds an honorary title, nor shall he by virtue of such honorary title wear the jewel of the office to which such title pertains. The holder of such honorary title, however, shall be privileged to wear the

uniform and shoulder straps of the office to which such honorary title applies, and there may be conferred upon him a jewel and, shoulder straps appropriate to his honorary title, provided that such jewel and shoulder straps must bear a specific notation that the title which it represents is honorary only. (**Section 237(a) Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms, and approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America Revised March 28, 2019**)

#### **ARTICLE IV. BUSINESS, ELECTIONS**

**Section 1. Annual Conclave.** The Grand Commandery shall hold an Annual Conclave in May in the City of Macon, Georgia, Grand Chapter Building. Beginning in 2023, the Grand Commandery will open at 8:00 A.M. on the First Friday in May, followed by the Grand Chapter and Grand Council at times to be determined. In 2024 the Grand Chapter will open at 8:00 A.M. on the First Friday in May, followed by the Grand Council and Grand Commandery at times to be determined. In 2025, the Grand Council will open at 8:00 A.M. on the First Friday in May, followed by the Grand Commandery and Grand Chapter at times to be determined. This rotation shall continue on a yearly basis unless changed by amendment. It is the duty of each Constituent Commandery to be there represented as provided in Article III, Section 3.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances, The Grand Commandery may conduct a Grand Conclave by electronic means. A virtual meeting shall be held by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of Grand Commandery. A dispensation from the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment shall be necessary to hold such meeting and no ritual work may be performed. (Grand Encampment Section 36, amended 2021-06)

**Section 2. Special Conclaves.** Special Grand Conclaves may be called by the Grand Commander (or in case when he cannot act, by the officer entitled to preside), whenever in his opinion the interest of the Order may require it. He shall give the Grand Recorder at least thirty days' notice before the date determined upon. The Grand Recorder shall issue notice to each of the members at least ten days before said call date. No business shall be transacted at such called Conclave other than that specified in the order. It shall be the duty of the Grand Commander, upon the request of the majority of the Commanderies, directed to him in writing, defining the reasons therefore, to call a special Conclave.

**Section 3. Members Necessary.** The Representatives of three Constituent Commanderies, together with enough permanent members

of the Grand Commandery to make in all not less than nine, are necessary for the transaction of business.

**Section 4. Who Presides.** In case of absence of the first four Principal Officers at a Conclave of this Grand Commandery the Junior Past Grand Commander shall preside. If there be no Past Grand Commander present, the oldest Past Commander in point of service shall preside.

**Section 5. Time and Place.** If for any reason and for the good of the order, a regular or special Conclave cannot or may not be held at the time and place appointed, the Grand Commander may designate another time, or if necessary a different place, and cause the Grand Recorder to give ten days' notice thereof to all entitled to be present thereat, incorporating in the notice the reason therefor.

**Section 6. Elections.** The Officers of this Grand Commandery, except the Grand Sentinel, shall be chosen annually by written ballot, provided however that the current Grand Commandery line officers and the Grand Recorder, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Prelate may be elected by acclamation if no objection. Any remaining officer vacancy shall be filled by written ballot without nominations from the floor. Each Grand Officer so elected by a majority of the votes cast shall be installed before the close of each Annual Conclave, if present, and hold their offices until their several successors are elected and installed. Any elected officer, who may be absent, may subsequently be installed under direction of the Grand Commander at a time and place designated.

Each Sir Knight on being elected to office in the Grand Body, or as soon thereafter as practicable, shall furnish for filing in the office of the Grand Recorder, a concise record of his Masonic History, along with other appropriate data for an historical sketch.

**Section 7. Bills and Resolutions.** All bills and resolutions involving the appropriation of funds or a change in Templary Law shall be submitted to the Grand Recorder by March 1st.

## **ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. Grand Commander.** The Grand Commander shall attend and preside over all Conclaves of the Grand Commandery. He shall have a watchful supervision over all Commanderies in the jurisdiction and see that the Constitution, Rituals, Statutes, and Edicts of the Grand Encampment, and Statues and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, are duly and promptly observed. He shall have power and authority, during the recess of the Grand Commandery, to fill all vacancies that might occur in the offices thereof and to Grant letters of Dispensation under provisions of the Statutes to nine or more qualified petitioners, residing within the jurisdiction, empowering them to form and open a Commandery with powers governing Commanderies under Dispensation. When empowered to do so, he shall appoint all officers not

made elective, and all Committees authorized by the Grand Commandery, and is empowered to remove them at pleasure and appoint others.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Commander, either in person or by proxy to visit each one of the Constituent Commanderies, at least once during his term of office, and to carefully note and correct any errors of irregularities in the same, either in requirement of the Grand Encampment law or laws and regulations of this Grand Commandery, or of evolutions of the tactics adopted and required by the Grand Commandery. On occasions of his visits to Commanderies he shall have the right to preside and conduct the regular business of same. For all expenses incident to the duties of his office, he shall have the right to draw his warrant upon the Grand Treasurer and receive reimbursement, not to exceed amount appropriated by Finance Committee and approved by Grand Commandery.

Generally, he shall perform the usual traditional duties of his office as laid down by the Statutes, Constitution, and Edicts of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America.

**Section 1.5. Vacancy in Grand Commandery Line.** In the event of the death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent disability of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Captain General, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Standard Bearer, or Grand Sword Bearer, the Officer of next lower rank, in the order named, shall succeed to such office, its title, prerogatives, and duties and shall be installed. Each Officer of lower rank shall likewise be advanced and installed. Each Office, or Offices, thus made vacant at the foot of the line shall remain vacant until the next Annual Conclave, provided, however, that the Grand Commander may appoint a Past Grand Commander to fill such vacant Office, or Offices, until the next Annual Conclave. All other vacant Grand Commandery Officer positions shall be filled by the Grand Commander.

**Section 2. Deputy Grand Commander.** The Deputy Grand Commander at all times shall perform such duties as may be assigned him by the Grand Commandery or Grand Commander.

**Section 3. Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General.** The Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General at all times, shall perform such duties as may be assigned them by the Grand Commandery or the Grand Commander as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations.

**Section 4. Grand Treasurer.** The Grand Treasurer shall receive all moneys due the Grand Commandery from the Grand Recorder, and from any other source authorized and shall keep it on deposit in a bank to be selected as the depository with the approval of the Grand Commander, and pay out same under such regulations as may be provided. He shall present at each Annual Conclave, or whenever required by the Grand Commandery, an account of his receipts and disbursements, together with his vouchers, and a full statement of the condition of the finances. He shall be the custodian of the Charter, Standard, and Jewels of this Grand Commandery, and have the same present at each regular or called Conclave. He shall also be the custodian of all such relics, mementos, or other property, as the Grand Commandery may, from time to time own, unless, provided, the Grand Commandery should specifically direct otherwise, accepting only such records and seals as properly appertain to the office of the Grand Recorder.

The Grand Treasurer shall file with the Grand Commander a bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars, or such other amount as may be fixed by the Finance Committee, conditioned upon the faithful performance of duties of that office, such bond to be approved by the Grand Commander. The cost of this bond shall be paid by this Grand Commandery.

The Grand Treasurer shall receive for his services such sum as this Grand Commandery may, from time to time, determine.

**Section 4.5. Investment Money.** All funds and investment monies held in charge of the Grand Treasurer shall be invested in accordance with the investment guidance of such investment fund manager or trust manager as may from time to time be selected by the Permanent Educational Foundation Committee of Grand Commandery.

**Section 5. Grand Recorder.** The Grand Recorder shall keep a proper record of all transactions of the Grand Commandery. He shall receive the dues from the Constituent Commanderies and such other moneys as may traditionally be paid to him for the Grand Commandery, and pay it over to the Grand Treasurer, and have his books and accounts in readiness for examination at each Annual Conclave, or whenever required by the Grand Commandery. He shall keep the seal of this Grand Commandery, and shall affix his attestation to all documents authorized by this body, and to all Dispensations issued by the presiding officer, requiring same. He shall report all unfinished business at or before each Annual Conclave, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Grand Commandery or its presiding officer. He shall also perform the duties belonging to Committee on Correspondence. He shall cause the proceedings of this Grand Commandery to be printed as soon as practical after the Annual Conclave. Such publication may be

printed in book format, compact disk, or other available media. And he shall send one copy to each Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each Commandery and one copy to each of the Grand Commandery officers. Also one copy to the Grand Master and Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment of the United States and one copy to each of the Grand Recorders of other Grand Jurisdictions. He shall also cause to be bound in two volumes whenever there are enough to make a volume, the proceedings of this Grand Commandery, and shall keep one in his office subject to the order of the Grand Commandery, and in addition he shall keep copies of each Annual Proceedings on hand.

He shall forward all expense bills for printing, postage, office rent, and generally such items as are necessary for the conduct of his office, after approving same, to the Grand Treasurer for payment. The regulation Past Grand Commander's Jewel, adopted on May 6, 1915, or another token of equal value, shall be purchased by him, and he shall have same ready at proper time for presentation.

The Grand Recorder shall file with the Grand Commander a bond in the sum of five thousand dollars, or such other amount as may be fixed by the Finance Committee, conditioned upon the faithful performance of duties of that office, such bond to be approved by the Grand Commander. The cost of this bond shall be paid by this Grand Commandery.

He shall keep all bonds and official documents belonging to this Grand Commandery. All bonds and official documents shall be subject to inspection by the Grand Commander and by the auditor employed to make the annual audit of Grand Commandery accounts.

The Grand Recorder shall receive for his services such sum as this Grand Commandery may, from time to time, determine.

**Section 6. All Grand Officers.** All Grand Officers shall perform all such duties, and be entitled to all such rights and privileges as are conferred and extended by usage, and the traditions of the order, and the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America and the Statutes and the Regulations of this Grand Commandery.

**Section 7. Grand Orator.** A Grand Orator may be selected annually by the Grand Commander to deliver an address upon such subject as he may elect, but appropriate to Templary, and such Orator so selected need not necessarily be a member of this Grand Commandery but must be an affiliated Knight Templar. He shall pay his own expenses for attendance.

**Section 8. Inspectors.** Inspectors shall be appointed by the Grand Commander to inspect all Commanderies he may not be able to inspect himself, by or before March 1st each year. The Inspector shall make a

written report to the Grand Commander, on blanks furnished by the Grand Recorder, of information concerning the work, and pertaining to the affairs of the Commandery Inspected.

**Section 9. Finance Committee.** The Committee on Finance shall consist of three Sir Knights appointed by the incoming Right Eminent Grand Commander, one of whom he shall designate as chairman of the committee. Two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the dispatch of business. The Committee on Finance shall meet at least once annually.

The Committee on Finance shall prepare a full and complete report of the financial condition of the Grand Commandery and shall present a balanced budget proposal for the next year to be acted upon by the Grand Commandery at its annual Conclave.

**Section 10. Memorial Committee.** A Permanent Memorial Committee consisting of three members, shall be appointed at each Annual Conclave, or as soon thereafter as practicable, by the newly elected Grand Commander, who shall also name the Chairman of said Committee for the Templar year. It shall be the duty of this Committee to submit a Memorial report at the Grand Conclave in respect to the memory of the Templar dead during the year, of this and other Grand Jurisdictions; and generally to perform such business as may be appropriately assigned to it by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery.

**Section 11. Jurisprudence Committee.** A Permanent Jurisprudence Committee of five members, as now organized on terms of one, two, three, four and five years. **Annually thereafter the incoming Right Eminent Grand Commander shall NOMINATE one Sir Knight to fill the expiring term, who shall be ELECTED at the Annual Conclave beginning in 2022.** (Grand Master Grand Encampment Section 48, Decision 3 January 11, 2021 Grand Encampment, K.T.)

**The incoming Right Eminent Grand Commander shall** at the same time designate and appoint for the Templar year the Chairman of said Committee. The Committee shall consider and report upon all matters which may be properly referred to them; generally questions of Templar law and regulations, on the occasion of Grand Conclaves or which may be asked of them by the Grand Commander during his administration.

**Section 12. Charters and By-Laws Committee.** A Permanent Charters and By-Laws Committee, of three members shall consider and report upon all matters which may be properly referred to them; generally having reference to granting of Charters or Dispensations to form new Commanderies, at the occasion of Grand Conclave, or which may be referred to or asked of them by the Grand Commander during his administration; it being clearly understood nevertheless, that the granting of a Dispensation during the interim to form a new Commandery, is the

prerogative of the Grand Commander, after considering from whatever source, the merits of petitioners. The Committee shall, when required, examine and pass upon the By-Laws of Constituent Commanderies.

**Section 13. Triennial Committee.** A Permanent Triennial Committee of three members (who are members of Grand Encampment) shall be NOMINATED by the incoming Grand Commander at the first Annual Grand Commandery Conclave after the Triennial Conclave and ELECTED at the Annual Conclave beginning in 2022. (Grand Master Grand Encampment Section 48, Decision 3 January 11, 2021 ).

This Committee is to have complete charge of all details relative to the next meeting of the Grand Encampment, including Entertainment propaganda, Transportation, etc. The Committee shall serve until after the next Triennial, and they shall be authorized to draw on the Grand Treasurer for any necessary expenses from funds authorized by Grand Commandery to be expended for Triennial expenses.

**Section 14. Educational Foundation Committee.** There shall be a permanent Educational Foundation Committee composed of five trustees of the Knights Templar Educational Foundation of Georgia, Inc., said trustees to be elected by the Grand Commandery of Georgia as provided in the charter of incorporation of said Knights Templar Educational Foundation of Georgia, Inc., as granted by the Judge of the Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia on the 22nd day of March, 1940. It shall be the duty of this Committee to work with and under the plans of the Grand Encampment Educational Foundation of the Division of the Grand Commandery of Georgia. The members of this Committee shall be elected and hold office as provided in the charter.

This Committee shall have in charge funds formerly in the hands of the Educational Committee and the Treasurer of the Grand Commandery, known as the George B. Whiteside Templar Memorial Fund; the Lucy Russell Educational Fund; the W. C. Cantrell Fund; the Thank Offering Fund, and the Mollie S. Moseley Eye Foundation Trust of Ga., Inc. and they are hereby placed in the hands of the trustees of Knights Templar Educational Foundation of Georgia, Inc., to be invested in accordance with the investment guidance of such investment fund manager or trust manager as may from time to time be selected by the permanent Educational Foundation committee. All Funds shall be administered by said trustees in accordance with the terms as expressed by the donors in making said gifts. Provided further, that the interest income, and principal of the fund may be used for student grants or scholarships, or grants to educational institutions to provide student grants or scholarships under such rules as the Educational Foundation Committee of the Grand Encampment may prescribe. (Grand

Encampment Section 18, amended 2021-01)

A separate set of books is to be kept in connection with the administration of these funds. (Pro. 1940)

**Section 15. Relief Committee.** There shall be a Permanent Relief Committee consisting of five (5) members, namely the Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee who shall have authority in cases of extreme emergency to draw upon the funds of the Grand Commandery an amount not to exceed \$500.00 during any Templar Year. This Committee shall make an annual report at each Grand Conclave.

Each applicant for Relief must be a Knight Templar in good standing or in the case of a widow, her husband must have been in good standing at the time of his death. All applications to be investigated by a person or persons trained in this work, and when the investigator certifies to the Committee that the applicant is worthy, the Constituent Commandery of which he is a member, or in the case of a Widow the Constituent Commandery of which her husband was a member in good standing at the time of his death shall be invited to pay one half of the amount allotted by the Committee, and the rest to be paid from the Relief Fund. If the Committee is satisfied that the Constituent Commandery is unable to pay one half of the recommended amount, then the Committee shall be authorized to pay the full amount recommended from the Relief Fund.

(1978)

**Section 16. Knights Templar Eye Foundation.** A permanent Eye Foundation Committee of three members on terms of one, two and three years in office shall be maintained in this Grand Commandery. The incoming Grand Commander shall NOMINATE a member to fill the expiring term or other vacancy, who shall be **ELECTED at the Annual Conclave beginning in 2022.** (Grand Master Grand Encampment Section 48, Decision 3 January 11, 2021 ).

The Grand Commander shall also designate the Chairman for the ensuing year. The geographical location of the committee members should be such as to best promote and advance our Eye Foundation work throughout the State of Georgia. All members of this committee shall diligently work to support the Eye Foundation program and the Committee shall make a report annually to the Grand Commandery

**Section 17. Patriotic and Civic Activities.** The Committee on Patriotic and Civic Activities shall consist of three members to be appointed by the Grand Commander. The Committee shall foster and supervise activities of a patriotic and citizenship nature, whether in peacetime or in warfare, and shall present its recommendations for civic responsibility by Knights

Templar individually and collectively, compatible with the patriotic principles of Templary.

**Section 18. Session Committees.** Session Committees, such as Committee on Credentials, Grand Commander's Address, Commandery Inspections Reports, Commandery reports; and other Committees necessary for the transaction of the business of the Grand Commandery in Conclave shall be appointed by the Grand Commander after the organization for business is completed; and announcement made of same, before delivering his address. Ordinarily the report of Committee on "Grand Commander's Address" shall be the first report presented to the Grand Conclave for consideration. Committees shall ordinarily consist of not less than three nor more than five members.

**Section 19. Amendments.** This Constitution Section upon the concurrence of three-fourths of its members present at any Annual Conclave, may be revised, amended, or altered, provided, however, that a written copy of the motion so to revise, amend, or alter shall be filed with the Grand Recorder by March 1st. Provided further, that with the unanimous consent of the members present, any member may introduce such an amendment in writing during the session of Grand Commandery.

## GENERAL STATUTES

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### ARTICLE I

**Section 1. Seal.** The Seal of the Grand Commandery shall be affixed to all Templary documents as required. The Grand Commander's seal may be affixed to official papers pertaining to the office of the Grand Commander.

**Section 2. New Commanderies.** Charters or Dispensations may be granted for the establishment of new Commanderies on the petition of nine or more regular Knights Templar directed to the Grand Commandery. For every such Charter of Dispensation, the petitioners shall pay in advance one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

No Commandery shall be constituted until it has provided itself with a suitable asylum with proper paraphernalia to do the work of a Commandery.

No letters of Dispensation for instituting a new Commandery shall be issued by the Grand Commander, save upon the recommendation of the Commandery in the same territorial jurisdiction nearest the place of the new Commandery prayed for. Written request by petitioners to the Commandery for such recommendation, must be presented at a regular Conclave, read and filed, and referred to a committee of not less than

three for investigation and report at a subsequent Conclave of the Commandery before action on said request is taken by said Commandery, and shall lie over until the next regular Conclave. All members of the Commandery to which such petition is made shall be given at least five days' notice in writing by the Recorder as to the purpose of such petition and the particular Conclave at which is to be passed upon. The Recorder shall certify all action taken on such petition before it is presented to the Grand Commander. But in the event of refusal of the nearest Commandery to grant a recommendation, application may be made direct to the Grand Commandery, which has power to grant a Dispensation or Charter, without such recommendation. If the new Commandery is to be stationed in a city where there is more than one Commandery, two of them located in such city must recommend such petition, as provided for action by the Grand Commander in granting Dispensations. Or if, where two or more Commanderies elsewhere severally stationed have concurrent jurisdiction, the consent of the two must be obtained before a dispensation for a new Commandery can be granted.

The members of a Commandery under Dispensation continue to be members of the Commandery to which they belonged when the dispensation was granted. Any Petitioner for a Dispensation for a new Commandery may sever his connection with such new Commandery at any time before a Charter is granted by notice to the Grand Recorder, and the new Commandery, and his Certificate of Good Standing or Demit shall be returned; and his membership shall remain with his former Commandery.

Whenever the new Commandery is chartered and constituted, the members immediately become members of the new Commandery, and their membership in the former Commandery ceases without the necessity of obtaining a demit. Such member may signify their desire to hold dual membership and they will continue as dual members. The Recorder of the new Commandery shall notify the Recorder of the former Commandery to which the Sir Knight belonged of their intention to hold dual membership.

(Section 150, 151, 152, Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms, and approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America Revised March 28, 2019.)

No Commandery shall be named for, nor may a Commandery change its name, to that of a living person or any person who has been deceased less than three (3) years, nor a name held by an active Commandery of this Grand Jurisdiction.

**Section 3. Grand Representatives.** The exchange of representatives between this Grand Commandery and other Grand Jurisdictions of the United States is hereby authorized. The Commissions of representatives near other jurisdictions are to be executed by the Grand Commander and attested by the Grand Recorder, after recommendation of their respective Grand Commanders; and, such Commission as representatives of the Grand Commandery of Georgia near the other Grand Commanderies, shall expire with the Triennial Conclaves of the Grand Encampment, unless just cause be found for annulment before that time. The Grand Commander shall recommend to other jurisdictions appointment of representatives near this, when there is a vacancy, and may recommend annulment of Commissions when in his opinion the interest of the Order demands it.

**Section 4. Voting.** Every member present, either in the Grand Commandery, or in any Constituent Commandery, when a vote or ballot is had, is required to vote, unless he is excused by the presiding officer, for cause shown before the voting or balloting commences.

**Section 5. Jewels.** Each Past Grand Commander shall be provided with a Past Grand Commander's Jewel, at once upon retirement from office; the design of same being as adopted on May 6, 1915, or one of an equal value, except where a Past Grand Commander may select some other token of equal value.

**Section 6. Grand Conclave and Other Expenses.** The Sir Knights shall purchase the Banquet Tickets for themselves and their ladies. The Grand Commandery shall pay for the Distinguished Guests from Grand Encampment and for other Distinguished Guests in the same manner that Georgia is accommodated at their Annual Session. (Effective January 1, 2014)

The Grand Commandery will hold a Divine Church Service during the Annual Conclave at a location to be determined. (Effective January 1, 2014)

Effective with the Annual Conclave in May 1994 of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia, the sum of \$1,500.00 (fifteen hundred dollars), or such sum as shall be agreed jointly with the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Georgia and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Georgia, shall be allocated for the cost of a full page in each issue of "The Masonic Messenger", for the dissemination of matters concerning York Rite Freemasonry in Georgia. These arrangements shall continue until amended or canceled by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar at a regular conclave thereof.

**Section 7. Prohibition.** No wine, beer, or other alcoholic beverages shall be served at any entertainment or function of the Grand Commandery, or any Inspection, Banquet, or other entertainment, by any

Constituent Commandery, and any Commandery violating the letter or spirit of this section shall be guilty of insubordination, and may be punished as provided for the offense of insubordination.

The prohibitions against a Mason engaging in the liquor business as contained in the Masonic Manual and Code of the Grand Lodge of the State of Georgia (F. & A.M.) as the same now are, or may hereafter be amended, are hereby made applicable to each Sir Knight of this Constituency, and any Sir Knight found guilty of violating the provisions of said Masonic Manual and Code shall be punished in the same manner as provided by the said Masonic Manual and Code.

**Section 8. Petition for Orders.** Applicants for the Orders shall petition by signed application conformable to Grand Encampment Statutes; and in addition, shall give the information therewith, as to where he has resided for the past three years. The Templar residence of an applicant is his recognized legal residence,

**Section 9. Appeals.** No appeal shall lie to the Grand Commandery from a decision of the Grand Commander, except on questions as to the construction of the Constitution, Statutes and Regulations, or Ritual of the Grand Encampment, or Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery; nor to the Grand Encampment of the United States, except on questions as above stated.

**Section 10. Dispensations.** No dispensation in behalf of Commanderies, other than to institute a Commandery, shall be granted by the Grand Commander, unless the same has been applied for by a vote of the Commandery at a stated Conclave, which shall be evidenced by the certificate of the Recorder, and the seal of the Commander.

A Grand Commander in the case of an emergency or for other good reasons may issue a dispensation to a Commandery to receive, read, and ballot on petitions at a stated Conclave (proper notice to be given to the membership) and he may issue a dispensation to a Commandery permitting them to confer the orders in the hall of a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in their jurisdiction when he believes it to be in the best interest of Templary.

**Section 11. Parades.** This Grand Commandery does hereby allow members of the Order as Knights Templar and all bodies of Knights Templar of this Constituency, to participate in any parade, Masonic funeral, Church or Religious service and escort the Grand Commandery before the opening session, without Dispensation being obtained. On occasion of parades, the display of the Beauseant Banner, together with the United States Flag, only, may be made. Any approved Knight Templar uniform may be worn in public as provided, except when escorting Grand Commandery which requires a full dress uniform, provided all Participating Knights must wear the same uniform. (Grand Encampment Sections 214-215 Deleted, Amendment 2021-05).

**Section 12. Debates.** When the presiding officer either in the Grand Commandery or a Constituent Commandery, wishes the debate to close, he rises, and that shall end the discussion.

**Section 13. Must Appear In Uniform.** Every officer must appear in his proper Uniform at the opening of the Grand Conclave, and of each Conclave of a Constituent Commandery, unless he is excused therefrom for proper cause, by the Grand Commander, or by the Eminent Commander.

**Section 14. Jurisdiction.** Unless different by special enactment of this Grand Body, the Jurisdiction of a Commandery of this Grand Commandery, is one half the straight line distance between the corporate limits of the municipalities, if any, in which they are stationed, and shall not extend beyond the State of Georgia; and when there is a question of jurisdiction between Commanderies as to distances between them, it shall be settled by securing, if possible, authoritative information from the United States Geological Survey, or the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey offices at Washington, D.C.; and the question shall be determined by such information, if obtained.

**Section 14.5 Concurrent Jurisdiction.** The Grand Commandery of Georgia, Knights Templar, grants concurrent jurisdiction to Coeur de Lion Commandery No. 4, Atlanta Commandery No. 9, Alexius Commandery No. 22, Constantine Commandery No. 26, Griffin Commandery No. 35, DeKalb Commandery No. 38 and Douglasville Commandery No. 40, and orders that the membership dues and the fees for the orders of Knighthood for any of the participating Commanderies shall not be lower than the membership dues and the fees for the orders of Knighthood for the majority of the other Commanderies participating in the same concurrent jurisdiction, and that the total territory over which this concurrent jurisdiction shall hold, shall be extended to include the sum total of the individual territories of each Commandery participating when calculated by the application of the rule of Article I, Section 14, General Statutes. Adopted 2003.

**Section 15. Diplomas.** A Diploma and Certificate of Membership, of design now in use prepared by the Grand Recorder, shall be supplied by the Grand Recorder to each Sir Knight applying for one through the Recorder of his Commandery.

**Section 16. Fifty-Year Awards.** (a) Any Knight Templar completing fifty years active membership in this order, the last ten of which shall have been as a member of a Constituent Commandery of this Grand Commandery, shall be awarded an appropriate certificate commemorating such long and honorable service. All qualifying service for such certificate shall have been in a Commandery subordinate to this Grand Commandery or to the Grand Encampment of the United States

of America, Knights Templar. (b) It shall be the duty of the Recorder of the Commandery of the member eligible for this award to notify the Grand Recorder, who shall verify the service record. The Grand Commander and the Grand Recorder shall be the judges of eligibility. (c) The award shall be presented by the Grand Commander or by some distinguished Knight Templar selected by the Grand Commander for the purpose.

**Section 18.5. Perpetual Membership Fund.** Provided similar action is approved by the Grand Chapter of Georgia, Royal Arch Masons and the Grand Council of Georgia, Royal and Select Masters, this Grand Commandery does hereby authorize the creation and the joint operation of a Perpetual Membership Program under the name and style of the York Rite Perpetual Membership Fund of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Georgia. This Fund shall be administered by a joint committee of the said three Grand Bodies which committee shall be known as the Fund Committee.

The Right Eminent Grand Commander shall appoint one Sir Knight for a term of one year, another Sir Knight for two years, and another Sir Knight for three years who shall serve on the joint Fund Committee. Annually thereafter the incoming Right Eminent Grand Commander shall NOMINATE one Sir Knight for a three year term, who shall be ELECTED at the Annual Conclave beginning in 2022. (**Grand Master Grand Encampment Section 48, Decision 3 January 11, 2021**). The Grand Recorder and the Grand Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of this Fund Committee. The Fund Committee shall make an annual report to this Grand Commandery.

The joint Fund Committee shall be responsible for setting up the program of Perpetual Memberships, prescribing rules for determining eligibility costs, transfers, terminations, and other matters; and shall also be responsible for investing the funds received and prescribing the amounts to be paid annually to each Chapter, Council, and Commandery.

Provided, however that no funds may be withdrawn from the corpus funds paid to obtain a Perpetual Membership, except under such extreme conditions as may be determined and approved by the Fund Committee and as permitted under the Laws of the State of Georgia for executors and trustees.

The Fund Committee may alter, amend and/or revise its rules and regulations from time to time in order to maintain a sound program.

**Section 19. Recognitions and Awards of Distinction.** This Grand Commandery now institutes and approves an Award of Distinction to be known as the Order of the Cross of Jerusalem (for Order of DeMolay Knights going above and beyond the call of duty). This award is

exclusively for active DeMolays who are members of the Georgia Knighthood Priory, Order of DeMolay, and not Advisors.

Upon the recommendation of the advisory council of the Georgia Knighthood Priory of the Georgia DeMolay, and with the consent of the Executive Officer of DeMolay in Georgia, one candidate will be selected during any given year. The DeMolay Knight will be honored and knighted at their Annual Conclave. The knighting shall be done by the Right Eminent Grand Commander or his representative and a short ritualistic ceremony as shall be from time to time determined, shall accompany the award.

The Order of the Cross of Jerusalem will be distinguished by a black and white sash. The body of said sash shall be approximately four inches wide, the whole of white silk, bordered with black velvet, one inch wide on either side. A silver welt shall be placed at the inner edge of the black borders, and the back to be lined with green silk. A Red Cross of Jerusalem shall be embroidered on the upper central white portion of the sash. It shall be worn from the right shoulder to the left hip. Adopted 2014.

**Section 20. Amendments.** This General Statutes Section upon the concurrence of two-thirds of its members present at any Annual Conclave, may be revised, amended, or altered, provided, however, that a written copy of the motion so to revise, amend or alter shall be filed with the Grand Recorder by March 1st; provided further, that with the unanimous consent of the members present, any member may introduce such an amendment in writing during the session of Grand Commandery.

**Section 21. Statutory Provisions.** All Statutory provisions of this Grand Commandery, not wholly or partly included in these Statutes, are hereby repealed.

## **RULES OF ORDER**

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### **ARTICLE I**

**Section 1. Roll Call.** Before opening the Grand Commandery, the Grand Recorder shall call the roll, and if it appears therefrom that a constitutional number is present, the Grand Commander shall announce that fact and proceed with the opening.

**Section 2. Invitation.** The Grand Commander shall then extend an invitation to all Sir Knights of good standing to seats in the Grand Commandery.

**Section 3. Appoint Committee.** The Grand Commander shall then announce the appointment of Committee on Credentials and such other Committees as may be necessary, which shall report subsequently in the order of business.

**Section 4. Records.** If the records of the last Grand Conclave have been printed and distributed, their reading shall be dispensed with, unless a motion to read them is made and carried.

**Section 5. REGC Report.** The Grand Commander's report shall then be read and referred to the proper committee for distribution.

**SECTION 6. Display of Holy Bible:** The Holy Bible shall be displayed at all Conclaves of the Grand Encampment, the Grand Commanderies and all Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies, on a stand, pedestal, or small altar in front of the Prelate's station on the floor of the Asylum, to the left (South) of the United States flag; it shall be placed with the top to the east, opened to the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter XXVIII, with a small wooden passion cross displayed on the right and square and compasses displayed on the left thereon. Two crossed swords may also be displayed thereon. It is to be opened by the Grand Prelate or Prelate, immediately after the Conclave is declared convened or opened; and closed by the Grand Prelate or Prelate when the Conclave is declared adjourned or closed. The altar shall be covered with a black or white cloth cover; on the front of which a red Passion Cross may be embroidered. **(The Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms, and approved Decisions 1967 & 1982 of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America Revised August 3, 2016)**

## **ARTICLE II**

**Section 1. Resolutions.** All resolutions shall be reduced to writing, shall be read by the Sir Knight introducing same, and after being seconded, presented to the Grand Recorder, when they shall be open for discussion.

**Section 2. Speak Restrictions.** No Sir Knight shall speak more than twice upon any one resolution or motion, without permission of the presiding officer.

**Section 3. Must Stand.** Every Sir Knight shall stand when he speaks, or when he seconds a motion or resolution, and he shall at all times address himself to the presiding officer.

**Section 4. No Interruptions.** No Sir Knight shall interrupt the presiding officer or any other Sir Knight, while he is speaking.

**Section 5. Retire.** No member shall retire during the Grand Conclaves of the Grand Commandery, without permission of the presiding officer.

**Section 6. Questions.** All questions of order shall be decided by the presiding officer, and no appeal shall be had from his decision on same.

**Section 7. Rules of Order.** The usual rules governing parliamentary bodies shall be the rules to be observed at the Conclaves of this Grand Commandery.

**Section 8. Rules Amended.** These Rules of Order may be amended at any Regular Annual Conclave by a majority vote of those present.

## TEMPLAR UNIFORM

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ADOPTED MAY 1905

The revision of 2014 does not address the section regarding Uniform for the same reason as was recorded in the 1994 Proceedings: "this will require a great deal of study and the revisers are not sure what changes can be made to lower the cost and still present a good image of Templary".

**Section 1.** From and after this date the following shall be the Templar Uniform for officers and Sir Knights of this Jurisdiction, except as herein otherwise provided.

**1. Full Dress:**

- Black regulation coat and black trousers.
- Baldric, sword, and belt.
- Chapeau, black shoes.
- Shoulder straps as per regulation of the Grand Encampment
- Costumes for Prelates and Grand Prelate, same as per regulation of Grand Encampment.

**2. Fatigue Dress:**

- Black regulation blouse and black trousers.
- Black silk or cloth cap with drooping visor.
- Sword and belt, black shoes.
- Officers and members of the Grand Commandery, and Past Grand Officers, alone to wear shoulder straps and sleeve crosses, same as full dress.

**3. Full Dress Coat:**

- The Georgia Regulation Dress Coat shall be a single or double breasted sack coat of black tropical worsted or similar material – two or four cross and crown buttons to close. To have peaked lapels and be form fitting. Two lower outside hung-in pockets with square flaps, left breast welted pocket and at least one inside right horizontal pocket. Coat to be full lined. No shoulder loops. Sleeves to have stitching up 3" from bottom to represent cuffs. Bullion embroidered 1 ½" cross appropriated to rank to be centered between stitching and

edge of sleeve – silver for Sir Knights below the rank of Commander, and gold for Commander and above.

- The letters "GA" and the number of the Commandery to be bullion embroidered in  $\frac{1}{2}$ " block letters on a separate patch to be sewn on welt of pocket. Silver for Sir Knights below rank of Commander and gold for Commander and above.
- Belt hook inside coat with straight buttonhole through left side of coat for hook to go through when in use.
- The above dress coat regulations shall not apply to currently owned uniforms, but shall apply to all dress coats purchased after May 13, 1976. (1976/28)

**4. Fatigue Blouse:**

- A fatigue blouse made after fashion of those worn by officers of the United States Army is authorized, but not required. All officers above the rank of Senior Warden to wear shoulder straps.

**5. Trousers:**

- Black cloth trousers without stripe or ornamentation.

**6. Baldric:**

- The body of the Baldric shall be five inches wide, the whole of white moiré antique silk, bordered with black velvet, one inch wide on either side. A strip of silver lace one-fourth of an inch wide, at the inner edge of the black. On the front center of the Baldric a metal star of nine points, in allusion to the nine founders of Templar Order, enclosing the Passion Cross, surrounded by the motto: "In Hoc Signo Vinces"; the star to be three and three-quarter inches in diameter. The baldric to be worn from the right shoulder to the left hip, with the ends extending six inches below the point of intersection. To be lined with green silk, with red Greek cross and a plated hanger on hip. Officers wearing shoulder straps do not wear the baldric; instead they shall wear upon the left breast a jewel, adopted heretofore by this Grand Commandery, to wit; a star in the center of which shall be a red Passion Cross, resting upon a field, half white and half black, representing the Beauseant, and suspended from the bar.

- (1965 Conclave, the wearing of the baldric is optional)

**7. Fatigue Caps:**

- Black cloth two and three quarters inches deep, drooping leather visor, black silk band one and one quarter inches wide, with appropriate cord and cross on front, one small Templar button on either side and black silk cover. Commanderies at discretion may adopt cap without visor.

**8. Sword:**

- Straight sword. Thirty-four to forty inches in length, inclusive of scabbard, helmet head, cross hilt, without chain, and metal scabbard with emblematic mountings, the grip of ivory or ebony as elected by each Commandery, the Passion Cross without rays in front center of grip.
- Wherever metal occurs all Officers and Past Officers above Generalissimo shall wear gilt. All other Sir Knights silver plated or white metal.

**9. Belt:**

- For all Grand Officers, Commanders, and Past Commanders the standard belt shall be black, one and three-fourth inches wide, length to be specified in order. The gold braid on the face of the belt to be one and five-eighths inches wide with three red stripes or strips of red braid running lengthwise, so as to separate the face of the gold braid into four separate strips of equal width; the width of red stripe or strip be between three thirty-seconds to one eighth of an inch wide.
- The belt shall be equipped with four emblematic gilt slides, two barrel chains, each seven inches in length, one barrel chain twenty-two inches in length, cap-snap on fourth slide, emblematic plate and return buckle.
- For Grand Commanders the belt shall be similar to the one described above with red stripes and for Past Grand Commanders the belt shall be similar to the one described above, with purple stripes instead of red stripes.
- All other officers and Sir Knights shall wear a plain black enameled leather belt, without lace, trimmed as above described with silver-plated metal.
- Designs for belt plates now in use are approved, but from and after the adoption of this report new designs must be submitted to the Grand Commandery for approval.

**10. Chapeau:**

- The chapeau designated as a military chapeau, covered with black silk plush, with peaks projecting three and one half inches front and rear. Widths of peaks two inches. Two black and one white plumes, the white plume under no circumstances to extend beyond the rear peak, black silk oval rosette, with appropriate cross on left side.

**11. Commanders and Past Commanders:**

- Commanders and Past Commanders shall wear the chapeau prescribed for Sir Knights, excepting that it shall be trimmed with two straps of fifteen fine gold lace on each side, front and rear, gold tassel on front peak, with appropriate cross in rosette on left side.

**12. Shoulder Straps:**

- As designated by Grand Encampment for the Officers and Past Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery.
- Bright red silk velvet, two inches wide by four inches long, outside measurement, bordered with one row of embroidery, of gold, quarter of an inch wide; the Templar cross of gold, with initials of the office, respectively, to be embroidered (old English characters) in silver, on the lower end of the strap.

**13. Past Grand Commanders:**

- Same, as Commander, except field of strap to be royal purple and lettering omitted. (1994 Grand Commandery Code)

**14. Generalissimo:**

- Same as the Commander, except, for the Passion Cross, the square surmounted by the Paschal lamb.

**15. Captain General:**

- Same as the Commander, except, for the Passion Cross, the level surmounted by the cock.

**16. Collar Ornaments:**

- All Officers and Past Officers of the Grand Commandery shall wear on the collar, one inch from edge, and an eighth of an inch from the top, the Templar Cross, three-quarters of an inch square, embroidered in gold with a bright red velvet center.
- Past Grand Commanders shall wear the Cross as above described, except, center shall be royal purple.
- Commanders and Past Commanders the Passion Cross, one inch in length, bright red velvet center, bordered with gold embroidery. All other Sir Knights, same as Commander, except Cross to be bordered with silver embroidery.

**17. Sleeve Ornaments:**

- All Sir Knights shall wear midway the cuff on outside of sleeve the Cross appropriate to his rank. Templar Crosses to be one inch square. Passion Crosses one and one-quarter inches in length.
- Sir Knights will wear the Passion Cross, silver embroidery.
- Commander and Past Commanders the Passion Cross, gold embroidery.
- Grand and Past Grand Officers, the Templar Cross, gold embroidery.
- All Passion Crosses for Chapeaus two and one-half inches in length.
- All Passion Crosses for Caps to be one and one-half inches in length.
- All Templar Crosses for Caps, one and one-half inches square.
- All Templar Crosses for Chapeaus, two and one-half inches square.
- The centers of crosses worn by Past Grand Commanders shall be royal purple; all others bright red.

## **18. Service Bars:**

- The Armed Forces Service Award shall be of silver colored metal approximately 1 3/8 inches long and 3/8 inches wide. It will have nine vertical colored stripes; red, white, blue, white, blue, white, blue, white, and red; in that order from the wearer's right to left, thus placing the red stripe closest to the center of the coat.
- The Armed Forces Service Bar may be worn to signify service in one of the nation's armed forces service branches. Adopted 2014
- The Masonic Service Award shall be of silver colored metal approximately 1 3/8 inches long and 3/8 inches wide, which shall be similar in size and design as the Armed Forces Service Bar. It will have four vertical colored stripes of equal width; blue, red, purple and white; in that order from the wearer's right to left, thus placing the blue stripe closest to the center of the coat.
- The Masonic Service Bar may be worn to signify diligent service and support to Templary, together with similar support and membership in those York Rite bodies prerequisite and necessary to Templar membership.
- When worn singularly, the service bar is worn centered and approximately 1/4" above the left pocket welt.
- When the Masonic Service Award is worn in conjunction with the Armed Forces Service Award, the service bars are worn side by side, centered and approximately 1/4" above the left pocket welt with the Masonic Service Bar worn to the wearer's left of the Armed Forces Service Bar. Revised March 28, 2019.

## **19. Other Uniforms:**

- The Uniform Committee of Grand Commandery recommended that the Uniforms approved by the Grand Encampment be adopted by the Grand Commandery of Georgia and that the guidelines for wearing them in the subordinate Commanderies are as follows:
- The **SUMMER UNIFORMS** are approved for wear during Regular Conclaves. The incoming Grand Commander may set the dates for wearing the uniforms; The Summer Uniform may not be worn during any Inspections or the conferral of any of the several Orders of Christian Knighthood which comprise the Orders of the Knights Templar. (Grand Encampment SECTION 259 amended 2021-8).
- The **CAP AND MANTLE** is approved for wear during all meetings of a Subordinate Commandery including conferral of the Orders and inspections. Section 256 and 258 of the Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms, and approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America Revised August 3, 2016)

- The design and material of the summer uniform and the cap and mantle shall be approved by the Grand Commandery of Georgia.
- This was adopted on May 4, 2004 and again on May 4, 2005. It was further defined and modified on June 29, 2004 by the issuance of General Order #2 by Sir Knight Timothy M. Taylor, Right Eminent Grand Commander, as follows:
- **SUMMER UNIFORMS** may be worn by Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia provided the following conditions are met:
- The **SUMMER UNIFORM** must comply with the original ruling of Sir Knight James Morris Ward, Most Eminent Grand Master, and all subsequent rulings as may from time to time be expounded by the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.
- Although it is a Sir Knight's individual decision to purchase and wear a Summer Uniform to Conclaves that do not involve Inspections or Ritualistic work, no group may appear outside the asylum unless all are wearing the same uniform whether it be the Class A/Full Dress Uniform, the Fatigue Uniform, or the Summer Uniform. There is to be no mixing of uniforms outside of the asylum (i.e. parades, drill competitions, or Religious services).
- This General Order was approved May 3, 2005 by Grand Commandery.
- **KNIGHT TEMPLAR APRONS** may be worn by all Sir Knights with all Templar Uniforms. The aprons shall be of a design approved by Grand Encampment at its 2021 Triennial Conclave. There are two types of Aprons. 1. A Traditional Apron which may have a Laurel Wreath around the three sides or may have a Skull and Crossbones in the center and which shall be trimmed in Gold for Sir Knights holding the rank of Commander or Past Commander and trimmed in silver for all other Sir Knights. This Apron may only be worn in the Asylum or other private setting where only Knights Templar are present. 2. A Contemporary Apron which has the Crown and Cross Emblem in the center which shall be trimmed in Gold for Sir Knights holding the rank of Commander or Past Commander and trimmed in silver for all other Sir Knights. This Apron may be worn in both private and public settings. A Sir Knight may purchase and wear an Apron having the Traditional Apron on one side and the Contemporary Apron on the other side. The Contemporary Apron may not be worn at any Masonic meeting, using, or not using, other type Aprons, unless the Sir Knight is Representing the Commandery at that meeting and is in a Knight Templar Uniform. (Grand Encampment SECTION 260 amended 2021-20)

## CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES

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### **ARTICLE I**

**Section 1. Membership.** Each Constituent Commandery consists of the following officers and members:

The Commander  
The Generalissimo  
The Captain General  
The Senior Warden  
The Junior Warden  
The Prelate  
The Treasurer  
The Recorder  
The Standard Bearer  
The Sword Bearer  
The Warden  
The Sentinel

Each Sir Knight, if in good standing when present in Conclave, shall be entitled to one vote in all proceedings of his Commandery. The honorary title of designation of the Commander of a Constituent Commandery is Eminent. See Constitution, Section 4, Titles.

**Section 1.5. Voluntary Non-Affiliation.** Voluntary non-affiliation by demit or otherwise, in a Lodge or Chapter or Council where required, for six months shall deprive a Knight Templar of his membership in the Commandery.

**Section 2. Elections.** The Officers of each Constituent Commandery shall be elected annually on the last regular Conclave in March by ballot, (except the Sentinel who shall be appointed by the Commander-elect) and a majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice.

Provided, if for any reason no election is held on the Annual Conclave, Dispensation may be granted by the Grand Commander for that purpose. They shall hold their office until their successors are elected and installed. No Sir Knight shall be eligible to office or entitled to vote who is not a member of the Commandery

**Section 3. Returns and Dues.** Every Constituent Commandery shall pay to the Grand Commandery by remittance to the Grand Recorder, the following fees for its members:

- \$31.00 for every Sir Knight, unless otherwise exempt, who is a member of said Commandery on the last day of

December. An additional increase of \$1.00 per year shall automatically be added beginning in 2015 and continuing for five (5) years unless changed or amended by this Grand Commandery.

- \$7.00 for each Sir Knight who received the Order of the Temple in the preceding year.
- \$7.00 for each Sir Knight reinstated in the preceding year.
- \$1.00 per Sir Knight for every Sir Knight who is not a life sponsor.
- \$9.00 per Sir Knight or such assessment, per capita tax, or fee that Grand Encampment may charge per Sir Knight. No Sir Knight shall be exempted.

The Grand York Rite Bodies adopted a new database effective July 8, 2019. The new database mandates that the Secretary/Recorders update and maintain current roster information on the database.

Additionally, the Secretary/Recorders are mandated to Confirm Maintenance between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. Failure to make returns or pay dues for two consecutive years subjects the Commandery to forfeiture of its Charter unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Commandery.

**EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013, new Emeritus memberships were discontinued. Those Emeritus members already holding Emeritus membership will continue to be exempt from Georgia per capita tax.**

The minimum fee that any Commandery may charge for the Orders (including the Order Red Cross, Order of Malta, and Order of Temple) shall not be less than \$85.00, and from the fees charged, a Life Sponsor Certificate in the Knights Templar Eye Foundation shall be purchased. Each Commandery shall pay to the Grand Commandery by remittance to the Grand Recorder the sum of \$2.00 for each dispensation issued to that Commandery by the Grand Commander.

**Section 4. Newly Elected Officers.** The Recorders of the several Commanderies in the Jurisdiction shall within three (3) days after the Annual Conclave report to the Grand Recorder the names of the newly elected officers. Any Constituent Commandery failing to make Returns and pay per capita tax at the proper time shall forfeit the right of its representatives to vote at Grand Conclave.

## **ARTICLE II**

**Section 1. Jurisdiction.** The territorial jurisdiction, unless different by enactment of this Grand Commandery, of each Commandery, whether chartered or under Dispensation, is one-half the distance by direct line, between the corporate limits of the municipality in which it is stationed, if any, and the corporate limits, if any, of the nearest Commandery in every direction. In no case can it extend beyond the limits of the State of

Georgia. All questions of jurisdiction as between Commanderies shall be determined as per Section 15, General Statutes.

When there are two or more Commanderies located within the corporate limits of the same city, they have concurrent jurisdiction. It shall be competent for any Commandery to waive its jurisdiction.

**Section 2. Rituals.** It shall be the duty of each and every officer within this jurisdiction to strictly observe the Ritual as promulgated by the Grand Encampment without additions made thereto or subtraction therefrom, and it shall be unlawful to in anywise alter or vary, willfully, from said Ritual.

**Section 3. Attendance.** It is required that each Constituent Commandery keep a record of the number of those in attendance at each Conclave, such record to be incorporated in its minutes.

**Section 4. Opening.** All Constituent Commanderies in this Jurisdiction shall be opened in Full form according to ceremonies provided in the Ritual, unless in extreme cases, but they may be closed in Short form as provided. If there are less than nine members, but five or more, the SHORT FORM OPENING contained in the 2019 Grand Encampment Ritual shall be used. (Grand Encampment Section 66, amended 2021-09)

**Section 4.5. Quorum.** A quorum of a Commandery consists of not less than nine members entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to open the same. However, a Commandery having not less than five (5) members entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to open the Commandery, may be opened for the transaction of all such business as may be required. (Section 66, Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms, and approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America Revised March 28, 2019, if adopted by a Grand Commandery.) Adopted Grand Commandery of Georgia 2019.

**Section 5. Petitions.** All Petitions for the Orders of Knighthood shall be signed in writing by the applicant on a Petition-Form, corresponding in Regulation to the form provided and adopted by the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, and by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Georgia, and shall be signed also by two members of the Commandery, who are in good standing as vouchers. Petitions must be presented at a Stated Conclave, giving information as to where he has resided during the past three years, and giving his full name, age, residence, and occupation.

The applicant must be a Royal Arch Mason, or have petitioned a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and must be a Royal and Select Master Mason, or Cryptic Mason, or have petitioned a Council of Royal and Select Master Masons or Cryptic Masons and no orders can be conferred until

after he has received the Royal Arch degree and the Select Master degree. He must be a firm believer in the Christian religion and be vouched for by two Sir Knights in good standing and members of the Commandery receiving the petition. Every petition for the Orders of Knighthood shall declare the Lodge and Chapter and Council in which the petitioner received the degrees, and also the Lodge and Chapter and Council in which he is then affiliated, and shall state whether he has or has not been previously rejected by a Commandery. No member of a Commandery prior to July 1, 2014, who is not a member of a Council, shall be required to join a Council. (Effective July 1, 2014)

The petition must be referred to a committee of three members of the Commandery for investigation not vouchers, but cannot be balloted upon (favorable result of which must be unanimous) until at least two weeks after it has been presented to the Commandery, and then only at a stated Conclave ("except by dispensation"). A petition may be withdrawn before ballot, when the report of the Committee is favorable, or when it shall appear that the Commandery has no jurisdiction over the applicant. The Character of the report of a Committee of Inquiry upon an application whether favorable or unfavorable, must not be recorded. The record must only show that the Committee reported.

On balloting for election, one negative ballot rejects. In case of an apparent negative, the Commander shall order another ballot, before making any announcement. After the second regular and perfect ballot he shall announce the result. A joint ballot may be taken when more than one applicant; if a black ballot appears, then separate ballots shall be taken. A clear ballot entitles the applicant to all the Orders conferred in the Commandery. Regular petitions may be received by a Commandery under Dispensation, and they may be acted upon as provided in this Section.

**Section 6. Objections after Election of Candidate.** If, after a candidate has been elected to receive the orders in the Commandery, and before he shall have received the Order of The Red Cross, an objection may be made by a member of the Commandery in good standing to his receiving the orders. If the objection be recorded upon the minutes, it holds for twelve months, unless withdrawn. If made to the Commander, it holds during his term of office, but may be withdrawn. The Commander should inquire of the objecting Sir Knight whether his objection is based upon a violation of the moral law or the laws of the land involving moral turpitude, and if not, it is not valid. The Commander may, in his discretion, delay the advancement of any candidate without an objection should the circumstances require it.

If, after a candidate shall have received the Order of the Red Cross and before he has received the Order of the Temple, further advancement may be stopped by charges or written objection. If by objection, the

reason shall be based upon a violation of the moral law, the laws of Masonry, or the laws of the land involving moral turpitude. Such objection shall terminate at the expiration of three months unless withdrawn. If charges, be preferred, this stops any further advancement until such time as the charges are adjudicated and a verdict of not guilty returned.

**Section 7. Affiliation.** Petitions for affiliation shall declare the Lodge and Chapter and Council, if required, and Commandery in which the petitioner received the degrees and orders, and also the Lodge and Chapter and Council, if required, and Commandery in which he is then affiliated. Petitions for affiliation shall be acted upon in the same manner as for Orders. There shall be no fee charged for affiliation.

An affiliating Sir Knight shall be a Life Sponsor in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, or shall pay such fee as necessary to become a Life Sponsor. If the affiliating Sir Knight is affiliating as a dual member, he shall pay such fee as necessary to become a Life Sponsor in the new Commandery in which he is affiliating.

(Section 18½, Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms and approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America Revised March 28, 2019.)

**Section 8. Rejection.** A rejected candidate shall not be entitled to any other information save that he is rejected; and any Sir Knight of this jurisdiction who may communicate to him any information as to who was present, or who advocated or who opposed his admission, shall upon conviction be expelled from the Order. And any visiting Sir Knight violating this Statute shall be forever excluded from the Commanderies of this jurisdiction and his Commandery notified of his unknighthly conduct. This Statute shall be read at every Conclave when a rejection occurs.

A candidate once rejected shall not be eligible to a second application until six months have elapsed from the date of his rejection; and no person who has been rejected in any other Commandery shall receive the Orders in this Commandery, without the consent of the Commandery which rejected him, until after three years from the time of his rejection.

**Section 9. Orders.** No Commandery shall communicate the Orders of Knighthood, the Red Cross, Malta, or of the Temple; they must each be conferred as per Ritual. No candidate shall receive the Orders conferred in the Commandery in any other than the Commandery nearest his residence, unless the Commandery holding jurisdiction shall waive it. And any Commandery violating this provision shall pay over the fees to the injured Commandery, and be subjected to such other penalty as the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery may determine.

**Section 10. Dues.** Membership dues shall be such as may be adopted by each Constituent Commandery as incorporated in its By-Laws. Dues

are due on the first day of the new Templar year, and should be paid during the current year, but a member is not in arrears until the current year has passed

**Section 11. Treasurer and Recorder Bonded.** The Grand Commandery Law requires that the Treasurer and Recorder of each Constituent Commandery be bonded, regardless of the amount of money handled, unless each Commandery's By-laws require more than one signature either on a voucher or check before it can be disbursed. If the above method is used a Bond is not necessary.

### **ARTICLE III**

**Section 1. Conclaves.** Every Commandery shall meet at least quarterly, but any failure to meet for twelve successive months, without a satisfactory excuse to the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery, shall be deemed a sufficient cause to arrest the Charter. No Commandery in this jurisdiction shall be permitted to hold a Conclave on Sunday, except for the purpose of attending funerals or Divine Worship, including religious Memorial Services.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances, The Commandery may conduct a Conclave by electronic means. A virtual meeting shall be held by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Commandery. A dispensation from the Right Eminent Grand Commander shall be necessary to hold such meeting and no ritual work may be performed. (Grand Encampment Section 36, amended 2021-07)

**Section 2. Summons.** Notice, authorized by the Commandery to appear at the Asylum of the Commandery at a certain time, signed by the Commander and attested by the Recorder with the seal of the Commandery, is the only legal summons. It shall be served personally on the Sir Knight or left at his place of residence or sent to him by the Recorder to his last known address by mail, and every Sir Knight so summoned shall promptly and strictly obey the same, unless excused by the Commander. Should he fail to appear or render satisfactory excuse, charges may be preferred against him.

**Section 3. Removal.** No Commandery shall change its name or be removed from the place of its location, temporarily or permanently, without the consent of the Grand Commandery. But a Commandery may remove its Asylum from one house to another in the same place by vote of a majority of the members present at a stated Conclave, and after due notice of the proposed change.

**Section 4. Statutes and Proceedings to Be Kept.** It shall be the duty of the Commander of each Commandery to see to it carefully that there shall be always kept in the Asylum, and ready for easy reference, at each Conclave, a copy of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand

Encampment and a copy of the Statues and Regulation of this Grand Commandery.

**Section 5. Discipline.** The Constituent Commanderies shall have full power to inflict discipline on any offending Sir Knight as provided in Statutes, but in case of expulsion or suspension, an appeal may be taken to the Grand Commandery, which may reverse the decision, and remand the case for a new trial or make final decision in the matter. No Sir Knight, member of a Constituent Commandery, shall be stricken from the roll for non-payment of dues until after trial. When a member is in arrears for dues as per standard By-Laws for Commanderies herewith adopted, he shall be summoned to appear at a regular meeting of the Commandery to show cause why charges should not be preferred against him for non-payment of dues, and on his appearing, or not appearing, the Commandery shall act in its discretion by remitting said dues, giving further time, or proceeding to summon him for trial as provided in Disciplinary Rules of the Grand Encampment Statutes. And whether he appears or not, the Commandery may act at its discretion.

**Section 6. Suspension.** When a member has been suspended from his Commandery solely because of non-payment of dues to the Commandery, he may be restored to membership on written application therefore and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave and payment of such part of his dues in arrears as the Commandery may require. Membership in Lodge and Chapter and Council when, required, being a prerequisite to membership in a Commandery, when a member of a Commandery has been suspended or expelled from his Lodge or Chapter or Council, when required, for any reason, he shall be suspended or expelled, as the case may be, from, his Commandery. When a member of a Commandery has been suspended or expelled from his Commandery, solely because of his suspension or expulsion from Lodge or Chapter or Council, when required, restoration in such Lodge or Chapter or Council, when required, shall entitle him to restoration in his Commandery, on written application therefore and a majority vote at a Stated Conclave.

**Section 7. Expulsion.** No expulsion shall be made public in any form, when an appeal is taken, until the decision of the Grand Commandery is made known.

**Section 8. By-Laws.** All Constituent Commanderies in this jurisdiction are required to conform their By-Laws to the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Commandery, to the Standard By-Law for Commanderies herewith adopted and the Constitution and Edicts of the Grand Encampment of the United States. And before adopting By-Laws or Amendments to same, they shall send a proposed copy to the Grand Commander for approval.

**Section 9. Seal.** Every Commandery shall have a seal, engraved with its name and number, and such Templar devise as it may determine for itself. An impression of every seal shall be lodged with the Grand Recorder and by him preserved with the files of his office. All official documents from Constituent Commanderies shall bear the seal and attestation of the Recorder, and may not be received and acted upon by the Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery unless the seal of the Commandery appears thereon.

**Section 10. Demit or Letter of Good-Standing.** A member of a Commandery against whom no charges are pending and who is not indebted to the Commandery, shall be entitled to a demit upon application therefore, the vote then to be taken by a show of hands. In the event of a failure on the part of his Commandery to hold a Conclave for three months the Commander shall order the demit issued to him, upon a Certificate from the Recorder that he is entitled to it under the provisions of this regulation. Provided further, if a Sir Knight wishes to move his membership from one Commandery to another in Georgia he may request a demit; upon receipt of the demit, attach a petition for affiliation and submit it to any Commandery of his choice. If there is less than ninety (90) days lapse between the time the demit was issued and the date of election by affiliation in the new Commandery there shall be no loss of time.

Provided further, if a Sir Knight against whom no charges are pending and who is not indebted to the Commandery, desires to transfer his membership to, or affiliate with another Commandery without taking a demit, he shall be entitled to a Certificate of Good Standing upon application therefore, the vote as for a demit. In the event of a failure on the part of his Commandery to hold a Conclave for three months or in the event the vote does not grant the Certificate and no charges are preferred against the Companion by the end of the next regular Conclave, the Commander shall order the Certificate of Good Standing issued to him. The Sir Knight may then attach such certificate to a petition for affiliation and submit it to any Commandery with which he desires to affiliate, and if his petition is granted, the Recorder of the affiliating Commandery shall notify the Recorder of the Commandery that issued the Certificate and the Grand Recorder of the affiliation and whether the affiliation is a transfer of membership or for membership in more than one Commandery.

**Section 11. Dual Membership.** A Knight Templar may be admitted as a dual member of any Constituent Commandery of this Grand Commandery, a Subordinate Commandery of the Grand Encampment, a Constituent Commandery of another Grand Commandery if the laws of

that Grand Commandery also permit such dual membership, or a Preceptory or Commandery under a recognized foreign Sovereign Jurisdiction if the laws of that Jurisdiction also permit such dual membership. Such dual member is entitled to all the rights and privileges of full membership in both Commanderies except he cannot be a dais officer in more than one Commandery at the same time, and he is subject to all dues and assessments of both Commanderies. Loss of active membership by action of any Commandery shall cause loss of membership in all Commanderies; provided, however, a dual member may demit from any Commandery. Such dual membership may be accomplished by a certificate of good standing and petition for affiliation.

Adopted May 9, 2000

**Additionally**, a Dual Member may be an officer in more than one commandery at the same time, except the station of Commander. (Grand Encampment Section 190(a) amended 2021-14

**Section 12. Surrender of Charter.** No Commandery can surrender its Charter so long as there are nine members of the Commandery, who desire, and who are able to work under said Charter, according to the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment, or the Statutes and Regulation of this Grand Commandery.

**Section 13. Defunct Commandery.** When a Commandery for any cause has ceased to exist, all of its property and effects become the property of the Grand Commandery, and it shall be the duty of the last officers to forward the same to such Sir Knight as may be designated. The members of such a Commandery who are in good standing, shall, upon the payment of their dues each year to the Grand Commandery, be entitled to a certificate of good standing from the Grand Recorder, having charge of the books and effects of the defunct Commandery. Said members may make application by affiliation for membership in a working Commandery; or the Grand Commandery may assign them to membership in a Commandery if desirable.

When the Charter of a Commandery for any cause has been arrested by the Grand Commander or by the Grand Commandery, the officers of said Commandery shall surrender its records, seal, and paraphernalia, and Rituals entrusted to it, to such officer of the Grand Commandery as may be designated; and if the Charter be not restored, all of its property and effects become the property of the Grand Commandery; and provision for, and disposition of, members will be made as stated above,

## **ARTICLE IV**

**Section 1. Amendments.** This Constituent Commanderies Section upon the majority of its members present at any Annual Conclave, may be revised, amended, or altered, provided, however, that a written copy of the motion so to revise, amend, or alter shall be filed with the Grand Recorder by March 1st provided further, that with the unanimous consent of the members present, any member may introduce such an amendment in writing during the first session of Grand Commandery.

## INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR THIS GRAND COMMANDERY

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At the time selected for the ceremony of installation, the acting Grand Commander shall take his place as presiding officer, and select some competent Sir Knight to act as Grand Marshal, under whose direction the officers-elect will retire to an adjoining room. The jewels of office should be placed on the Altar in front of the installing officer. The Grand Commander will then direct the Grand Marshal to introduce the Grand Officers-elect, and display them by single line, facing the East, in the order of their official rank, the Grand Commander on the right.

**Grand Marshal:** Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present before you these Sir Knights, who, having been duly elected officers of this Grand Commandery for the ensuing year, are now ready to enter upon the duties of their several stations.

**Installing Officer:** Sir Knights, before investing you with the jewels of your respective official position, it becomes my duty to receive from you the vow of your office. Are you willing to take such vow? (*They bow in token of assent.*) Grand Marshal, you will place the officers-elect in proper position.

**Grand Marshal:** Officers-elect count twos! Number one, Draw Swords! Point Swords to the left! Number two, Grasp blade with right hand! Uncover! Right Eminent sir: The officers chosen are in proper position to take upon themselves the vow of office. (*Turns to the Grand Commandery, and orders:*) Sir Knights, Attention! Draw swords! Present swords!

**Installing Officer:** Officers-elect, repeat after me:

### VOW OF OFFICE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, and the Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Regulations, of this Grand Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been elected to the best of my ability.

**Grand Marshal:** Officers-elect, Recover! Numbers two – Relinquish sword blades; Numbers one – Carry swords, Return swords!

**(Addressing the Commandery, orders):** Commandery! Carry swords; Return swords; Be seated!

**Grand Marshal** (*Will then conduct the Grand Commander-elect to the center of the asylum, and, addressing the presiding officer will say*):

Right Eminent Grand Commander: I present to you Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, who has been duly elected to the office of Grand Commander of Knights Templar of this jurisdiction, and who now declares himself ready for installation.

**Installing Officer:** Attention, Sir Knights! Uncover! Let us unite with our Grand Prelate in an invocation to the Throne of Grace. (The **Grand Prelate** will then offer an appropriate prayer. The Sir Knights will then be covered and the **Presiding Officer** will deliver to the Grand Commander the following):

#### CHARGE TO THE GRAND COMMANDER

Right Eminent Sir: Having been called by the members of this Grand Body to fill the highest office in their gift, I congratulate you upon having received such high honor at their hands. You are now invested with the jewel of your office, the George B. Whiteside Past Grand Commander jewel worn by each Grand Commander since 1941.

The high honors of your office are accompanied by weighty responsibilities. While your authority will at all times be respected, and your orders cheerfully obeyed, it is expected that you will have a watchful care over the interests of the Order in your jurisdiction, and enforce a prompt obedience to its Statutes and Regulations; that you will yourself exemplify, in your daily walk and conversation, the excellent tenets of our profession; that your ears will never be closed to the cry of the widow and the orphan; and that you will not turn aside from injured innocence and the wayfaring brother in distress. Maintain with unfailing care the Statutes and Regulations of this Grand Body, and by your own respect for law, cause others to find a strong incentive to obedience of all lawful requirements.

Right Eminent sir: Approach the East. Attention, Sir Knights! Behold your Grand Commander! Grand Commander, behold your Grand Commandery;

*(The Grand Commandery will now be seated, and should the new Grand Commander desire to offer any remarks this is the appropriate time. The Grand Marshal then presents the Deputy Grand Commander first, then the remaining officers, according to rank, before the Installing Officer, introducing each by his title, and designating the office to which he had been chosen. The Grand Commander will receive each of these officers with the fitting words calling attention to their official duties and*

*charging them to faithfulness in discharging the same. He will also invest these officers with their respective jewels, charges respectively as follows:)*

### **CHARGE TO THE DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER**

Very Eminent Sir: In the exalted station to which you have been chosen, you are the immediate representative of the Grand Commander, and in case of unforeseen casualty to him, you are to enter upon his functions and assume his responsibilities. The elevated position you are thus called to occupy demands a corresponding zeal and devotion on your part, which I doubt not, you will ever be found ready to exercise. I now invest you with the jewel of your office and will only remind you that you be henceforward on duty, and that the faithful soldier and valiant Knight sleeps not at his post.

### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND GENERALISSIMO**

Eminent Sir: You have been elected Grand Generalissimo of this Grand Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Square, surmounted by a Paschal Lamb. When beholding the Lamb, let it stimulate you to have at all times a watchful eye over your own conduct, and an earnest solicitude for the prosperity of the kingdom of the blessed Emanuel, the spotless Lamb of God, who was slain from the foundation of the world. The Square is to remind you that love and friendship should forever govern the members of Freemasonry and of the Orders of Knighthood. Your station is on the right of your Grand Commander; you are to assist him in his various duties, and so act as the law states and requires. I charge you, therefore, to be faithful to the Sir Knights with whom you are associated; put them often in remembrance of those things which tend to their everlasting peace. Finally, "preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine; ever remembering the promise; "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND CAPTAIN GENERAL**

Eminent Sir: You are elected Grand Captain General of this Grand Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a level, surmounted by a Cock. As the undaunted courage and valor of the Cock stimulates him to conquer his competitor, or yield himself a victim to the contest, so should you be stimulated to the discharge of every duty. You should have on "The breast-plate of righteousness," so that with patience and meekness you may ever travel on the level of humanity, and be so supplied with divine grace as to prevent you from selling your God or denying your Master. Your station is on the left of

your Grand Commander. Your duty among other things, is to see that due preparation is made for the various meetings of the Grand Commandery. You are also to receive and communicate to the lines all orders issued by the Grand Commander. You are to assist in council, and, in the absence of superior officers respectively, you are to preside over the Grand Commandery. And now, I exhort you, that with fidelity you perform every duty; and, "whatsoever you do, do heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men: continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving"; ever bearing in mind the promise, "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due time we shall reap if we faint not".

#### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND SENIOR WARDEN**

Eminent Sir: You are elected Grand Senior Warden of this Grand Commandery, I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square and Sword of Justice. It is to remind you that, as the children of Israel marched in a hollow square in their journey through the wilderness, in order to guard and protect the Ark of the Covenant, so should you be vigilant in guarding every avenue from innovation and error. Let the Sword of Justice, therefore, be ever drawn to guard the Constitution of the Order. Your station is at the southwest angle of the Triangle, and upon the right of the first division. Let it be your constant care that the warrior be not deterred from duty, nor the penitent molested on his journey. Finally, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven".

#### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN**

Eminent Sir: You are elected Grand Junior Warden of this Grand Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is an Eagle and Flaming Sword. It is to remind you to perform your various duties with justice and valor, having an eagle eye on the prosperity of the Order. Your station is at the northwest angle of the Triangle, and on the left of the third division. You will be careful that, in addition to the pilgrim's garb, sandals, staff, and script, their whole preparation and deportment shall be such as to cause them to be recognized as children of humility. Teach them that "Magna est Veritas et Prevalebit", is the motto of our Order; and although they will often find the height of fortune inaccessible, and the thorny path of life crooked, adverse, and forlorn, yet by faith and humility—courage and constancy—patience and perseverance—they may gain admission into the Asylum above, there to enjoy the rewards that await the valiant soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, that you may be a shining light in the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND PRELATE**

Eminent Sir: You are elected Prelate of this Grand Commandery. I have the pleasure of investing you with this Triple Triangle, which is the jewel of your office, and a beautiful emblem of the Deity. Your station is on the right of the Generalissimo. Your duty is to officiate at the Altar, and to offer up prayers to Jehovah. Your jewel is to remind you of the importance of the trust reposed in you; and may He who is able, abundantly furnish you for every good work, preserve you from falling into error, improve, strengthen, establish, and perfect you, and finally greet you with "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord".

### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND TREASURER**

Eminent Sir: You are elected Grand Treasurer of this Grand Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office. Your station is on the right of the Grand Generalissimo, in front. The qualities which should recommend a Treasurer are accuracy and fidelity—accuracy, in keeping a fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements; fidelity, in carefully preserving all the property and funds that may be placed in his hand, and rendering a just account of same whenever he is called upon for that purpose. I presume that your respect and attachment to the Grand Commandery, and your earnest solicitude for a good name, which is better than precious ointment, will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND RECORDER**

Eminent Sir: You are elected Grand Recorder of this Grand Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office. Your station is on the left of the Grand Captain General, in front. The qualities which should recommend a Grand Recorder are: promptitude in issuing the notifications and orders of his superior officers; punctuality in attending the meetings of the Grand Commandery; correctness in recording their proceedings; judgment in discriminating between what is proper and what is improper to be committed to writing; integrity in accounting for all moneys that may pass through his hands, and fidelity in paying the same over to the Grand Treasurer. The possession of these good qualities, I presume has designated you for this important office, and I cannot entertain a doubt that you will discharge its duties beneficially to the Grand Commandery and honorably to yourself. And when you shall have completed the record of your transactions here below, and finished the term of your probation, may you be admitted into the celestial Asylum of the saints and angels, and find your name in the Lamb's Book of Life.

### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND STANDARD BEARER**

Eminent Sir: You are elected Grand Standard Bearer of this Grand Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Plumb, surmounted by a Banner. Your Station is in the West, and in the center of the second division. Your duty is to display, support, and protect the Banner of our Order which I now, with pleasure, confide to your valor. You will remember that it is our rallying point in time of danger; and when unfurled in a just and virtuous cause, you will never relinquish it to an enemy but with your life. Let, therefore, your conduct be such as all the virtuous will delight to imitate; let the resplendent rays, which ever emanate from pure benevolence and humility, diffuse their luster on all around, that it may encourage and animate all true and courteous Knights, and at the same time, confound and dismay all their enemies.

### **CHARGE TO GRAND SWORD BEARER**

Eminent Sir: You are elected Grand Sword Bearer of this Grand Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Triangle and Crossed Swords. Your station is on the right of the Grand Standard Bearer, and on the right of the second division, when separately formed. Your duty is to assist in protecting the Banner of our Order, with a heart devoted to the principles of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Holding the mystic sword that is endowed with justice and fortitude, and tempered with mercy, you may cast your eyes upon the Banner, and remember that "In Hoc Signo Vinces" is an expressive motto of our order, and consoling to the heart of every believer.

### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND WARDER**

Eminent Sir: You are elected Grand Warder of this Grand Commandery, I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Square Plate, with a Trumpet and Crossed Swords engraved thereon. Your station is on the left of the Grand Standard Bearer, and upon the left of the second division, when separately formed. Your duty is to sound the Assembly, to announce the approach and departure of the Grand Commander, to post the Sentinel, and see that the Asylum is duly guarded. You will also report all petitions from visitors and strangers. I charge you to be punctual in your attendance, and indefatigable in the discharge of your important duties, for though yours is among the last offices in the Grand Commandery, it is by no means the least in importance.

### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND SENTINEL**

Eminent Sir: You have been appointed Grand Sentinel of this Grand Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a

Hollow Square with a sword thereon. The Sword is placed in the hands of the Sentinel to enable him to effectually guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers and to suffer none to pass or repass but such as are qualified. Your station is outside the entrance to the Asylum.

**Installing Officer:** Grand Marshal, you shall make the proclamation.

**Grand Marshal:** Hear ye! Hear ye! Valiant Knights of the Temple! The officers of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, for the year ensuing have been duly installed into their respective stations. This proclamation is made to the North (one blast on trumpet), to the South (one blast) to the East (one blast) to the West (grand flourish on Trumpet.) All true and courteous Knights will take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

*Conclusion of the Installation Ceremony.*

## INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR OFFICERS OF A COMMANDERY

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*The following ceremony is primarily intended for installation of the officers of a newly constituted Commandery but with easily understood alteration it may be used for any installation. If the full ceremony is to be used an altar should be placed in front of the Grand Commander and on it the open Bible, Square, Compasses, Crossed Swords, Jewels, Charter, the Constitution and Statues of the Grand Encampment, the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery, and the By-laws of the Commandery. If the ceremony is shortened, a table placed conveniently may be substituted for the altar and on it the official jewels placed. If the Commandery has banners they should be displayed in the East. The Grand Officers, or appointees, will fill the stations. The Commandery is opened in regular form and election held. The officers chosen retire with the Grand Marshal to the ante-room and form in line with the Commander-elect at the head, swords at carry. Installation may be public in which event a recess should be taken until installation is complete when work should be resumed. The Grand Marshal gives an alarm.*

**Grand Warden:** Right Eminent Grand Commander, there is an alarm at the door of the Asylum.

**Grand Commander:** Eminent Grand Warden, attend to the alarm.

**Grand Warden:** (*Done*) Right Eminent Grand Commander, the Grand Marshal with the newly chosen officers desires to enter.

**Grand Commander:** Admit them. COMMANDERY, ATTENTION!

**Grand Warden:** (*At the door of the Asylum*) Grand Marshal and newly chosen officers, you will enter. (*Done*)

*(The Grand Marshal escorts the officers chosen who enter forming across the center of the Asylum, facing East, the right resting on the South. Chairs may be provided for the line.)*

**Grand Marshal:** Right Eminent Grand Commander, I present to you for installation the duly chosen officers of this Commandery. Officers chosen, present, swords!

**Grand Commander:** Commandery, Attention! Officers chosen, carry, Swords! Order Swords! Sir Knights, before engaging in this important ceremony, let us invoke the blessing of Deity. Sir Knights, Uncover! Eminent Grand Prelate, lead our devotions.

*(The Grand Prelate offers a prayer closing with the Lord's Prayer in which all join.)*

**Grand Commander:** Sir Knights, Recover! Officers chosen, Carry, swords! Return, swords! Sir Knights, you behold before you those who have been chosen as officers of this Commandery. We believe them to be tried and true, worthy and well qualified, zealous in the service of Templary and true exemplars of the great tenets of the Order, but if any one of you knows of any reason why they or any one of them should not be installed, let him now speak out or forever hold his peace. Hearing no objection, we will proceed with the installation.

Sir Knights not in line be seated! Officers chosen, before investing you with the honors and responsibilities of your respective stations it becomes my duty to administer to you the vow of office. Do you severally consent to take upon yourself that vow? *(They assent.)* Eminent Grand Marshal, place the officers chosen in the proper position to take upon themselves the vow of office.

**Grand Marshal:** Officers chosen by twos count off. *(Done.)* Numbers one, Draw, swords! Drop point of sword to the left, grasp hilt with left hand; numbers two, grasp blade with left hand; place your right hand upon your left breast. Right Eminent Grand Commander, the officers chosen are in proper position

*(Alternative: The following may be used to place the officers chosen in proper position. Grand Marshal: Officers chosen, count off by twos (done). Numbers one, Draw, swords! Point swords to left; numbers two grasp blade with right hand; Uncover!)*

**Grand Commander:** Commandery, attention! Draw, swords, Present, Swords! Officers chosen, you will say "I" pronounce your names in full, and repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do promise and vow that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations, and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, the Constitution, Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Georgia, and the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of this Commandery, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office in which I am about to be installed, to the best of my ability."

Sir Knights not in line, carry, swords! Return, swords! Be seated!

**Grand Marshal:** Officers chosen, Drop right had to side! Numbers two, Relinquish blade; Numbers one, grasp hilt with right hand; Carry, swords! Return, swords. Be seated!

*(Alternative: The following should be used when the alternative method of placing in position is employed. **Grand Marshal:** Officers chosen, recover! Numbers two, relinquish sword blade; numbers one, Carry, swords! Return, swords! Be seated!*

**Grand Commander:** Eminent Grand Marshal, present the Commander-elect.

**Grand Marshal:** Right Eminent Grand Commander, I have the honor to present Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ who has been elected to the office of Commander. I find him well skilled in our sublime mysteries and observant of the noble precepts of our forefathers, and have therefore no doubt that he will discharge the important duties of his office with fidelity.

**Grand Commander:** Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_ as you have been elected to the honorable and important station of Commander of this Commandery, it is with genuine pleasure that I enter upon the duty of installing you in that exalted office. As head of a Christian institution you are charged with important duties and responsibilities. It is confidently anticipated that your fidelity to these trusts will reflect honor upon yourself and credit upon your Commandery.

It now becomes my duty to propound to you certain questions to which your unequivocal answers are required:

1. Do you solemnly promise, upon your honor as a Knight Templar that you will endeavor to correct the vices, purity the morals, and promote the happiness of those of your brethren who have attained this magnanimous Order?
2. That you will never suffer your Commandery to be opened unless there be present at least nine regular Knights of the Order?
3. That you will not confer the Orders upon anyone who has not shown a charitable and humane disposition nor upon anyone who has not attained a reasonable proficiency in Masonry?
4. That you will seriously endeavor to promote the general good of the Order and on all proper occasions be ready to give and receive instruction, particularly from the Grand Officers?
5. That, to the utmost of your power, you will preserve the solemnities of our ceremonies and behave in open Commandery with the most profound respect and reverence, as an example to your brethren?

6. That you will not acknowledge or hold communication with any Commandery that does not work under a Constitutional Dispensation or Charter?
7. That you will not admit any visitor into your Commandery unless he has been knighted in a lawful Commandery?
8. That you will pay due respect and obedience to the instructions of the Grand Officers, particularly those relating to the several lectures and charges, and will resign your station to them when any visit your Commandery?
9. That you well support and maintain the Constitution and Statues of the Grand Encampment, and the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery under whose authority you act?
10. That you will bind your successor in office to observance of these rules?
11. Do you confirm all these promises and do you agree to observe them faithfully?

**Commander-elect:** Assents.

**Grand Commander:** Sir Knight, I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Passion Cross surmounted by rays of light. The rays of light are symbols that suggest to you the humility, love, and pure benevolence that emanate like rays from the religion of the blessed Emanuel, and which should ever characterize the members of this Christian Order.

I present you the Charter of your Commandery. Receive it as a sacred deposit and never permit it to be used for any other purposes than those expressed in it. It is your duty to safely transmit it to your successor. I also commit to your keeping the Holy Bible, the Great Light of Masons of every degree. It confirms our belief in the existence of the Eternal Jehovah, the one only living and true God, the creator and Judge of all things in heaven and earth.

The Crossed Swords resting upon the Holy Bible reminds us that we should be “strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”, that we should put on the whole armor of God, to be able to wrestle successfully with principalities, powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places. I also present to you the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A., the Constitution, Laws, and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia and the By-Laws of \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery No. \_\_\_\_\_. You should familiarize yourself with them that you may rule your Commandery with justice and moderation.

And now Sir Knight, I induct you into the Chair of your Commandery. I offer you my sincere congratulation on your success to this honorable station. It will be your special duty to preserve inviolate the laws of the Order, to dispense justice, reward merit, and expound the sublime principles of universal benevolence. You will inculcate the duties of charity and hospitality and govern your Commandery with justice and moderation and finally, my frater, may the illustrious lives of the heroes of past ages whose matchless valor has shed undying luster over the name of Knight Templar, encourage and animate you to the faithful performance of every duty.

**Grand Marshal:** Commandery, attention! Draw, swords! Present, swords!

**Grand Commander:** Sir Knights, behold your Commander. Bear ever in mind that the prosperity of your Commandery will as much depend on your support and obedience as on the assiduity, fidelity, and wisdom of your Commander. Be ye, therefore, diligent and faithful in the performance of your respective duties.

**Grand Marshal:** Sir knights, carry, swords! Return, swords! Be seated!

**Grand Commander:** Eminent Grand Marshal, present the officers chosen, in order of rank.

*(The Grand Marshal then presents each officer, according to rank, introducing him by his title and designating the office which he is to fill. The Grand Commander will receive him with fitting words, charging him to be faithful to his trust. He will also invest him with the official jewel and direct the Marshal to conduct him to his station. No particular form is prescribed but the following charges are suggested as appropriate.)*

### **CHARGE TO THE GENERALISSIMO**

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Generalissimo of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office which is a Square surmounted by a Paschal Lamb. The Square is to remind you that friendship and love should forever govern Freemasons and particularly Knights Templar. Your station is on the right of your Commander. You are to assist him in the discharge of his various duties and in his absence to preside. I charge you, therefore, to familiarize yourself with the duties of your office that you may adequately discharge them. Be faithful to the Knights with whom you are associated, put them often in remembrance of those things which tend to their everlasting peace. Finally, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine", ever

remembering the promise, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life".

### **CHARGE TO THE CAPTAIN GENERAL**

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Captain General of the Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Level surmounted by a Cock. As the undaunted courage and valor of the Cock stimulate him to conquer his enemy and fight to the last extremity so should you be stimulated in the discharge of every duty. Your station is on the left of the Commander. Your duty among other things is to see that due preparation is made for the various conclaves of the Commandery and that the Asylum is prepared for the dispatch of business. You are also to receive and communicate to the lines all orders issued by the Commander. You are to assist in council and, in the absence of the Commander and Generalissimo, to preside over the Commandery. I exhort you that with fidelity you perform every duty; and "Whatsoever ye do, do heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men; continue in prayer; ever bearing in mind the promise "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not".

### **CHARGE TO THE SENIOR WARDER**

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_. You have been elected Senior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a mailed arm and hand grasping the Sword of Justice. It is to remind you that as the children of Israel marched in a hollow square in their journey through the wilderness in order to guard and protect the Ark of the Covenant, so should you be vigilant in guarding every avenue from innovation and error. Let the Sword of Justice, therefore, be ever drawn to guard the Constitution of the Order. Your station is at the southwest angle of the Triangle and on the right or in front of the First Division. You will attend pilgrim warriors, comfort and support pilgrim penitents, and after due trial, introduce them into the Asylum. Let it be your constant care that the warrior is not deterred from duty nor the penitent molested on his journey. Finally, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven".

### **CHARGE TO THE JUNIOR WARDEN**

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Junior Warden of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office which is an Eagle with wings spread holding in its talons a Flaming Sword. It suggests to you the performance of your duties with justice and valor, having an eye on the prosperity of the order. Your station is at the northwest angle of the Triangle, and on the left or in front of the third

division. Your duty is to attend weary pilgrims traveling from afar, conduct them on their journey, plead their cause, and in due time recommend them to the Commander. Impress upon them the motto of our Order: "Magna est Veritas et Prevalebit" and that although the path of life may be thorny, crooked, adverse, and forlorn, yet by faith and fidelity, courage and constancy, patience and perseverance, they may gain admission into the Asylum above, there to carry on the high labors begun here below. Finally, "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord: that you may be a shining light in the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."

#### **CHARGE TO THE PRELATE**

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Prelate of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Triple Triangle with a red Passion Cross in the Center of each triangle. It is also an emblem of Deity. Your station is on the right of the Generalissimo. Your duty is to officiate at the altar and offer up prayer to Deity. Your jewel is to remind you of the importance of the trust reposed in you. May "He, who is able, abundantly furnish you for every good work, preserve you from falling into error, improve and strengthen, establish and perfect you" and finally greet you with "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

#### **CHARGE TO THE TREASURER**

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Treasurer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is Two Crossed Keys. Your station is in front and on the right of the Generalissimo. The qualities which recommend a Treasurer are accuracy and fidelity—accuracy in keeping a fair and minute account of all receipts and disbursements—fidelity in carefully preserving all the property and funds of the Commandery that may be placed in his hands and rendering a just account of the same whenever called upon for the purpose. I am sure that your attachment to the Commandery and your earnest solicitude for a good name, which is better than riches, will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office.

#### **CHARGE TO THE RECORDER**

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Recorder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is Two Crossed Quill Pens. Your station is on the left of the Captain General. The essential qualities of a Recorder are promptitude in issuing notifications and orders of his superior officers; punctuality in attending the Conclaves of the Commandery; correctness in recording the proceedings; judgment in discriminating between what is proper and

what is improper to be committed to writing; integrity in accounting for all moneys that may pass through his hands, and fidelity in paying the same over to the Treasurer. The possession of these qualities, I presume, has led to your selection for this important office. I doubt not that you will discharge its duties with benefit to the Commandery and honor to yourself.

#### **CHARGE TO THE STANDARD BEARER**

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Standard Bearer of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Masonic Plumb surmounted by the Banner of the Order. Your station is in the West and in the center of the second division. Your duty is to display, support and protect the Banner of our Order, which I now confide to your keeping. You will remember that it is our rallying point in time of danger. When unfurled in a just and virtuous cause, you will defend it as long as life endures.

#### **CHARGE TO THE WARDER**

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected Warder of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with Crossed Swords and a Trumpet thereon. Your station is on the left of the Standard Bearer and upon the left of the second division. Your duty is to sound the Assembly, announce the approach and departure of the Commander, post the sentinel, and see that the Asylum is duly guarded. I charge you to be punctual in your attendance, and tireless in the discharge of your important duties. Though yours is among the lowest offices in the Commandery, it is by no means the least important.

#### **CHARGE TO THE SENTINEL**

Sir Knight \_\_\_\_\_, you have been chosen Sentinel of this Commandery. I now invest you with the jewel of your office, which is a Hollow Square with a sward thereon. I present you this sword, badge of your office. The Sword is placed in the hands of the Sentinel to enable him to effectually guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers and to suffer none to pass or repass but such as are qualified. It morally serves as a constant admonition to set a guard at the entrance of our thoughts, to place a watch at the door of our lips, to post a sentinel at the avenue of our actions, thereby excluding every unworthy thought, word, or deed. As application of visitors for admission into the Commandery are generally made to the Sentinel, your station will often present you to the observation of strangers. It is therefore essential that he who holds this office should be a frater; temperate, affable, and discreet, of good morals, steady habits, and strict discipline. I am sure

that a due regard for the honor and reputation of this institution will ever impel you to perform with fidelity the trust reposed in you.

### **CHARGE TO THE COMMANDERY**

Sir Knights, to manage and conduct the affairs of a Commandery of Knights Templar with that promptitude, integrity, and skill which the institution demands, requires the exercise of all the abilities of its officers and members. The officers should remember that the moral and religious duties and precepts which they from time to time should forcibly impress upon the minds of others, should by no means be neglected by themselves; that the most effectual way to insure success is to let precept and performance go hand in hand. I urge you to look well to the East, to the West, to the North, to the South, to see that the entrances are strictly guarded, to the end that you allow none to pass the threshold of your Asylum save the worthy, and at the same time that you suffer no one to be guilty of disorderly conduct among you without admonition and reproof, to the end that this valiant and magnanimous Order shall forever flourish. And now, Sir Knights, "Peace be within thy walls and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sake I now say, Peace be within thee!"

Eminent Grand Marshal, proclaim the installation of the officers of this Commandery.

**Grand Marshal:** Commandery, attention! Draw, swords! Present, swords!

### **OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION**

Hear ye! Hear ye! Valiant Knights of the Temple! In the name of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Georgia, I proclaim that the officers of \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery No. \_\_\_\_\_ Knights Templar have been duly installed in their respective stations. This proclamation is made to the North (*one blast of the trumpet*); to the south (*one blast*); to the East (*one blast*) and to the West (*grand flourish on trumpet*). Let all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple take due notice thereof and govern themselves accordingly.

Sir Knights, carry, swords! Return swords! Be seated!

The **Grand Commander** may, if he desires, address the fraters. The choir may then render some appropriate musical selection. The Grand Officers may then retire with proper escort and the Commandery will proceed to the regular order of business, resuming labor if the installation has been public.

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