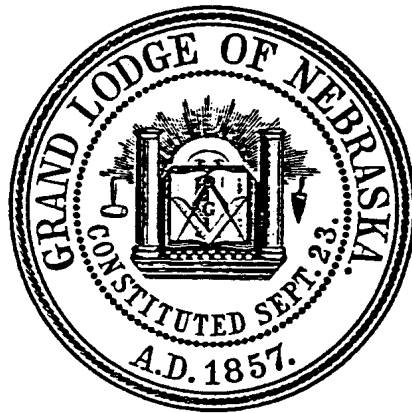


# **CONTINUOUS FLOOR WORK MANUAL**



**Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
of  
Nebraska**

**2020**



# **CONTINUOUS FLOOR WORK MANUAL**

**Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska**

**Originally Compiled – 1994**

**Revised – 1997**

Committee on Nebraska Work:

Charles W. Amidon, Past Grand Master

Jerry L. Rittenburg, Grand Senior Warden

Eugene C. Sibley, Deputy Grand Custodian

**and**

Augustine S. Scolaro, Grand Custodian

**Revised – 2021**

Committee on Nebraska Work:

Philip A. Lorenzen, Past Grand Master

Scott J. Krieger, Sr., Past Grand Master

Roger A. Deininger, Deputy Grand Custodian

**and**

James A Carlton, Grand Master

Charles J. Odorizzi, III, Deputy Grand Custodian

**PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NEBRASKA  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**



Lincoln, Nebraska  
February 6, 2021

To the Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of all Subordinate Lodges within the Jurisdiction of the Most Ancient and Accepted Masons of Nebraska.

Greetings:

Whereas at the One Hundred Sixty-Fourth Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, held in Kearney, Nebraska on February 5 and 6, 2021, the assembled delegates by their vote approved the proposed revised Lodge Floor Work Manual for use in this Grand Jurisdiction as prepared and submitted by the Committee on Nebraska Work.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James A. Carlton, Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska, make known and direct that the Floor Work Manual, as prepared by the Committee on Nebraska Work and other contributors, consisting of M.:W.: Philip A. Lorenzen, PGM, as Chairman; and members M.:W.: Scott J. Krieger, Sr., Past Grand Master; and W.: Roger A. Deininger, Deputy Grand Custodian, is the adopted Floor Work for all Lodges within this Grand Jurisdiction and that from and after February 6, 2021, it shall be unlawful in this Grand Jurisdiction, to use in whole or in part, any other Floor Work Manual for guidance in the performance of ritual.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 6th day of February, 2021, in the City of Lincoln, Nebraska.



James A. Carlton  
Grand Master

## PREFACE

Lincoln, Nebraska  
February 6, 2021

To the members of the Masonic Fraternity within the Grand Jurisdiction of Nebraska:

Brethren:

In the preparation of this Floor Work Manual, your Committee appreciates the invaluable assistance of several members of the Craft and particularly the following Brethren who actively participated in this comprehensive undertaking:

R.:W.: James A. Carlton, Grand Master, and W.: Charles J. Odorizzi, III, Deputy Grand Custodian.

Your Committee submits the results of its labors, in the hope that it will meet with the approval and expectations of the Craft.

Committee on Nebraska Work

M.:W.: Philip A. Lorenzen, PGM  
M.:W.: Scott J. Krieger, Sr., PGM  
W.: Roger A. Deininger, DGC

**CONTINUOUS FLOOR WORK MANUAL**  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE**

Opening.....	1-4
Degree Work .....	5-14
Lecture .....	14
Charge.....	15
Closing .....	15

**FELLOW CRAFT DEGREE**

Opening .....	17-21
Degree Work .....	21-28
Lecture .....	29-31
Charge.....	31
Closing .....	31

**MASTERS DEGREE**

Opening.....	33-37
Degree Work (First Section).....	37-44
Degree Work (Second Section).....	44-54
Lecture .....	54-55
Charge.....	55
Closing .....	56

**FOR INSTRUCTIONAL  
USE ONLY. NOT FOR  
USE IN OPEN LODGE.**



# **ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE**

## **OPENING**

- Raps and knocks are accomplished with the right hand.
- All lodge movement is initiated by stepping off with the left foot first.
- Officers returning to their seat shall make right turns as needed before sitting.
- The outside line of march is two steps from the sidelines or the bottom step of stations.
- Deacon and Steward rods must be grounded during prayers.
- The inside line of march is to the designated side of the altar, as close to the altar as possible while maintaining clearance with the altar and the lesser lights.
- The West Altar Line is located one step west of the kneeler, extending from the North Outside Line of March to the South Outside Line of March.
- The East Altar Line is located one step east of the altar, extending from the North Outside Line of March to the South Outside Line of March.
- When releasing a Candidate, the conductor will guide the Candidate's hand down to his side, not allowing it to drop freely.
- The conferral, lectures, and charge must be completed in the same calendar day.
- The Worshipful Master must uncover and stand behind his pedestal when delivering prayers or charges, re-covering when finished.
- The working tools case shall be positioned in front of and at the base of the WM's pedestal. It shall be closed for the EA and FC degree, and open for the MM degree.

In opening any Lodge, five actions must be completed:

**CONGREGATE**  
**PURGE**  
**TYLE**  
**DUTIES**  
**DECLARATION**

## CONGREGATING

At the appointed time, the WM will rap once to bring the Lodge to attention. The JW raises his column and places it on the Northeast corner of his pedestal. The JD rises and takes his rod in his left hand, ensures all lodge room doors are closed, ending with the Reception Room. He returns to his place by making a RIGHT turn at the door, then making LEFT and RIGHT turns as necessary to reach his seat, faces East, and sits.

## PURGING

Without rising, the WM addresses the SW, raps once, waits for the SW to rise, and orders him to purge the Lodge.

The SW addresses the SD & JD, raps once, waits for them to rise, and directs them to approach the West. The SW remains standing directly behind his pedestal throughout the entire Purging sequence.

(Whenever the WM calls up the JD, the SD will also rise. When the SD and JD pick up their rods, they are first briefly rested on the floor at the left side with the right hand. Then, with the right hand, the rods are lifted with a flip of the wrist about 3" off the floor and held with the left hand. When the rods are placed down for prayer or saluting, they are not allowed to simply slide down through the left hand, but rather gently pushed down by reaching over with the right hand and quietly lowering the rod. To return the rod to the carry position, the right hand should be used again to reach across the body and raise the rod, then grasping it with the left hand. The rods should not be dropped or "shrugged" to the floor, but rather, crisply and quietly handled.)

The SD immediately turns **RIGHT**, marches by way of the North Outside Line of March to the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT** to meet the JD on the Center line, turns **RIGHT**, steps off with his left foot, and in step with the JD, approaches the SW's station and stops in front of the SW, facing West toward him.

The JD advances directly East from his chair to the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT** to meet the SD at the center of the Altar, then turns **LEFT**, steps off with his left foot and advances in step with the SD to the SW's station.

After the SW directs the Deacons to purge the Lodge, the SD turns **RIGHT**, goes to North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and proceeds to the East purging the Lodge. Upon reaching the East, the SD makes a **RIGHT** 180° turn, proceeds back to the West Altar Line on the North Outside Line of March, turns **LEFT** to meet the JD, turns **RIGHT**, and advances back to the SW's pedestal.

The JD turns to his **LEFT**, goes to the South Outside Line of March, turns **LEFT** and proceeds to the East, purging the Lodge. (The SD and JD should stay in line directly across from each other while advancing to the East during purging. If one Deacon stops to challenge a Brother, the other Deacon pauses and waits until the challenge is satisfied, then continues to the East. No Brother may vouch for another until he, himself, has passed the purging ceremony. However, the WM, SW, or JW may vouch for a Brother at any time.) Upon reaching the East, the JD turns 180° to his **LEFT** and keeping in line with the SD, returns along the

South Outside Line of March to the West Altar Line, turns **RIGHT** to meet the SD, turns **LEFT**, advances in step with the SD to the SW's pedestal.

Both Deacons report to the SW that all present are Entered Apprentice Masons, then simultaneously turn 180° **RIGHT**, facing East.

The SW reports to the WM and raps once. Both Deacons proceed East to the West Altar Line. Each turns his respective way, goes to the Outside Lines of March, and returns to his place. Both turn **RIGHT**, and all wait until both SD & JD have replaced their rods. Then, the SW, SD & JD are all seated simultaneously following the SD's lead.

### **TYLING**

Following one rap by the WM, the JD & SD stand up simultaneously, and place their rods at Carry.

The WM asks the JD to explain his first duty. The JD responds and is ordered by the WM to inform the Tyler. He turns **RIGHT**, goes to the door and opens it without knocking, advises the Tyler, closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, turns **RIGHT** and reports to the WM. The JD responds to the WM's questions, and both Deacons are seated with one rap from the WM, following the SD's lead.

### **DUTIES**

With neither rising, the WM addresses the SW. Following this, the WM calls upon the Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, and Deacons in ascending order beginning with the JD (the Wardens, Secretary, and Treasurer being raised by two raps, Deacons with one) to explain his respective duties. The SW also explains the WM's duties. After all officers have reported in proper order, the other Brethren are brought up by the WM with three raps, then he rises.

Standing directly behind his pedestal, the WM orders the SW to inform the JW that a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons is about to be opened. The SW communicates the order to the JW, who communicates it to the craft. After the JW states, "Look to the East", the WM steps one step to his **LEFT**, the SW and JW take one step to their **RIGHT**. All Brethren look to the East by turning their head only, without turning their bodies to face the East. The WM instructs and leads all brethren present in the due guard and sign, then the WM, SW, and JW all step back behind their pedestals. The JW, SW, and WM, separately and in that order, rap once, then the WM calls for prayer, which is recited by the WM or Chaplain. During the prayer, the WM uncovers with his right hand and places it over his left breast. In the absence of the Chaplain, the WM may recite the prayers from behind his pedestal. All Brethren assume an attitude of prayer. Deacons and Stewards lower their rods in the proper manner.

### **DECLARATION**

Immediately following the prayer, the WM grasps his hat with his left hand, raises his right arm to a 45° angle with palm open, and declares the Lodge open. (At the words "as Entered Apprentice Masons" the WM lowers his arm, the JW lowers his column, and the SW raises

his column. Once the WM drops his arm to his side, he immediately resumes hold of the hat, and continues to keep it over his heart.) The WM then instructs the JD and SD to perform their duties.

The WM remains standing and uncovered while the SD attends the Altar.

The SD turns **RIGHT**, advances West on the North Outside Line of March and turns **LEFT** at the West Altar Line. On arriving at the Altar, he faces East and places his rod in its holder. He first removes the Square and Compass from atop the Bible and places them on the Northwest corner of the Altar with the Square at 90°, and the closed Compass parallel to the left side of the Altar. The Bible is then turned 90° upward upon its binding with the long-side page edges facing up. The Bible is slowly opened to the section marked for the proper degree and both sides are laid flat upon the altar, the Bible now open. The ribbon is removed from atop the opened pages and, after lifting only its left half, placed under the Bible to neatly position the ribbon beneath it. The Compass is opened and laid upon the pages of the right half of the opened Bible. The Square is then placed atop the Compass. The Compass should be opened to 60° and in the proper configuration. The SD ensures the Bible is 4" from the front edge of the Altar. He ensures the kneeling pad is 4" behind the Altar and moved slightly offset to the North. He then positions himself directly between the Altar and the JW, facing North, and illuminates the Lesser Lights. As soon as the Lesser Lights are lit, the Letter G is illuminated, and the WM covers and sits.

The SD then moves directly to his **LEFT**, moves north behind the Altar, retrieves his rod from the rod holder, continues to the North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**, and returns to his place in the lodge, turns **RIGHT** and waits for the JD to report to the WM.

Simultaneously as the SD repairs to the altar, the JD turns **RIGHT**, goes to the door, knocks three times, waits for the Tyler to return the knocks, opens the door, and repeats the order to the Tyler. He then closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, turns **RIGHT**, and remains standing. As soon as the SD arrives back at his place following displaying of the lights, the JD reports to the WM that the duty has been performed.

Following the JD's report, the WM rises and orders the Craft to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The Brethren turn their bodies to squarely face the flag of the United States.

The WM turns to face the flag, uncovers, places his hat over his heart with his right hand, leads the Craft in the pledge, and re-covers before turning away from the flag. The WM sits, gives one rap to seat the Brethren, and declares the purpose of the meeting.

## DEGREE WORK

(The Brother receiving the degree is referred to as the *Candidate* throughout this manual)

The WM addresses the SD and raps once. In the EA Degree only, the SD, SS, and JS, upon hearing the single rap, rise at the same time with their rods at Carry. The stewards comprise the Committee.

The WM orders the SD to propound the “Necessary and Constitutional Questions” to the Candidate.

The SD advances two steps South and turns **RIGHT**. The SD, SS, and JS simultaneously advance to the West Altar Line, turn to the South, advance to the center of the Altar, and face the WM. All salute at the Altar, turn **RIGHT** and retire through the lodge door by way of the South Outside Line of March.

As the SD with Committee approaches the lodge room door, the JD rises, carries his rod, opens the door and moves to the South to allow the SD, SS, and JS to exit in that order. After they pass through the doorway, the JD closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, and sits.

When the SD and Committee are ready to re-enter the lodge, and prior to knocking on the door, the stewards should switch their positions in line. The JS should now be positioned between the SD and SS in the line. This allows them to return to their seats without having to cross one another’s lines of march. When the SD knocks on the door, the JD rises, carries his rod, and alarms the WM.

The WM orders the JD to attend to the alarm. The JD turns **RIGHT**, goes to the door, knocks three times, and opens the door. The JD hears the announcement of the SD, closes the door, returns to his place, and notifies the WM.

The WM responds and the JD turns **RIGHT**, goes to the door, opens it, and moves to the South to allow the SD and Committee to enter. The JD then closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, and sits.

The SD, followed by the JS and SS in that order, return to the Altar by way of the South Outside Line of March and the West Altar Line. All three salute and the SD reports to the WM, who then raps to dismiss the SD, SS & JS. They return to their places via the North Outside Line of March, with the Stewards advancing to their places abreast of each other. The SD, SS and JS turn **RIGHT** and are seated at the same time.

(If he wishes, the WM may now relinquish control of lodge room entry by directing the SW to take charge of the door. Any Brother entering the lodge room will knock three times on the door. The JD will visually obtain the SW’s permission to respond. If the Brother can enter, the JD will rise and return the three knocks, open the door to admit him, advise him of the Degree in which the lodge is opened, and tell him “the door is in the West”. The entering Brother will advance to directly in front of the SW, give the proper due guard and sign, and be seated. If the SW deems it inappropriate for the brother to enter, he will indicate such to

the JD, who will return a single knock on the door, and wait until the SW gives approval to admit the brother, following the procedure outlined above.)

The WM raps up the SD, waits for him to rise with his rod at carry, and orders him to deliver the Preparatory Address to the Candidate. The SD goes to the Altar by way of the North Outside Line of March and the West Altar Line, salutes the WM, turns **LEFT** and, using the North Outside Line of March, exits the lodge through the Preparation Room door without knocking.

To re-enter, the SD opens the door without knocking, enters the lodge room, and goes to the Altar by way of the North Outside Line of March and the West Altar Line. He then salutes and informs the WM his orders have been obeyed. The WM raps once, the SD turns **LEFT**, goes to the North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, and is seated.

The WM then raps up the SD, waits for him to rise with his rod at carry, and orders him to see that the Candidate is prepared for initiation.

The SD turns **RIGHT**, addresses the Stewards, raps once directly in front of himself, and waits for them to rise. After the SD has rapped, he immediately returns his rod to the carry position. Both Stewards rise and place their rods at carry in the left hand. When the SD directs them to approach the Altar, both step off together, advance to the West Altar Line, turn **RIGHT**, advance to the Altar and center themselves, turn **LEFT**, and salute the WM.

As the Stewards turn **RIGHT** on the West Altar Line, the SD turns **LEFT** facing South. When the Stewards initiate their salute to the WM, the SD sits.

Following instruction by the WM, both Stewards retire to the Preparation Room without saluting the WM. They turn **LEFT**, go to the North Outside Line of March, turn **LEFT** and advance abreast to the Preparation Room. The JS opens the door and lets the SS proceed through first, then follows and closes the door.

The Stewards ensure the Candidate is properly prepared, including the hoodwink and cabletow, after which the SS instructs the Candidate to give three knocks on the door with his right hand. The Candidate knocks and is then moved back one step by the JS, who maintains control of him.

The SD rises upon hearing the Candidate's knocks, carries his rod, and reports the alarm to the WM, who orders him to attend to the alarm. The SD turns **RIGHT**, advances directly to the Preparation Room door on the North Outside Line of March, returns the three knocks, and opens the door. (The SS need not carry his rod at this time.) The Candidate is brought forward by the JS to answer the question directed to him, then is moved back once again by the JS.

Following the questions and answers between the SD and SS at the door, the SD closes the door, turns 180° **RIGHT**, returns to the Altar by way of the North Outside Line of March, and the West Altar Line. The SD then takes the rod in his right hand, fully extends his arm sideways to his right, raps three times on the floor, returns the rod to the Carry position, and has dialogue with the WM.

When the WM so orders, the SD returns to the Preparation Room door by way of the North Outside Line of March and, on the way, picks up the Receiving Tool, which has been placed on the 1/3 Line just North of the North Outside Line of March. He opens the door without knocking on it, then orders the Stewards to conduct the Candidate into the lodge. The SD turns 180° **RIGHT**, goes to the 1/3 Line by way of the North Outside Line of March, turns 180° **RIGHT** and faces West. He advances his right foot, extends his left hand in front of himself, places his rod base on the floor against his right instep and balances its shaft in the crook of his left elbow, and holds the receiving tool in his right hand.

After the SD is in place, both Stewards take the Candidate's arms and advance with him side by side to the 1/3 Line. The SD stops the Candidate with his left hand on the Candidate's right shoulder, both Stewards step back one step, and the SS transfers his rod to his left hand.

The SD receives the Candidate by keeping his left hand on the Candidate's right shoulder while relaying the WM's order. After delivering the words "...naked left breast..." the SD pauses his speech and places the receiving tool on the Candidate's left breast. After placing the tool, the SD continues his speech. When the SD finishes speaking, he hands the Receiving Tool to the JS. The JS properly secures the tool.

With the Candidate still in place, the SD releases him, steps to the **LEFT** side of the Candidate facing East, takes him by the left arm, and waits for instruction from the WM. When ordered, the SD turns the Candidate 90° **RIGHT** and conducts him to the center of Lodge on the 1/3 Line. The SD backs up counterclockwise 90°, causing the Candidate to face to the East, and then directs and assists him to kneel. The SD then moves back one step. (DO NOT allow the Candidate to move forward and inadvertently approach the East when being placed in position.)

The Stewards wait until the SD turns **RIGHT** to go to the center of the Lodge with the Candidate. Both Stewards then turn 180° **RIGHT** and advance side by side to their seats, and the JS closes the door. Both turn 180° **RIGHT** again and face East.

As the Candidate kneels, the WM raises the Lodge with three raps, rises, removes his hat with his right hand and places it over his left breast, following which the Prayer is recited by the WM or Chaplain. All Brethren assume an attitude of prayer. Deacons and Stewards lower their rods in the proper manner.

Following the Prayer, the WM places his hat upside down on his pedestal, descends his stairsteps keeping the pedestal to his right, uses the South Inside Line of March, and proceeds via a straight path to the 1/3 Line. As he arrives one step East of the 1/3 Line, the WM turns **RIGHT**, moves directly in front of the Candidate and turns **LEFT** to face him, places his right hand on the Candidate's head, and asks the necessary question. If a satisfactory answer is received, the WM delivers his reply ending with "...well founded." The WM then removes his hand from the Candidate's head, delivers his dialogue, pauses after the word "hand" to grasp the Candidate by the right hand with his own right hand, and orders him to arise. (The Candidate should not be prompted in his answer by either the WM or SD.)

After the WM's order, the SD steps forward, takes the Candidate by his left arm, and assists the WM in helping the Candidate to stand up.

In leaving the Candidate, the WM turns **RIGHT**, goes to the North Inside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**, and returns to his station by ascending the steps, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**. On reaching his station, he re-covers with his right hand, sits, and then seats the lodge.

The SD then turns the Candidate 90° **LEFT** by backing around him counterclockwise, and proceeds to the North Outside Line of March. (Do not allow the candidate to move forward and inadvertently approach the East when being turned.) The SD then starts the circumambulation. Once the SD is positioned on the Outside Line of March he begins the circumambulation.

During the circumambulation scripture recitation, the WM remains seated and on the first rap in the South, removes his hat with his right hand and places it over his left breast. The Chaplain rises for scripture reading in time to start his prayer immediately after the first rap.

As the Candidate is circumambulated, the JW, SW, and WM remain seated and rap once when the Candidate passes directly in front of their pedestal.

When the SD circumambulates back to the JW's pedestal, he turns **LEFT** with the Candidate, centering himself on the pedestal. Both step two paces forward. The SD moves one pace backward and raps three times with his rod in his right hand directly behind the Candidate. The JW rises behind his pedestal and engages in dialogue with the SD, by asking "Who comes here?". After the SD responds, the JW moves one pace directly to his **LEFT**, places his right hand on the Candidate's left shoulder, and questions him.

Following the Candidate's positive response, the JW moves **RIGHT** behind his pedestal and continues his dialogue with the SD. When the JW utters the word "permission", the SD moves forward one pace, takes the Candidate's left arm and waits for the JW to seat himself. The SD then moves on to the SW with the Candidate.

(To leave a pedestal, the SD steps back first with his left foot, swinging his right foot back 90°, so that he and the candidate are facing down the Outside Line of March. He and the Candidate then step off with their left foot.)

The same procedure is followed at the SW and WM stations.

Following instruction from the WM, the SD re-conducts the Candidate to the SW using the South Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** on the 1/3 Line, and stops with the Candidate facing West in line with the center of the SW's pedestal. The SD steps back one pace, addresses the SW, waits for him to rise, and repeats the WM's orders.

The SW rises immediately upon being addressed and waits for the SD to finish communicating the WM's order. The SW directs the Candidate to face to the East, which the SD accomplishes by walking around the Candidate 180° **RIGHT**. The SW then descends his stairsteps, keeping the pedestal to his **LEFT**, approaches the Candidate, stops one pace beyond him, turns 90° **LEFT** to face North, and grips the candidate's right hand. When the SW arrives directly beside the Candidate, the SD releases the Candidate's arm and moves back one pace. The SW instructs the Candidate how to approach the East, and steps to his



right as he pulls the Candidate toward the East, remaining one step further East of him. This facilitates proper execution of the step. The SW should pause speaking briefly while the Candidate performs each instruction. As the Candidate moves forward, the SD advances at the same time, staying one step behind and to the left of the Candidate. (It is not necessary for the SD to place his feet in the same position as the Candidate's. For safety, neither the SW nor the SD should touch the Candidate's legs or feet at this point, regardless of the accuracy of the position of his feet.)

Following the approach instructions, the SW turns **LEFT** and moves directly behind the Candidate, places both hands on the Candidate's shoulders, and further instructs him. The SW then turns to his **RIGHT**, steps one step South, turns West, and returns to his station, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, and sits.

When the SW leaves for his station, the SD steps forward beside the Candidate. After the SW is seated, the SD informs the WM that his orders have been obeyed, then moves back one pace.

The WM remains seated and delivers the Altar address. He removes his hat with his right hand at the first mention of Deity, places it over his left breast and keeps it there until he says the words "To God...". He then re-covers and completes the Altar address.

The WM orders the SD to place the Candidate in proper position at the Altar. The SD steps one pace forward at the word "place", takes the Candidate by the left arm and, in an audible voice, instructs him to advance. They both move straight to the Altar. The SD places his rod in its holder with his right hand, and then places the Candidate's hands upon the Altar. The SD then moves directly behind the Candidate.

(In placing the Candidate at the altar in due form, the SD shall first tell him what to do, then either guide or assist him if necessary. He does not talk and assist at the same time.)

The SD instructs the Candidate to kneel on his left knee, then assists him to do so by placing both hands on the Candidate's hips, guiding him to kneel. He then directs him how to place his right knee, and assists him to do so, if necessary. The SD then tells the Candidate where his left hand will be placed and, using his right hand, places the Candidate's left hand beneath the left half of the Holy Bible, which is lifted by the SD's left hand. The SD then tells the Candidate where his right hand will be placed and, using his right hand, places the Candidate's right hand atop the square and compass. He then moves directly behind the Candidate, issues an order to the Candidate for his body to be erect, and affirms that by placing both his hands on each of the Candidate's shoulders.

The SD retrieves his rod from its holder with his right hand, re-positions himself one step directly behind the Candidate, and reports to the WM.

The WM raises the lodge with three raps, then rises. He descends his stairsteps diagonally to the center line, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**. At the bottom of the stairsteps, he removes his hat and places it on the second step with the opening facing up, and then proceeds along the center line directly West to the Altar.

During the obligation immediately prior to saying the words “Do hereby...” the WM places his right hand upon the Candidate’s right hand where it remains until after the WM delivers the words “promise and swear”. The WM again places his right hand upon the Candidate’s right hand at the words “So help me God...of the same”. Following the obligation, the WM uses both hands to remove both the Candidate’s hands from the Bible, then positions them flat on the altar so the Candidate’s thumbs are just touching the edges of the Bible. The WM then uses his right hand to lift several pages of the Bible and places his left hand on top of the pages. The pages are then turned over with the right hand on top and the left on the bottom to guide them as needed for the Candidate.

The WM then instructs the SD to release the Candidate from his cabletow. The SD steps forward, remaining directly behind the candidate, advances his right foot, places the rod against his right instep, and in the crook of his left elbow. He removes the cabletow and drops it on the floor at the Southwest corner of the Altar. He then steps back one step behind the Candidate.

The WM places his right hand upon the candidate's head and asks him what he most desires. Once the WM asks the Candidate what he desires, the SD moves forward immediately to prompt the Candidate in his left ear on the proper response, then steps back one step.

After the WM assures the Candidate "...you shall receive it", he removes his hand and orders the Brethren to "Assist me in bringing...". Both Stewards advance side by side straight ahead to the 1/3 Line, turn **RIGHT**, and move toward the South. The JS stops at the North Inside Line of March and turns **LEFT**. The SS continues to the South Inside Line of March and turns **LEFT**. Both advance in step straight to the East, with the Brethren falling in behind them, and stop two steps short of the base of the WM's stairsteps. The WM waits for the Stewards to reach his position, turns 180° **RIGHT**, and advances to the East directly between the Stewards. When all Brethren are in place, the WM turns 180° **RIGHT**, and the lines turn inward to face each other. The Stewards cross their rods directly over the WM's head, with the JS's rod supporting the SS's rod. (The Stewards hold their rods with the left hand near the base of the rod, waist high, and the right hand approximately 16 inches up the shaft of the rod.)

As soon as the rods are crossed, the lodge lights are significantly dimmed or turned off. Only the Lesser Lights are now permitted to be fully illuminated. The WM remains beneath the arch formed by the rods and addresses the Candidate. After the WM states “In solemn commemoration of...”, the Brethren in the two lines assume the step and due guard position, and hold it until the WM eventually explains them to the Candidate. (If there are only one or two Brethren forming the lines, they must be positioned in front of and at the SE and NE corners of the altar. It is possible there will be no Brethren available to form the line. The Wardens are not permitted to abandon their respective stations to join the lines.) After the WM re-states "Let there be light," he pauses. The SD steps forward, advances his right foot, places the rod against his right instep and in the crook of his left elbow, and removes the hoodwink, which he places on the floor at the Southwest corner of the Altar. He then steps back one pace behind the Candidate. The WM then finishes his line ending with “...there is light.”

The WM then advances directly West to the Altar on the center line and explains the items thereon. Neither the Great Lights nor Lesser Lights are to be touched during this part of the ritual. (The WM may gesture toward them with his right hand for emphasis.)

The WM then turns 180° **RIGHT**, advances to the stairsteps, and in one continuous movement, retrieves his hat with his right hand, covers himself, and turns 180° **RIGHT**. When the WM finishes turning, the lodge lights are turned up full strength.

In explaining the discovery of him as WM to the Candidate, the WM says "Approaching you from the East," takes one pace forward, stops to form his feet as an Entered Apprentice Mason and says "On the step", continues speaking until he says "Due Guard," gives it, then says, "and Sign," then gives it as well. The WM says "This is the..", pauses speaking, and demonstrates the Due Guard again and explains the allusion to it. The WM then says, "This is the...", pauses speaking, and demonstrates the Sign again, drops his hand, and explains its allusion. (As the Sign is given, the Brethren in the lines drop the Due Guard and give the Sign in conjunction with the WM, and the Stewards place their rods at Carry. The Brethren need not keep their feet in the Due Guard position following the giving of the Sign.)

The WM advances to the Altar, presents the Candidate his right hand and, with the aid of the SD, explains the grip and word. (When taking the candidate by his right hand, the WM should hold it as if offering a traditional handshake. The WM does not physically cause the Candidate to move his thumb to the proper position unless the Candidate is not doing so of his own accord.)

When the WM speaks the words "Which by the aid..." the SD moves to the North center of the Altar and faces South, then engages in dialogue with the WM.

The WM orders the Candidate to rise. The SD moves around and takes the Candidate by his left arm, and with the WM's assistance, assists him to rise, and remains in place and in control of the candidate.

The WM turns 180° **RIGHT**, advances to the East in a straight line and ascends the stairsteps diagonally while keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**. (As soon as the WM turns to return to his station, all brethren in both lines immediately and simultaneously turn to face the East.) When the WM sits upon reaching his station and seats the Lodge with one rap.

After the WM raps, the SS turns **RIGHT**, the JS turns **LEFT**, and both proceed to their respective Outside Lines of March with the Brethren following in line. As they reach the 1/3 Line, the JS stops, the SS turns **RIGHT**, advances to meet the JS, and turns **LEFT**. Both Stewards return side by side to their places, turn **RIGHT** 180° and sit. The SD and Candidate remain stationary facing East until after the procession passes by them.

When the procession clears, the SD turns **LEFT**, and conducts the Candidate North via the West Altar Line, turns **RIGHT** on the North Outside Line of March, proceeds East to the East Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and proceeds to the South Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and proceeds to the JW's station. The SD approaches the JW as follows: The SD lines himself up with the center of the JW pedestal, turns **LEFT** toward the pedestal, and conducts the Candidate two paces forward. Immediately prior to the Candidate's arrival at his pedestal, the JW rises and moves one pace to his **LEFT**. The SD quietly instructs the

Candidate how to salute the Warden. The JW returns the salute after the Candidate renders it, returns behind his pedestal, and sits. (The SD does not move or leave the JW station until he is seated.)

After saluting the JW, the SD returns the Candidate to the Outside Line of March as previously described and proceeds West to the West Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and proceeds North to the SW station. The SD and Candidate salute the SW in the manner described for the JW.

After saluting the SW, the SD rotates the Candidate backward 90° clockwise to place him on the centerline, walks clockwise around the Candidate, and proceeds with the Candidate to the Altar, where they salute the WM. The SD then moves back one pace.

The WM remains seated and returns the salute by touching his left breast with the gavel. He raises the Lodge with three raps, rises, takes the lambskin in both hands and holds it breast high, then descends the steps diagonally to the center line keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, advances to the Altar, and delivers the apron lecture.

After the WM says the words "...placed in your hands tonight." he pauses, folds the apron inward, takes it with his left hand grasping the open end to hold the strings, removes his hat with his right hand, and places it over his left breast. After saying the words "...joy of thy Lord" the WM covers, and moves the apron from his left to his right hand, grasping it by the top of the open end. (Anticipating the WM's moves, the SD steps forward and takes the Candidate's left arm to prevent him from extending it to receive the apron incorrectly.) The WM then says "Take it...", pauses speaking, and with his right hand presents the apron to the Candidate's right hand. The WM then finishes the oration by telling the SD to conduct the Candidate to the SW in the West.

The WM then turns **RIGHT** 180°, advances in a straight line to the East, ascends the stairsteps diagonally keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, sits, and seats the Lodge with one rap.

Upon the WM's rap to seat the Lodge, the SD moves back one pace with the Candidate, turns 180° clockwise around him, and conducts him to the 1/3 Line, moves back one pace, and communicates the WM's orders to the SW. The SW orders the SD to face to the East. The SD walks 180° clockwise around the Candidate and stops with the Candidate centered facing East. The SW descends the steps, keeping the pedestal to his **LEFT**, advances to the Candidate, turns to his **LEFT** and steps directly in front of and facing the Candidate. When the SW passes the Candidate, the SD releases the Candidate's arm and moves back one pace, then moves one pace **RIGHT** to assist the SW in securing the Candidate's apron.

The SW takes the apron, ensures the bib is turned up, and with the assistance of the SD, secures it on the Candidate. The SD then steps one pace to his **LEFT** facing East. The SW moves one pace to his **LEFT**, faces North, and explains the apron.

At the completion of the explanation, the SW turns to his **LEFT**, ascends the stairsteps with the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, returns behind the pedestal, and sits.

As the SW turns to leave the Candidate, the SD moves up to Candidate's **LEFT**, takes him by the arm, and waits until the SW sits. The SD conducts the Candidate directly to the Altar, and both salute the WM, after which the SD moves back one pace.

The WM orders the Candidate to examine himself for metal. The SD moves forward alongside the Candidate, briefly visually examines the Candidate, answers for him, and then moves back one pace. The WM explains the rationale behind the demand for metal, then rises, steps one step to his **LEFT**, and instructs the Candidate on the proper way to enter and retire from a lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons. (The WM should allow the Candidate to perform each movement of the salute, to ensure he can perform them correctly.)

Both Stewards rise at the word "sign". The WM completes his explanation, moves behind his pedestal and sits. The SS advances to the 1/3 Line and remains facing East. The JS opens the Preparation Room door and immediately exits. The SD takes the Candidate's left arm, and without raps or instruction from the WM, turns to his **LEFT** with the Candidate, and goes to the 1/3 Line by way of the North Outside Line of March. As the SD arrives at the 1/3 Line, the SS turns 180° **LEFT**, and takes the Candidate by his left arm. (The SS takes the Candidate by his left arm in all three degrees.) The SD conducts the Candidate through the open Preparation Room door. The JS closes the door behind them.

The SD turns 180° **RIGHT**, returns to his place, turns **RIGHT**, and sits.

(Both Stewards remain in the Preparation Room with the Candidate until he is ready to return.)

After the Candidate is suitably attired, the SS instructs the Candidate to knock three times on the door. Upon hearing the knocks, the SD immediately rise without any instruction from the WM, goes to the door, and opens it without returning the knocks. The SD takes charge of the Candidate and, using the North Outside Line of March, and the West Altar Line, conducts him to the Altar and both salute the WM.

After the WM orders the Candidate placed in the Northeast corner, the SD takes the Candidate by the left arm, turns **LEFT**, and using the North Inside Line of March, conducts the Candidate straight East to the base of the WM's steps. Upon arrival, the SD moves back one pace.

The WM remains seated and instructs the Candidate how to stand as a just and upright Mason. The WM then rises and steps to the **RIGHT** and forward to present the Working Tools to the Candidate. The WM pauses briefly in his oration as he hands each of the tools separately to the Candidate. The WM explains the operative use of the 24-inch gauge, and after saying the words "But we..." he pauses again and collects the working tool back from the Candidate. The WM unfolds the 24-inch gauge, holds it in both hands, and begins the instruction. After saying the words "...three equal parts..." the gauge is partially folded to display three distinct 8-inch sections. While saying the words "...whereby we find eight hours..." the WM holds the gauge in his left hand at the left side joint of the gauge and folds the right end closed, tipping his hat while he continues with "...for the service of God...". After saying the words "...our usual vocations..." the left side is folded toward the right. The 24-inch gauge is rotated bottom to top immediately prior to beginning the third portion of the explanation of the tool. The 24-inch gauge is placed upon the WM's podium. The WM explains

the operative use of the gavel and after the words “but we...” retrieves the gavel and explains its use. His left hand holds the gavel’s head while he speaks, allowing him to tip his hat when saying “...for that spiritual building ...” Following the presentation of the Working Tools, the WM places the gavel upon his pedestal, moves back behind it, and sits.

Without any raps or instruction from the WM, the SD takes the Candidate's left arm, turns **LEFT**, and seats the Candidate on the **RIGHT** side of, and next to, the SD's chair. The SD backs around to his chair and sits.

## **LECTURE**

### **LECTURE INSTRUCTIONS**

After the WM explains the lecture of the degree, the Stewards rise, without rods, and place the correct number of chairs on the 1/3 Line, centered on the Altar. The SS places the rod holder on the North side of the chairs for the SD's use. (The rod holder moves directly back from whichever side it is on in every degree.)

After the chairs are in place, the SD rises without any raps or instruction from the WM, and using the North Outside Line of March, conducts the Candidate to the chairs placed on the 1/3 Line. The SD seats the Candidate in the chair to the South, then seats himself in the chair to the North.

All Brothers giving the lecture should not cross in front of the Candidate to reach their positions.

### **FIRST SECTION LECTURE**

The Brother asking the questions stands facing South on the North Inside Line of March, halfway between the Candidate and the Altar.

The Brother answering the questions stands facing North on the South Inside Line of March, halfway between the Candidate and the Altar.

### **SECOND SECTION LECTURE**

The Brother giving the Lecture stands facing South on the North Inside Line of March, halfway between the Candidate and the Altar.

### **THIRD SECTION LECTURE**

The Brother giving the Lecture stands facing South on the North Inside Line of March, halfway between the Candidate and the Altar.

## CHARGE

(The Brother giving the Charge should be in place to the North of the WM before the Candidate is conducted to the East.)

Following the Lectures, the WM orders the SD to conduct the Candidate to the East to receive the Charge. The SD conducts the Candidate to the Northeast corner via the 1/3 Line to the North Inside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**, proceeds East, and stops at the base of the stairsteps. The WM raps up the Lodge, uncovers, and places his hat over his left breast. When the Charge has been completed, the WM covers, sits, and raps down the Lodge. The SD turns **LEFT** with the Candidate, conducts him to a seat next to the SD's place, and both sit. (In the event the WM delivers the charge, he will remain directly behind his pedestal to do so.)

After the charge, the Stewards remove the chairs and reposition the rod holder beside the Altar.

## CLOSING

Closing begins with the WM seated and addressing the SW, then raising him with one rap to inquire if he has anything further to say. The WM raises the JW with one rap and asks if he has anything to say. He then raps up the Secretary and asks him for any response. (Each officer rises on the rap, gives his report, and immediately sits.) The WM then offers the floor for any appropriate comments.

The WM raises the lodge and says, "Brethren, let us pray." The Chaplain recites the closing prayer, during which the WM places his hat over his left breast with his right hand. All Brethren assume an attitude of prayer. Deacons and Stewards lower their rods in the proper manner.

Following the prayer, the WM covers and asks the SW, "How should Masons meet?". After the SW responds, the WM descends the stairsteps diagonally to the center line, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, and moves out two paces. The SW and JW descend their stairsteps at the same time, keeping their pedestals to their **LEFT**, and move out one pace. (The WM, SW, and JWs shall descend to the lodge floor simultaneously and position themselves directly in front of their pedestals. All three officers should be one pace ahead of all the other Brethren physically lined up next to them.) The WM asks, "How act, Brother Junior Warden?". After he responds, the WM instructs the members how to part.

The WM removes his hat with his right hand, places it over his left breast, assumes the attitude of prayer, and delivers the closing benediction. All Brethren assume an attitude of prayer. The Deacons and Stewards lower their rods in the proper manner. The WM then takes his hat with his left hand, raises his right arm at 45° with open palm, and delivers the closing declaration. At the word "closed", the WM lowers his arm, and the SW turns **RIGHT** and lowers his column. Following the declaration, the WM again takes his hat with his right hand, leaves it over his left breast, and orders the JD and SD to perform their duties.

Simultaneously, the SD moves to the Altar by way of the North Outside Line of March and the West Altar Line, the JD moves to the door of the lodge, and the WM returns to his station,

ascending the steps diagonally, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, and remains uncovered and standing.

While the SD is attending the Altar, the JD knocks three times on the lodge door, waits for the response, opens it, and informs the Tyler the lodge is closed. The JD closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, and waits until the SD completes his duties.

As soon as the Lesser Lights and the letter G are extinguished, the WM covers, remains standing, and awaits the report of the JD. Once the SD returns to his place via the North Outside Line of March, the JD informs the WM the duty has been performed. The WM raps once and the lodge is closed.



# FELLOW CRAFT DEGREE

## OPENING

- Raps and knocks are accomplished with the right hand.
- All lodge movement is initiated by stepping off with the left foot first.
- Officers returning to their seat shall make right turns as needed before sitting.
- The outside line of march is two steps from the sidelines or the bottom step of stations.
- Deacon and Steward rods must be grounded during prayers.
- The inside line of march is to the designated side of the altar, as close to the altar as possible while maintaining clearance with the altar and the lesser lights.
- The West Altar Line is located one step west of the kneeler, extending from the North Outside Line of March to the South Outside Line of March.
- The East Altar Line is located one step east of the altar, extending from the North Outside Line of March to the South Outside Line of March.
- When releasing a Candidate, the conductor will guide the Candidate's hand down to his side, not allowing it to drop freely.
- The conferral, lectures, and charge must be completed in the same calendar day.
- The Worshipful Master must uncover and stand behind his pedestal when delivering prayers or charges, re-covering when finished.
- The working tools case shall be positioned in front of and at the base of the WM's pedestal. It shall be closed for the EA and FC degree, and open for the MM degree.

In opening any Lodge, five actions must be completed:

**CONGREGATE**

**PURGE**

**TYLE**

**DUTIES**

**DECLARATION**

## CONGREGATING

At the appointed time, the WM will rap once to bring the Lodge to attention. The JW raises his column on the Northeast corner of his pedestal. The JD rises, takes the rod in his left hand, and ensures all lodge room doors are closed, ending with the Reception Room. He then returns to his place by making a **RIGHT** turn at the door, making **LEFT** and **RIGHT** turns as necessary to reach his seat, faces East, and sits.

## PURGING

Without rising, the WM addresses the SW, raps once, waits for the SW to rise, and orders him to purge the Lodge.

The SW addresses the SD and JD, raps once, waits for them to rise, and directs them to approach the West. (The SW remains standing directly behind his pedestal throughout the entire Purging sequence.)

(Whenever the WM calls up the JD, the SD will also rise. When the SD and JD pick up their rods, they are first briefly rested on the floor at the left side with the right hand. Then, with the right hand, the rods are lifted with a flick of the wrist about 3" off the floor and held with the left hand. When the rods are placed down for prayer or saluting, they are not allowed to simply slide down through the left hand, but rather gently pushed down by reaching over with the right hand and quietly lowering the rod. To return the rod to the Carry position, the right hand should be used again to reach across the body and raise the rod, then grasping it with the left hand. The rods should not be dropped or "shrugged" to the floor, but rather, crisply and quietly handled.)

The SD turns **RIGHT**, proceeds by way of the North Outside Line of March to the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT** to meet the JD on the Center line, turns **RIGHT**, steps off with his left foot, and in step with the JD, approaches the SW's station and stops in front of the SW, facing West toward him.

The JD advances directly East from his chair to the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT** to meet the SD at the center of the Altar, turns **LEFT**, steps off with his left foot and advances in step with the SD to the SW's station.

After the SW directs the Deacons to purge the Lodge, the SD turns **RIGHT**, goes to the North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and proceeds to the East purging the Lodge. (The SD and JD should stay in line directly across from each other while advancing to the East during purging. If one Deacon stops to challenge a Brother, the other Deacon pauses and waits until the challenge is satisfied, then continues to the East. No Brother may vouch for another until he, himself, has passed the purging ceremony. However, the WM, SW, or JW may vouch for a Brother at any time.)

Upon reaching the East, the SD makes a 180° **RIGHT** turn, proceeds on the North Outside Line of March to the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT** to meet the JD, turns **RIGHT**, and advances back to the SW's pedestal.

The JD turns to his **LEFT**, goes to the South Outside Line of March, turns **LEFT** and proceeds to the East, purging the Lodge. Upon reaching the East, the JD turns 180° **LEFT** and keeping in line with the SD, returns along the South Outside Line of March to the West Altar Line, turns **RIGHT** to meet the SD, turns **LEFT**, and advances in step with the SD to the SW's pedestal.

Both Deacons report to the SW that all present are Fellow Craft Masons. The SW demands the pass from the Deacons in turn. (The Deacons ascend the stairsteps to the SW, present the pass, then back down the stairsteps.) The SW directs the Deacons to collect the pass from the Brethren.

The SD turns **RIGHT**, goes to North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and proceeds to the East purging the Lodge. The JD turns **LEFT**, goes to South Outside Line of March, turns **LEFT** and proceeds to the East purging the Lodge. (The SD and JD should stay in line directly across from each other while advancing to the East and collecting the pass. If one Deacon stops to assist a Brother without the pass, the other Deacon pauses and waits until the situation is resolved, then continues to the East. If a Brother does not know the pass, or communicates the incorrect pass, the Deacon continues to grasp the hand of the brother without the pass and addresses the SW with “Brother SW, a brother without the pass”. After the response from the SW the Deacon follows the instruction of the SW. The Deacon then advances to the next Brother.)

After arriving at the East Outside Line of March, both Deacons turn toward each other and meet in the center of the lodge, centered on the Master’s pedestal. The Deacons grasp right hands in the grip of a Fellow Craft Mason, the JD communicates the pass to the SD, then faces East. The WM rises to receive the pass as the SD turns **LEFT**, ascends the stairsteps and while facing East communicates the pass to the WM. The SD turns 180° **RIGHT**, descends the stairs, and stands beside the JD. As the SD turns **RIGHT** after communicating the pass, the JD turns 180° clockwise to face West. The WM informs the SW that the pass has been correctly communicated and sits. The SW responds that all present are Fellow Craft Masons, and raps. Both Deacons proceed West to the East Altar Line, and turns his respective way. The SD goes to the West Outside Line of March while the JD goes to a line centered on his chair, and both return to their place. Both turn **RIGHT** and wait until each other has placed his rod in its holder. The SW, SD, and JD sit simultaneously, queued on the SD

## TYLING

Following one rap by the WM, the Deacons stand simultaneously, and place their rods at Carry.

The WM asks the JD to explain his first duty. The JD responds and is ordered by the WM to inform the Tyler. He turns **RIGHT**, goes to the door and opens it without knocking, advises the Tyler, closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, turns **RIGHT** and reports to the WM. The JD responds to the WM's questions and both Deacons are seated with one rap from the WM, queued on the SD.

## DUTIES

With neither rising, the WM addresses the SW. Following this, the WM calls upon the Wardens and Deacons in ascending order beginning with the JD (the Deacons being raised by one rap, Wardens with two) to explain his respective duties. The SW also explains the WM's duties. After all officers have reported in proper order, the other Brethren are brought up by the WM with three raps, then he rises.

Standing directly behind his pedestal, the WM orders the SW to inform the JW that a Lodge of Fellow Craft Masons is about to be opened. The SW communicates the order to the JW, who communicates it to the craft. After the JW states "Look to the East", the WM takes one step to his **LEFT**, while the SW and JW take one step **RIGHT**. (All Brethren look to the East by turning their head only, without turning their bodies to face the East.) The WM instructs and leads all brethren present in the Due Guards and Signs, then the WM, SW, and JW all step back behind their pedestals. The JW, SW, and WM, separately and in that order, rap two times and the WM calls for prayer, which is recited by the WM or Chaplain. During the prayer, the WM uncovers with his right hand and places it over his left breast. In the absence of the Chaplain, the WM may recite the prayer from behind his pedestal. All Brethren assume an attitude of prayer. Deacons and Stewards lower their rods in the proper manner.

## DECLARATION

Immediately following the prayer, the WM grasps his hat with his left hand, raises his right arm to a 45° angle with palm open, and declares the lodge open. After saying the words "...as Fellow Craft Masons.", the WM lowers right arm, the JW lowers his column, and the SW raises his column. Once the WM drops his arm to his side, he immediately resumes hold of the hat, and continues to keep it over his heart. The WM then instructs the JD and SD to perform their duties.

The WM remains standing and uncovered while the SD attends the Altar.

The SD turns **RIGHT**, advance West on the North Outside Line of March, and turns **LEFT** at the West Altar Line. On arriving at the Altar, he faces East and places his rod in its holder. He first removes the Square and Compass from atop the Bible and places them on the Northwest corner of the Altar with the Square at 90°, and the closed Compass parallel to the left side of the Altar. The Bible is then turned 90° upward upon its binding with the long-side page edges facing up. The Bible is slowly opened to the section marked for the proper degree and both sides are laid flat upon the altar, the Bible now open. The ribbon is removed from atop the opened pages and, after lifting only its left half, placed under the Bible to neatly position the ribbon beneath it. The Compass is opened and laid upon the pages of the right half of the opened Bible. The Square is then placed atop the Compass. The Compass should be opened to 60° and in the proper configuration. The SD ensures the Bible is 4" from the front edge of the Altar. He ensures the kneeling pad is 4" behind the Altar and moved slightly offset to the North. He then positions himself directly between the altar and the JW, facing North, and illuminates the Lesser Lights. As soon as the Lesser Lights are lit, the Letter G is illuminated, and the WM covers and sits.

The SD then moves directly to his **LEFT**, moves North behind the Altar, retrieves his rod from its holder, continues to the North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**, and returns to

his place in the lodge, turns **RIGHT** in front of his chair and waits for the JD to report to the WM.

Simultaneously as the SD departs for the Altar, the JD turns **RIGHT**, goes to the lodge room door, knocks three times, waits for the Tyler to return the knocks, opens the door, and repeats the order to the Tyler. He then closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, turns **RIGHT**, and remains standing. As soon as the SD arrives back at his chair following the displaying of the lights, the JD reports to the WM that his duty has been performed.

Following the JD's report, the WM rises and requests the Craft to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The Brethren turn their bodies to squarely face the flag of the United States.

The WM turns to face the flag, uncovers, places his hat over his heart with his right hand, leads the Craft in the pledge, and re-covers before turning away from the flag. The WM sits, gives one rap to seat the Brethren, and declares the purpose of the meeting.

(The WM may now turn the door over to the SW, if he so chooses.)

## DEGREE WORK

If the Candidate has not previously demonstrated proficiency in the preceding degree, the WM orders the SD to present the Candidate for examination. The SD stands, turns **RIGHT**, goes to the Preparation Room door and opens it, and conducts him into the lodge room by his left arm. The Preparation Room door remains open during the proficiency examination. The SD conducts the Candidate to the 1/3 Line, turns 90° **RIGHT**, and proceeds on the 1/3 line to the South Inside Line of March. The SD turns the Candidate Clockwise 180° on the 1/3 Line, and moves back one pace South. The examiner positions himself on the North Inside Line of March, facing South toward the Candidate, and conducts the examination. Upon completion, the SD, the examiner, and the Candidate remain in place until the WM has declared the Candidate proficient or not, then raps. The SD conducts the Candidate to the North Outside Line of March, turns 90° **LEFT** and proceeds to the Preparation Room, then returns him to the care of the Tyler. The SD closes the Preparation Room door, turns 180° to his **RIGHT** and using the North Outside Line of March returns to his seat, turns 90° **RIGHT**, places his rod in its holder, and sits. The examiner returns to his seat and sits.

The WM raps the SD to rise, waits for him to rise with his rod at Carry, and orders him to see that the Candidate is duly prepared.

The SD turns **RIGHT**, addresses the Stewards, raps once directly in front of himself, then returns his rod to Carry and waits for them to rise. Both Stewards rise and place their rods at Carry in the left hand. When the SD directs them to approach the Altar, both step off together, advance side by side to the West Altar Line, turn **RIGHT**, advance in column to the Altar and center themselves, turn **LEFT**, and salute the WM.

As the Stewards turn **RIGHT**, the SD turns **LEFT** facing South. When the Stewards initiate their salute to the WM, the SD sits.

Following instruction by the WM, both Stewards retire to the Preparation Room without saluting the WM. They turn **LEFT**, go to the North Outside Line of March, turn **LEFT** and advance side by side to the Preparation Room door. The JS opens the door to allow the SS proceed through and follows, closing the door.

The Stewards ensure the Candidate is properly prepared, including the Apron, hoodwink, and cabletow, after which the SS instructs the Candidate to give three knocks on the door with his right hand. The Candidate knocks and is then moved back one step, in the control of the JS.

The SD rises at the knocks, takes his rod, and reports the alarm to the WM. The WM orders the SD to attend to the alarm. The SD turns **RIGHT**, advances directly to the Preparation Room door, returns three knocks, and opens the door. (The SS need not be carrying his rod at this time.) The SS moves forward and addresses the question posed to him, then moves back. The Candidate is brought forward to answer the question directed to him, then is moved back once again. The SS moves forward and finishes answering questions, then moves back.

Following the questions and answers between the SD and SS, the SD closes the door, turns 180° **RIGHT**, and returns to the Altar by way of the North Outside Line of March and the West Altar Line. The SD faces the WM, takes the rod in his right hand, fully extends his arm sideways to his right, raps three times on the floor, returns the rod to the Carry position, and has dialogue with the WM.

When the WM orders, the SD returns to the Preparation Room door by way of the North Outside Line of March and, on the way, picks up the Receiving Tool, which has been placed to the North of the 1/3 Line. He opens the door without knocking and orders the Stewards to conduct the Candidate into the lodge. The SD turns 180° **RIGHT**, goes to 1/3 Line by way of the North Outside Line of March, turns 180° **RIGHT** and faces West. He advances his right foot, places his rod against his right instep and in the crook of his left elbow, and extends his left hand in front of himself.

After the SD is in place, both Stewards take the Candidate's arms and advance with him side by side to the 1/3 Line. (The SD stops the Candidate with his left hand on the Candidate's right shoulder, both Stewards step back one step, and the SS transfers his rod to his left hand.)

The SD receives the Candidate by keeping his left hand on the Candidate's right shoulder while relaying the WM's order. After delivering the words "...naked right breast..." the SD shall pause speaking and place the receiving tool on the Candidate's right breast. After placing the tool, he then continues his dialogue. When the SD finishes speaking, he hands the Receiving Tool to the JS. The JS properly secures the tool.

The SD transfers the rod to his right hand where it will remain throughout the rest of the degree, turns backward clockwise 90° to the Candidate's **RIGHT** side, and takes him by the right arm. The SD then starts the circumambulation, with the Candidate on the Outside Line of March. As the SD steps off, both Stewards turn 180° **RIGHT** and advance side by side to their seat, the JS closes the door, both turn 180° **RIGHT**, and sit.

During the circumambulation scripture recital, the WM remains seated, and at the first rap in the South removes his hat with his right hand and places it over his left breast. The Chaplain rises for scripture recital in time to start his prayer immediately following the first rap.

During the Candidate's first circuit, the JW, SW, and WM remain seated and rap when the Candidate passes directly in front of their pedestal.

During the Candidate's second circuit, the JW, SW, and WM remain seated and rap twice, timing the second rap to coincide with the Candidate passing directly in front of their pedestal.

When the SD stops at the JW's pedestal, he turns **LEFT** with the Candidate, the SD centering himself on the pedestal. Both step forward two paces. The SD moves back one pace, transfers his rod to his left hand, extends his left arm to his side, and raps three times with his rod. The JW rises behind his pedestal and engages in dialogue with the SD by asking "Who comes here?" After the SD responds, the JW moves one pace directly to his **RIGHT**, places his right hand on the Candidate's left shoulder, and questions him.

Following the Candidate's positive response, the JW steps **LEFT** behind his pedestal, and then continues his dialogue with the SD. When the JW speaks the word "permission", the SD moves forward one pace, takes the Candidate's right arm and waits for the JW to complete the order and sit. The SD then conducts the Candidate to the SW via the South Outside Line of March and the West Outside Line of March.

(To leave a pedestal, the SD moves back two paces and turns 90° backwards, clockwise. He and the Candidate then step off with the left foot.)

The same procedure is followed at the SW and WM stations.

Following instruction from the WM, the SD re-conducts the Candidate to the SW using the South Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** on the 1/3 Line, and stops with the Candidate facing West in line with the center of the SW's pedestal. The SD moves back one pace, addresses the SW, waits for him to rise, and repeats the WM's orders.

The SW rises immediately upon being addressed and waits for the SD to finish communicating the WM's order. The SW directs the Candidate to face to the East, which the SD accomplishes by backing around the Candidate 180° clockwise. The SW then descends his stairsteps, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, approaches the Candidate, stops one pace beyond him, turns 90° **RIGHT** to face South, and grips the candidate's left hand with his own left hand. When the SW arrives directly beside the Candidate, the SD releases the Candidate's arm and moves back one pace. The SW instructs the Candidate how to approach the East. (The SW steps to his left as he pulls the Candidate toward the East, remaining one step further East of him. This facilitates proper execution of the step.) The SW should pause speaking briefly while the Candidate performs each instruction. As the Candidate steps forward, the SD advances at the same time staying one step behind and to the **RIGHT** of the Candidate. (It is not necessary for the SD to place his feet in the same position as the Candidate's. For safety, neither the SW nor the SD should touch the Candidate's legs or feet at this point, regardless of the accuracy of the position of his feet.)

Following the approach instructions, the SW turns **RIGHT** and moves directly behind the Candidate, places both hands on the Candidate's shoulders, and further instructs him.

The SW then turns to his **LEFT**, moves one pace North, turns **LEFT**, and returns to his station keeping the pedestal to his **LEFT**, and sits.

When the SW leaves the Candidate for his station, the SD moves forward beside the Candidate. After the SW is seated, the SD informs the WM that his orders have been obeyed, then moves back one pace.

The WM remains seated and delivers the oration. The WM tips his hat briefly on saying “.. to God”.

The WM orders the SD to place the Candidate in proper position at the Altar. The SD steps one step forward, takes the Candidate by the right arm and, in an audible voice, instructs him to advance. They both advance straight to the Altar. The SD places his rod in its holder with his left hand, places the Candidate's hands upon the Altar, and moves directly behind the Candidate.

(In placing the Candidate at the altar in due form, the SD should first tell him what to do, then either guide or assist him to do it if necessary. He should not talk and assist at the same time.)

The SD instructs the Candidate to kneel on his right knee and assists him to do so by placing both hands on the Candidate's hips and guiding him to kneel. He then directs him how to place his left knee, and assists him to do so, if necessary. The SD then tells him where his right hand will be placed and, using his right hand, places the Candidate's hand atop the square and compass on the right side of the Bible. The SD instructs the Candidate how to properly place his left elbow, then places it upon the supporting square. He then moves directly behind the Candidate, issues an order to the Candidate for his body to be erect, and affirms that by placing his hands on the Candidate's shoulders.

The SD retrieves his rod from its holder with his left hand, places it in the Carry position in his right hand, re-positions himself one step directly behind the Candidate, and reports to the WM.

The WM raises the lodge with three raps, then rises. Keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, he descends his stairsteps diagonally to the center line. At the bottom of the stairsteps, he removes his hat and places it upside down on the second step, then proceeds along the center line directly West to the Altar.

During the obligation immediately prior to saying the words “Do hereby...,” the WM places his right hand upon the Candidate's right hand where it remains until after the WM delivers the words “with these additions.”. The WM again places his right hand upon the Candidate's right hand at the words “So help me God...of the same.”. Following the obligation, the WM uses both hands to remove both the Candidate's hands from the Bible, then positions them flat on the Altar so the Candidate's thumbs are just touching the edges of the Bible. The WM then uses his right hand to lift several pages of the Bible and places his left hand on top of



the pages. The pages are then turned over with the right hand on top and the left on the bottom to guide them as needed for the Candidate.

The WM then instructs the SD to release the Candidate from his cabletow. The SD moves forward, remaining directly behind the Candidate, advances his right foot, places the rod base on the floor against his left instep, and its shaft in the crook of his right elbow. He removes the cabletow and drops it to the floor at the Southwest corner of the Altar. He then moves back one pace behind the Candidate and places his rod at the Carry position.

The WM places his right hand upon the candidate's head and asks him what he most desires. As the WM does so, the SD moves forward immediately to prompt the Candidate in his right ear, then moves back one pace. The Candidate repeats the prompted phrase to the WM.

After the WM assures the Candidate "...you shall receive it", he removes his hand from the Candidate's head and orders the Brethren to "Assist me in bringing..". Both Stewards advance abreast straight ahead to the 1/3 Line, turn **RIGHT**, and move in column toward the South. The JS stops at the North Inside Line of March and turns **LEFT**. The SS continues to the South Inside Line of March and turns **LEFT**. Both advance in step straight to the East (with the Brethren falling in behind them) and stop on the East Outside Line of March. The WM waits for the Stewards to reach his position, turns 180° **RIGHT**, and advances to the East directly between the Stewards. The WM turns 180° **RIGHT**, and the lines turn inward to face each other. The Stewards cross their rods directly over the WM's head, with the JS's rod supporting the SS's rod. (The Stewards hold their rods with the left hand near the base of the rod, waist high, and the right hand approximately 16 inches up the shaft of the rod.)

As soon as the rods are crossed, the lodge lights are significantly dimmed or turned off. Only the Lesser Lights are now permitted to be fully illuminated. The WM remains beneath the arch formed by the rods and addresses the Candidate. After the WM states "In solemn commemoration of... there was light," the Brethren in the two lines assume the Due Guard and Sign position and hold it until the WM eventually explains them to the Candidate. (If there are only one or two Brethren forming both lines, they must be positioned in front of and at the SE and NE corners of the altar. It is possible there will be no Brethren available to form the line. The Wardens are not permitted to abandon their respective stations to join the lines.) After the WM re-states "Let there be light," he pauses. The SD moves forward, advances his right foot, places the rod against his right instep and in the crook of his left elbow, and removes the hoodwink, which he places on the floor at the Southwest corner of the Altar. He then moves back one pace behind the Candidate. The WM then finishes his line ending with "...there is light."

The WM advances directly West to the Altar on the center line and explains the items thereon. The Great Lights are not to be touched during this part of the ritual. (The WM may gesture toward them with his right hand for emphasis.)

Following the explanation of the lights, the WM turns 180° **RIGHT**, advances to the stairsteps, and in one continuous movement, retrieves his hat with his right hand, re-covers, and turns 180° **RIGHT**. When the WM finishes turning, the lodge lights are turned on full strength.

In explaining the discovery of him as WM to the Candidate, the WM says, "Approaching you from the East" takes two paces forward, stops to form his feet as a Fellow Craft Mason and says, "On the step", continues speaking until he says "...Due Guard", gives it, then says "and Sign", then gives it as well. (As the Sign is given, the Brethren in the lines drop the Due Guard and give the Sign in conjunction with the WM, and the Stewards place their rods at Carry. The Brethren need not keep their feet in the due guard position following the giving of the Sign.) The WM then says "This....", pauses speaking and demonstrates the Due Guard again and resumes with "is the Due Guard" and explains the allusion to it. The WM then says, "This...", pauses speaking and demonstrates the Sign again, drops his hand, and resumes with "is the Sign" and explains its allusion.

The WM advances to the Altar, presents the Candidate his right hand and, with the aid of the SD, explains the pass, token of the pass, true grip, and word of a Fellow Craft Mason. (When taking the candidate by his right hand, the WM shall use the grip of an EA, and explain the FC grip. The WM does not physically cause the Candidate to move his thumb to the proper position unless the Candidate is not doing so of his own accord.)

When the WM says "Which by the aid..." the SD moves to the Southwest corner of the Altar, faces East, and exchanges dialogue with the WM.

The WM orders the Candidate to rise. The SD takes the Candidate by his right arm, and with the WM's assistance, assists him to rise, and remains in place in control of the candidate.

The WM turns 180° **RIGHT**, advances to the East in a straight line, ascends the stairsteps diagonally, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**. As soon as the WM turns to return to his station, all brethren in both lines immediately and simultaneously turn to face the East. The WM sits upon reaching his station and seats the Lodge with one rap.

After the WM is seated and raps, the SS turns **RIGHT**, the JS turns **LEFT**, and both proceed to their respective Outside Lines of March with the Brethren following in line. As they reach the 1/3 Line, the JS stops, the SS turns **RIGHT**, advances to meet the JS, and turns **LEFT**. Both Stewards return side by side to their places, turn 180° **RIGHT** and are seated. The SD and Candidate remain stationary, facing East, until after the procession passes by them.

When the procession clears, the SD turns **LEFT**, and conducts the Candidate North via the West Altar Line, turns **RIGHT** on the North Outside Line of March, proceeds East to the East Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** on the North Outside Line of March proceeding east to the East Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and proceeds to the South Outside Line of March, then turns **RIGHT** and proceeds to the JW station. The SD approaches the JW as follows: The SD lines himself up with the center of the JW pedestal, turns **LEFT** toward the pedestal, and conducts the Candidate two paces forward.

Immediately prior to the Candidate's arrival at his pedestal, the JW rises and moves one pace to his **RIGHT**. The SD quietly instructs the Candidate how to salute the Warden. The JW returns the salute after the Candidate renders it, returns behind his pedestal, and sits. (The SD does not move or leave the JW station until he is seated.)

After saluting the JW, the SD returns the Candidate to the Outside Line of March as previously described and proceeds West to the West Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**

and proceeds North to the SW station. The SD and Candidate salute the SW in the same manner described for the JW.

After saluting the SW, the SD rotates himself backward clockwise 90°, then rotates the Candidate forward clockwise 90° to place him on the centerline. Both return straight to the Altar and salute the WM. The WM stays seated and touches his left breast with the gavel to acknowledge the salute. The SD then moves back one pace. The WM then orders the SD to re-conduct the Candidate to the SW for instructions on how to wear his apron.

The SD moves forward to take control of the Candidate, backs clockwise 180° with the Candidate remaining centered, and conducts the Candidate to the 1/3 Line. The SD moves back one pace and gives the WM's instructions to the SW. The SW orders the SD to face to the East.

The SD backs clockwise 180° around the Candidate. When the SW arrives in line with the Candidate, the SD releases the Candidate's arm and moves back one pace.

The SW descends the stairsteps, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, advances one step past the Candidate, turns to his **RIGHT** and explains the apron. After the SW says “bib turned down”, he grasps the bib of the apron with his right hand, lowers it, and finishes the explanation. At the completion of the explanation, the SW turns to his **RIGHT**, ascends the stairsteps with the pedestal to his **LEFT**, returns directly behind the pedestal and sits.

As the SW turns to leave the Candidate, the SD moves up to the Candidate's **RIGHT**, takes him by the arm and waits until the SW sits. The SD then conducts the Candidate directly back to the Altar and both salute the WM. The SD moves back one pace.

The WM orders the Candidate conducted to the East. The SD takes the Candidate by the right arm, turns **LEFT**, just clears the Altar and using the North Inside Line of March conducts the Candidate straight East to the East Outside Line of March. The SD turns **RIGHT** and then **LEFT** placing himself on the center of the pedestal. They then advance two steps.

The WM rises and moves to the **RIGHT** and forward to present the Working Tools to the Candidate. The WM pauses briefly in his oration as he hands each of the tools separately to the Candidate. The WM explains the operative use of the tools, and after saying “But we...” he pauses again and collects the working tool from the Candidate, places them upon his podium with the plumb on top, and the square and level in descending order. Prior to saying “The plumb...” the WM retrieves the plumb with his left hand and displays it facing the Candidate. The WM tips his hat briefly and re-covers as he speaks the words “...several stations before God...”. The WM then places the plumb upon the podium and retrieves the square immediately prior to explaining its uses. The WM repeats the same movements just prior to explaining the level. The WM tips his hat with his right hand as he says “...to that undiscovered Country...”. The hat remains tipped until the end of the explanation, then the WM covers.

Following the presentation of the Working Tools, the WM places the level upon his pedestal moves behind it, and informs the Candidate that he will be re-conducted to the Preparation Room, as well as what will transpire on his return, then sits.

The SD takes the Candidate by his right arm, turns **RIGHT**, goes to the South Outside Line of March and returns to the Altar by the West Altar Line.

As the SD and Candidate reach the Altar, the WM rises, moves one pace to his **RIGHT**, instructs the Candidate on the proper way to enter and retire from a lodge, then steps back behind his pedestal and sits. The SD and the Candidate mimic his instructional movements. (The WM should allow the Candidate to mirror each movement of the salute to ensure he can perform them correctly.)

Both Stewards rise at the word "sign". The SS advances to the 1/3 Line, and the JS opens the Preparation Room door and immediately exits through it. The door remains open at this point. The SD takes the Candidate's right arm, and without any raps or instruction from the WM, turns to his **LEFT** with the Candidate, and goes to the 1/3 Line by way of the West Altar Line and the North Outside Line of March. As the SD arrives at the 1/3 Line, the SS will turn 180° **LEFT**, and take the Candidate by his left arm. (The SS takes the Candidate by his left arm in all three degrees.) The SD conducts the Candidate through the open Preparation Room door. The JS closes the door behind them.

The SD turns 180° **RIGHT**, returns to his place, turns **RIGHT**, and sits.

# LECTURE

## MIDDLE CHAMBER LECTURE

- Brethren will arrange the lodge for the Middle Chamber Lecture while the Candidate is outside changing his attire.
- A rod holder is placed on the JW's platform, at the Northwest corner, with the pointer in place.
- Both Stewards remain in the Preparation Room with the Candidate until he is ready to return.

After the Candidate is properly attired, the SS instructs him to knock three times on the door. The SD, hearing the knocks, rises without instruction from the WM, turns **RIGHT**, and using the North Outside Line of March, proceeds to the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT** and continues to the JW's station. The SD exchanges his rod for the pointer, turns 180° **RIGHT**, goes to the North Outside Line of March, turns **LEFT**, advances to the Preparation Room door, and opens the door without knocking

The SD begins the Lecture while facing the Candidate, and on completion of the first portion, takes the Candidate by his right arm and conducts him into the Lodge, stopping just short of the Pillars. (The SD conducts the Candidate by his right arm during the Middle Chamber lecture.)

The SD waits until the door is closed by the JS, and the Stewards are seated, then while standing beside the Candidate, turns his head to the **LEFT** and continues with the explanation of Operative and Speculative Masonry and the significance of the Pillars.

Upon completion of the Pillar explanation, the SD conducts the Candidate to the foot of the stairsteps.

In explaining the first three stairsteps, the SD turns **LEFT** to face toward the Candidate. (The SD does not physically conduct the Candidate "up" each one.) After explaining the three steps, the SD conducts the Candidate to the foot of the five steps. The SD positions himself so he can easily gesture toward the trestleboard, address the Candidate, and point at each stairstep. (The pointer should be used prolifically here to assist the Candidate in understanding the various parts of the pillars, as well as the five senses.) After explaining the five stairsteps, the SD conducts the Candidate to the foot of the seven stairsteps and explains them, then conducts the Candidate to the JW's station.

After passing the Stairs, the SD conducts the Candidate to the JW's station, centering the Candidate on the JW's pedestal. The SD exchanges the pointer for his rod, places it in his right hand, and stands beside and in line with the Candidate. The SD takes the rod with his left hand, moves it directly behind the Candidate, raps up the JW with three raps, and returns the rod to his right hand.

When the JW demands the pass and token of the pass, the SD reaches over with his left hand, takes hold of the rod and leaves it in place at his right side while he moves onto the JW's

platform. He extends his right hand to the JW and imparts the pass and token of the pass. The JW remains behind his pedestal when receiving both modes of recognition. The SD explains the pass, and is then asked "How did it originate?". The SD again takes the rod with his right hand, backs down the stairsteps to the floor beside the Candidate, and explains the origin of the pass.

When dismissed by the JW, the SD takes the Candidate by his right arm, waits for the JW to be seated, backs up two paces, turns **RIGHT** and advances to the SW's station on the Outside Lines of March. When he reaches the SW's station, the SD turns the Candidate **LEFT**, centering the Candidate on the SW's pedestal. They then advance two paces forward.

The SD takes the rod with his left hand, moves it directly behind the Candidate, raps up the SW with three raps, and returns the rod to his right hand.

When the SW asks for the true grip, the SD reaches over with his left hand, and holds the rod in place at his right side. He ascends the stairsteps and extends his right hand to the SW (who remains behind his pedestal) and imparts the word. The SD again takes hold of the rod with his right hand and backs down the stairsteps to his position. (The SW remains behind his pedestal to receive the true grip and word.)

When dismissed by the SW, the SD takes the Candidate by his right arm, waits for the SW to sit, backs up two paces, turns **RIGHT**, and using the North Outside Line of March, conducts the Candidate to the East Altar Line, turns **RIGHT**, and continues to the center line of the Lodge.

The SD turns the Candidate **LEFT**, placing himself on the center line, and instructs him. Afterward, the SD advances the Candidate straight East to the base of the WM's station. The SD again holds the rod with his left hand, moves it directly behind the Candidate and raps up the WM with three raps, and returns the rod to his right hand. After alerting the WM, the SD steps back one step and remains there during the explanation of the Letter G.

When the WM says "...the Sacred name of Deity...", he takes the gavel with his right hand, then removes his hat with his left hand and places it over his heart. He then holds the hat in place with his left hand, says "...before whom all...", pauses again, and raps three times to raise the Lodge. He lays the gavel upon the podium, and again grips the hat with his right hand. When the Candidate and other Brethren are instructed to bow, the SD moves forward in line with the Candidate and directs him in following the WM's lead. (The WM turns to his left to face the Letter G to bow.)

When dismissed by the WM, the SD waits him to sit, takes the Candidate by his right arm, turns **LEFT** and returns the Candidate to his seat in the NE corner. The SD and candidate sit.

- The Stewards and other Brethren then roll up the canvas and restore the pillars to their places.

## LECTURE INSTRUCTIONS

After the WM explains the lecture of the degree, the Stewards rise without rods, and place the correct number of chairs on the 1/3 Line, centered on the Altar. The SS places the rod holder on the South side of the chairs for the SD's use. (The rod holder moves directly back in every degree.)

The SD rises without raps or instruction from the WM, and using the North Outside Line of March, conducts the Candidate to the chairs. The SD seats the Candidate in the chair to the North, then sits in the chair to the South.

All Brothers giving the Lecture should not cross in front of the Candidate to get into their positions.

## FIRST SECTION LECTURE

The Brother asking the questions faces South on the North Inside Line of March, halfway between the Candidate and the Altar.

The Brother answering the questions faces North on the South Inside Line of March, halfway between the Candidate and the Altar.

## CHARGE

(The Brother giving the Charge should be in place to the North of the WM before the Candidate is conducted to the East.)

Following the Lectures, the WM orders the SD to conduct the Candidate to the East to receive the Charge. The SD conducts the Candidate to the East via the North Inside Line of March. The WM raps up the Lodge, uncovers, and places his hat over his left breast. When the Charge has been completed, the WM covers, sits, and raps down the Lodge. The SD turns **LEFT** with the Candidate, conducts him to a seat next to the SD's place, and both are seated. (In the event the WM is to deliver the charge, he will remain directly behind his pedestal to do so.)

After the charge, the Stewards remove the chairs and reposition the rod holder beside the Altar.

## CLOSING

Closing begins with the WM seated and addressing the SW, then raising him with one rap to inquire if he has anything further to say. The WM raises the JW with one rap and asks if he has anything to say. He then raps up the Secretary and asks him for a response. (Each officer rises on the rap, gives his report, and immediately sits.) The WM then offers the floor for appropriate comments.

The WM raises the lodge and says "Brethren, let us pray." The Chaplain recites the closing prayer, during which the WM places his hat over his left breast with his right hand. All

Brethren assume an attitude of prayer. The Deacons and Stewards lower their rods in the proper manner.

Following the prayer, the WM covers and asks the SW “How should Masons meet?”. After the SW responds, the WM descends the stairsteps diagonally to the center line, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, and moves out two paces. The SW and JW descend their stairsteps at the same time, keeping their pedestals to their **LEFT**, and step out one pace. (The WM, SW, and JW shall descend to the lodge room simultaneously and position themselves directly in front of their pedestals. All three officers should be one step ahead of all the other Brethren physically lined up next to them.) The WM asks “How act, Brother Junior Warden?”. After he responds, the WM instructs the members how to part.

The WM removes his hat with his right hand, places it over his left breast, assumes the attitude of prayer, and delivers the closing benediction. All Brethren assume an attitude of prayer. The Deacons and Stewards lower their rods in the proper manner. The WM takes his hat with his left hand, raises his right arm at 45° with open palm, and delivers the closing declaration. At the word "closed", the WM lowers his arm, and the SW turns **RIGHT** and lowers his column. Following the declaration, the WM takes his hat with his right hand, leaves it over his left breast, and orders the JD and SD to perform their duties.

Simultaneously, the SD moves to the Altar by way of the North Outside Line of March, the JD moves to the door of the lodge, and the WM returns to his station, ascending the stairsteps diagonally, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**. The WM remains uncovered and standing.

While the SD is attending the Altar, the JD knocks three times on the lodge door, waits for the Tyler to return the knocks, opens it, and informs the Tyler that the lodge is closed. The JD closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, and waits until the SD completes his duties.

As soon as the Lesser Lights and the letter G are extinguished, the WM covers, remains standing, and awaits the report of the JD.

The JD waits until the SD has reached his place via the North Outside Line of March, and then informs the WM that he has performed his duty. The WM raps once and the lodge is closed.



# **MASTER MASON DEGREE**

## **OPENING**

- Raps and knocks are accomplished with the right hand.
- All lodge movement is initiated by stepping off with the left foot first.
- Officers returning to their seat shall make right turns as needed before sitting.
- The outside line of march is two steps from the sidelines or the bottom step of stations.
- Deacon and Steward rods must be grounded during prayers.
- The inside line of march is to the designated side of the altar, as close to the altar as possible while maintaining clearance with the altar and the lesser lights.
- The West Altar Line is located one step west of the kneeler, extending from the North Outside Line of March to the South Outside Line of March.
- The East Altar Line is located one step east of the altar, extending from the North Outside Line of March to the South Outside Line of March.
- When releasing a Candidate, the conductor will guide the Candidate's hand down to his side, not allowing it to drop freely.
- The conferral, lectures, and charge must be completed in the same calendar day.
- The Worshipful Master must uncover and stand behind his pedestal when delivering prayers or charges, re-covering when finished.
- The working tools case shall be positioned in front of and at the base of the WM's pedestal. It shall be closed for the EA and FC degree, and open for the MM degree.

In opening any Lodge, five actions must be completed:

**CONGREGATE**

**PURGE**

**TYLE**

**DUTIES**

**DECLARATION**

## CONGREGATING

At the appointed time, the WM will rap once to bring the Lodge to order. The JW raises his column on the Northeast corner of his pedestal. The JD rises and immediately takes the rod in his left hand, ensures all lodge room doors are closed, ending with the Reception Room. He then returns to his place by making a **RIGHT** turn at the door, then making **LEFT** and **RIGHT** turns as necessary to reach his seat, faces East, and sits.

## PURGING

Without rising, the WM addresses the SW, raps once, waits for the SW to rise to his feet, and orders him to purge the Lodge.

The SW addresses the SD and JD, raps once, waits for them to rise, and directs them to approach the West. (The SW remains standing directly behind his pedestal throughout the entire Purging sequence.)

(Whenever the WM calls up the JD, the SD will also rise. When the SD and JD pick up their rods, they are first briefly rested on the floor at the left side with the right hand. Then, with the right hand, the rods are lifted with a flick of the wrist about 3" off the floor and held with the left hand. When the rods are placed down for prayer or saluting, they are not allowed to simply slide down through the left hand, but rather gently pushed down by reaching over with the right hand and quietly lowering the rod. To return the rod to the Carry position, the right hand should be used again to reach across the body and raise the rod, then grasping it with the left hand. The rods should not be dropped or "shrugged" to the floor, but rather, crisply and quietly handled.)

The SD turns **RIGHT**, proceeds by way of the North Outside Line of March to the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT** to meet the JD on the Center line, turns **RIGHT**, steps off with his left foot, and in step with the JD, approaches the SW's station and stops in front of the SW, facing West.

The JD advances directly East from his chair to the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT** to meet the SD at the center of the Altar, turns **LEFT**, steps off with his left foot and advances in step with the SD to the SW's station.

After the SW directs the Deacons to purge the Lodge, the SD turns **RIGHT**, goes to the North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and proceeds to the East purging the Lodge. (The SD and JD should stay in line directly across from each other while advancing to the East during purging. If one Deacon stops to challenge a Brother, the other Deacon pauses and waits until the challenge is satisfied, then continues to the East. No Brother may vouch for another until he has passed the purging ceremony himself. However, the WM, SW, or JW may vouch for a Brother at any time.)

Upon reaching the East, the SD turns 180° **RIGHT**, proceeds on the North Outside Line of March to the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT** to meet the JD, turns **RIGHT**, and advances back to the SW's pedestal.

The JD turns to his **LEFT**, goes to the South Outside Line of March, turns **LEFT** and proceeds to the East, purging the Lodge. Upon reaching the East, the JD turns 180° **LEFT** and keeping in line with the SD, returns along the South Outside Line of March to the West Altar Line, turns **RIGHT** to meet the SD, turns **LEFT**, and advances in step with the SD to the SW's pedestal.

Both Deacons report to the SW that all present are Master Masons. The SW demands the pass from the JD and SD in turn. (The Deacons ascend the stairsteps to the SW, present the pass, then move backward down the stairsteps.) The SW directs the Deacons to collect the pass from the Brethren.

The SD turns **RIGHT**, goes to North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and proceeds to the East purging the Lodge. The JD turns **LEFT**, goes to South Outside Line of March, turns **LEFT** and proceeds to the East purging the Lodge. (The SD and JD should stay in line directly across from each other while advancing to the East and collecting the pass. If one Deacon stops to assist a Brother without the pass, the other Deacon pauses and waits until the situation is resolved, then continues to the East. If a Brother does not know or communicates an incorrect pass, the Deacon will continue to hold the hand of the brother without the pass and address the SW with “Brother SW, a brother without the pass.” After the response from the SW, the Deacon follows the instruction of the SW. The Deacon then advances to the next Brother.)

After arriving at the East Outside Line of March, both Deacons turn toward the center of the lodge, and meet in the center of the lodge on the East Outside Line of March, centered on the Master’s pedestal. The Deacons grasp right hands in the grip of a Master Mason, the JD communicates the pass to the SD, then faces East. The WM rises to receive the pass as the SD turns **LEFT**, ascends the stairsteps and, while facing East, communicates the pass to the WM. The SD turns 180° **RIGHT**, descends the stairsteps, and stands beside the JD. As the SD turns **RIGHT** after communicating the pass, the JD turns 180° clockwise to face West. The WM informs the SW that the pass has been correctly communicated, then sits. The SW responds that all present are Master Masons, and raps the Deacons down. Both Deacons proceed West to the East Altar Line and turns his respective way. The SD goes to the West Outside Line of March while the JD goes to a line centered on his chair, and both return to their place. Both turn **RIGHT** and wait until each other has placed his rod in its holder. The SW, SD, and JD sit simultaneously, queued on the SD

## TYLING

Following one rap by the WM, the Deacons stand simultaneously, and place their rods at Carry.

The WM asks the JD to explain his first duty. The JD responds and is ordered by the WM to inform the Tyler. He turns **RIGHT**, goes to the door and opens it without knocking, advises the Tyler, closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, turns **RIGHT** and reports to the WM. The JD responds to the WM's questions and both Deacons are seated with one rap from the WM, following the SD’s lead.

## DUTIES

With neither rising, the WM addresses the SW. To explain their respective duties, the WM then calls upon the Wardens with two raps, in ascending order beginning with the JW. The SW also explains the WM's duties. After all officers report in proper order, the WM raises the lodge with three raps, then he rises.

Standing directly behind his pedestal, the WM orders the SW to inform the JW that a Lodge of Master Masons is about to be opened. The SW communicates the order to the JW, who communicates it to the craft. After the JW says, "Look to the East", the WM steps one step to his **LEFT**, and both Wardens take one step **RIGHT**. (All Brethren look to the East with a head movement, without turning their bodies to face the East.) The WM instructs and leads the members in the salutes, then the WM, SW, and JW all return behind their pedestals. The JW, SW, and WM, separately and in that order, rap three times and the WM calls for prayer, which is recited by the WM or Chaplain. During the prayer, the WM uncovers with his right hand and places it over his left breast. In the absence of the Chaplain, the WM may recite the prayer from behind his pedestal. All Brethren assume an attitude of prayer. Deacons and Stewards lower their rods in the proper manner.

## DECLARATION

Immediately following the prayer, the WM grasps his hat with his left hand, raises his right arm to a 45° angle with palm open, and declares the lodge open. After saying the words "...as Master Masons." the WM lowers his right arm, the JW lowers his column, and the SW raises his column. Once the WM drops his arm to his side, he immediately resumes hold of the hat, and continues to keep it over his heart. The WM then instructs the JD and SD to perform their duties.

The WM remains standing and uncovered while the SD attends the Altar.

The SD turns **RIGHT**, advances West on the North Outside Line of March, and turns **LEFT** at the West Altar Line. On arriving at the Altar, he faces East and places his rod in its holder. He first removes the Square and Compass from atop the Bible and places them on the Northwest corner of the Altar with the Square at 90°, and the closed Compass parallel to the left side of the Altar. The Bible is then turned 90° upward upon its binding with the long-side page edges facing up. The Bible is slowly opened to the section marked for the proper degree and both sides are laid flat upon the altar, the Bible now open. The ribbon is removed from atop the opened pages and, after lifting only its left half, placed under the Bible to neatly position the ribbon beneath it. The Compass is opened and laid upon the pages of the right half of the opened Bible. The Square is then placed atop the Compass. The Compass should be opened to 60° and in the proper configuration. The SD ensures the Bible is 4" from the front edge of the Altar. He ensures the kneeling pad is 4" behind the Altar and centered. He then positions himself directly between the Altar and the JW, facing North, and illuminates the Lesser Lights. When the Lesser Lights are illuminated, the WM covers and is seated. He then moves directly to his left, travels north via the West Altar Line, retrieves his rod from its holder, continues to the North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**, and returns to his place in the lodge, turns **RIGHT** and waits for the JD to report to the WM.

Simultaneously with and as the SD repairs to the Altar, the JD turns **RIGHT**, goes to the lodge room door, knocks three times, waits for the Tyler to return the knocks, opens the door, and repeats the order to the Tyler. He then closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, turns **RIGHT**, and remains standing. As soon as the SD arrives back at his place following displaying of the lights, the JD reports to the WM that his duty has been performed.

Following the JD's report, the WM will rise and request the Craft to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The Brethren turn their bodies to squarely face the flag.

The WM turns to face the flag, uncovers, places his hat over his heart with his right hand, leads the Craft in the pledge, and re-covers before turning away from the flag. The WM sits, gives one rap to seat the Brethren, and declares the purpose of the meeting.

(The WM may now turn the door over to the SW, if he so chooses.)

## DEGREE WORK

If the Candidate has not previously demonstrated proficiency in the preceding degree, the WM orders the SD to present the Candidate for examination. The SD stands, turns **RIGHT**, goes to the Preparation Room door, opens it, and taking the Candidate by the left arm conducts him into the lodge room. The Preparation Room door remains open during the proficiency examination. The SD conducts the Candidate to the 1/3 Line, turns 90° **RIGHT**, and proceeds on the 1/3 line to the South Inside Line of March. The SD turns the Candidate 180° Clockwise on the 1/3 Line and moves back one step South. The examiner positions himself on the North Inside Line of March, facing South toward the Candidate, and conducts the examination. Upon completion, the SD, the examiner, and the Candidate remain in place until the WM has declared the Candidate proficient and raps. The SD conducts the Candidate to the North Outside Line of March, turns 90° **LEFT**, proceeds to the Preparation Room, and returns him to the care of the Tyler. The SD closes the Preparation Room door, turns 180° **RIGHT** and using the North Outside Line of March returns to his seat, turns 90° **RIGHT**, places his rod in its holder, and sits. The examiner returns to his seat and sits.

The WM raps up the SD, waits for him to rise with his rod at Carry, and orders him to see that the Candidate is duly prepared.

The SD turns **RIGHT**, addresses the Stewards, raps once directly in front of himself then returns his rod to the Carry position, and waits for them to rise. Both Stewards rise and place their rods at Carry in the left hand. When the SD directs them to approach the Altar, both step off together, advance side by side to the West Altar Line, turn **RIGHT**, advance in column to the Altar and center themselves, turn **LEFT**, and salute the WM.

As the Stewards turn **RIGHT**, the SD turns **LEFT** facing South. When the Stewards initiate their salute to the WM, the SD sits.

Following instruction by the WM, both Stewards retire to the Preparation Room without saluting the WM. They turn **LEFT**, go to the North Outside Line of March, turn **LEFT** and advance abreast to the Preparation Room door. The JS opens the door to allow the SS to proceed through, then follows and closes the door.

The Stewards ensure the Candidate is properly prepared, including the Apron, hoodwink, and cabletow, after which the SS instructs the Candidate to give three knocks on the door with his right hand. The Candidate knocks and is then moved back one pace in the control of the JS.

The SD rises at the knocks, takes his rod, and reports the alarm to the WM. The WM orders the SD to attend to the alarm. The SD turns **RIGHT**, advances directly to the Preparation Room door, returns the three knocks, and opens the door. The SS steps forward and answers the initial questions by the SD. (The SS need not be carrying his rod at this time.) The SS moves forward and addresses the question posed to him, then moves back. The Candidate is brought forward to answer the question directed to him, then is moved back once again. The SS moves forward and finishes answering questions, then moves back.

Following the questions and answers between the SD and SS, the SD closes the door, turns 180° **RIGHT**, and returns to the Altar by way of the North Outside Line of March and the West Altar Line. The SD faces the WM, takes the rod in his right hand, fully extends his arm sideways to his right, raps three times on the floor, returns the rod to the Carry position, and has dialogue with the WM.

When the WM so orders, the SD returns to the Preparation Room door by way of the North Outside Line of March and, on the way, picks up the Receiving Tool, which has been placed to the North of the 1/3 Line. He opens the door without knocking and orders the Stewards to conduct the Candidate into the lodge. The SD turns 180° **RIGHT**, goes to 1/3 Line by way of the North Outside Line of March, turns 180° **RIGHT** and faces West. He advances his right foot, places his rod base against his right instep and in the crook of his left elbow, and extends his left hand in front of himself.

After the SD is in place, both Stewards take the Candidate's arms and advance with him side by side to the 1/3 Line. The SD stops the Candidate with his left hand on the Candidate's right shoulder, both Stewards step back one step, and the SS transfers his rod to his left hand.

The SD receives the Candidate by keeping his left hand on the Candidate's right shoulder while relaying the WM's order. After delivering the words "...naked right to left breast..." the SD pauses speaking and places the receiving tool compass point on the Candidate's right breast then extends it to his left breast in order. After placing the tool, he then continues his lines. When the SD finishes speaking, he hands the Receiving Tool to the JS, who properly secures it.

With the Candidate still in place, the SD releases him, steps to the Candidate's **LEFT** facing East, takes him by the left arm, then begins circumambulation. When the SD steps off, both Stewards turn 180° **RIGHT**, advance to their seats, the JS closes the door, and both turn 180° **RIGHT**, then sit. During the circumambulation scripture recital, the WM remains seated, removes his hat with his right hand at the first rap in the South, and places it over his left breast. The Chaplain rises for scripture recital in time to start his prayer immediately following the first rap.

During the Candidate's first circuit, the JW, SW, and WM remain seated, and rap when the Candidate passes directly in front of their pedestal.

During the Candidate's second circuit, the JW, SW, and WM remain seated, and rap twice, timing the second rap to coincide with the Candidate passing directly in front of their pedestal.

During the Candidate's third circuit, the JW, SW, and WM remain seated and rap three times timing the third rap to coincide with the Candidate passing directly in front of their pedestal.

When the SD arrives at the JW's pedestal upon completing the third circuit, he turns **LEFT** with the Candidate, centering himself on the pedestal. Both move forward two paces. The SD moves back one pace, extends his right arm behind the Candidate and raps three times with his rod and returns it to the Carry position. The JW rises behind his pedestal and asks the SD "Who comes here?" Following his response, the JW moves one pace directly to his **LEFT**, places his right hand on the Candidate's left shoulder, and questions him.

Following the Candidate's positive response, the JW moves **RIGHT** behind his pedestal and continues his dialogue with the SD. When the JW says "permission", the SD moves forward one pace, takes the Candidate's left arm, and waits for the JW to seat himself. The SD moves backward with his left foot, swinging his right foot backward 90° so that he and the Candidate are facing down the South Outside Line of March. Both step off with their left foot in unison and move toward the SW on the Outside Line of March and turn **RIGHT** toward the SW.

The same procedure is followed at the SW's station, then they move to the East along the North Outside Line of March to the WM station and follow the same procedure.

Following instruction from the WM, the SD re-conducts the Candidate to the SW using the South Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** on the 1/3 Line, and stops with the Candidate facing West in line with the center of the SW's pedestal. The SD steps back one pace, addresses the SW, waits for him to rise, and repeats the WM's orders.

The SW rises upon being addressed and waits for the SD to finish communicating the WM's order. The SW directs the Candidate to face to the East, which the SD accomplishes by rotating around the Candidate 180° clockwise. The SW then descends his stairsteps, keeping the pedestal to his **LEFT** and approaches the Candidate, stops one step beyond him, turns 90° **LEFT** to face North, and grips the Candidate's right hand with his own. When the SW arrives directly beside the Candidate, the SD releases the Candidate's arm and steps back one pace. The SW instructs the Candidate how to approach the East and moves sideways to his **RIGHT** as he pulls him toward the East, remaining one step ahead of him (The SW should pause speaking briefly while the Candidate performs each instruction). As the Candidate moves forward, the SD advances simultaneously with him, staying one pace's distance behind and to his **LEFT**. (It is not necessary for the SD to place his feet in the same position as the Candidate's. For safety, neither the SW nor the SD should touch the Candidate's legs or feet, regardless of the accuracy of the position of his feet.)

Following the approach instructions, the SW turns **LEFT** and moves directly behind the Candidate, facing East, places both hands on the Candidate's shoulders, and further instructs him.

The SW then turns **RIGHT**, moves one pace South, turns West, and returns to his station, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, and sits.

When the SW leaves for his station, the SD steps forward beside the Candidate. After the SW is seated, the SD informs the WM that his orders have been obeyed, then moves back one pace.

The WM remains seated and delivers the Altar address. The WM tips his hat briefly as he says "...your trust is in God" and covers after saying "...taught to apply to him...". The WM again briefly tips his hat at the words "...you owe to God", then covers.

The WM orders the SD to place the Candidate in proper position at the Altar. The SD moves one pace forward, takes the Candidate by the left arm and, in an audible voice, instructs him to advance, and they both proceed straight to the Altar. The SD places his rod in its holder with his right hand, places the Candidate's hands upon the Altar, and then moves directly behind him.

(In placing the Candidate at the Altar in due form, the SD should first tell him what to do, then physically assist him if necessary. He should not speak and assist at the same time.)

The SD instructs the Candidate to kneel on both knees and assists him to do so by placing both hands on the Candidate's hips and guiding him to kneel. The SD then tells him where his hands will be placed and, using his right hand, places the Candidate's left hand atop the left half of the Holy Bible, and his right hand atop the square and compass on the right half. He then moves directly behind the Candidate, issues an order to him, and affirms that by placing his hands on the Candidate's shoulders.

The SD retrieves his rod from its holder with his right hand, places it in the Carry position in his left hand, re-positions himself one pace directly behind the Candidate, and reports to the WM.

The WM raises the lodge with three raps, then rises. He descends his stairsteps diagonally to the center line, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**. At the bottom of the stairsteps, he removes his hat with his right hand, places it upside down on the second step, and then proceeds along the center line directly West to the Altar.

During the obligation, the WM reaches straight forward and places his hands upon the Candidate's immediately prior to saying "do hereby and hereon...". The WM's hands remain on the Candidate's until after he speaks the words "...with these additions" and are then removed. The WM places his hands on the Candidate's again on the words "So help me God" and removes them on "...due performance of the same". Following the obligation, the WM uses both hands to simultaneously remove the Candidate's hands from the Holy Bible, and positions them so the Candidate's thumbs are just touching the edges of it. The WM then uses his right hand to lift several pages of the Bible and places his left hand on top of the pages. The pages are then turned over with the right hand on top and the left on the bottom to guide them as needed for the Candidate.

The WM then instructs the SD to release the Candidate from his cabletow. The SD remains directly behind the Candidate, advances his right foot, places the rod against his right instep, and in the crook of his left elbow. He removes the cabletow and places it on the floor at the Southwest corner of the Altar. He then moves back one pace behind the Candidate, and places his rod at the carry position.



The WM places his right hand upon the Candidate's head and asks him what he most desires. When he does so, the SD moves forward immediately to prompt the Candidate in his left ear on the proper response, then moves back one pace.

After the WM assures the Candidate "...you shall receive it.", he removes his hand from the Candidate's head, and orders the Brethren to "Assist me in bringing...". Both Stewards advance abreast straight ahead to the 1/3 Line, turn **RIGHT**, and move in column toward the South. The JS stops at the North Inside Line of March and turns **LEFT**. The SS continues to the South Inside Line of March and turns **LEFT**. Both advance in step straight to the East (with the Brethren falling in behind them) and stop on the East Outside Line of March. After the WM orders the Brethren to assist him, he waits for the Stewards to reach his position before turning, turns 180° **RIGHT**, and advances to the East directly between the Stewards. When all brethren are in place, the WM turns 180° **RIGHT**, and the lines turn inward to face each other. The Stewards cross their rods directly over the WM's head, with the JS's rod supporting the SS's rod. (The Stewards hold their rods with the left hand near the base of the rod, waist high, and the right hand approximately 16-inches up the shaft of the rod.)

As soon as the rods cross, the lodge lights are turned off or significantly dimmed. (Only the Lesser Lights are now permitted to be illuminated.) The WM remains beneath the arch formed by the rods and addresses the Candidate. After the WM says "...In solemn commemoration..." the Brethren in the two lines assume the Due Guard position. (If only one or two Brethren form the lines, they must position themselves at the Southeast and Northeast corners of the Altar. The Wardens are not permitted to abandon their stations to join the lines.) After the WM re-states "Let there be light," he pauses. The SD advances his right foot, places the rod against his right instep and in the crook of his left elbow, and removes the hoodwink, which he places on the floor at the Southwest corner of the Altar, then moves one pace behind the Candidate. The WM then finishes his line ending with "...there is light."

The WM advances directly West to the Altar on the center line and explains the items thereon. The Great Lights are not to be touched during this part of the ritual. (The WM may gesture toward them with his right hand for emphasis.)

The WM then turns 180° **RIGHT**, advances to the stairsteps, and in one continuous movement, retrieves his hat with his right hand, covers, and turns 180° **RIGHT**. When the WM finishes turning, the lodge lights are turned on full strength.

The WM illustrates the Due Guard and Sign, which he explains to the Candidate. After the WM says "approaching you from the East..." he pauses speaking and takes three paces. He stands as a Master Mason and says "On the step", then says "...due guard", and demonstrates it. When he says "and Sign", he drops his left hand and demonstrates that. (The Sign requires the feet to remain in the proper position.) As the Sign is given, the Brethren in the lines give the Sign in conjunction with the WM, and the Stewards place their rods at Carry. (The Brethren need not keep their feet in the Due Guard position after the Sign is given.)

The WM again says "This...", pauses speaking, once again demonstrates the Due Guard, and explains its allusion. The WM then says "This", demonstrates the Sign, and explains its allusion.

The WM advances to the Altar, presents the Candidate his right hand and, with the aid of the SD, explains the pass and token of the pass of a Master Mason. (When taking the Candidate by his right hand, the WM should take it in the true grip of a FC Mason. The WM does not physically cause the Candidate to move his thumb to the proper position unless the Candidate is not doing so of his own accord.)

When the WM says "which by the aid..." the SD moves to the North center of the Altar, faces South, and exchanges dialogue with the WM.

The WM orders the Candidate to rise. The SD takes the Candidate by his left arm, and with the WM's assistance, assists him to rise and remains in place in control of the Candidate.

The WM turns 180° **RIGHT**, advances to the East in a straight line and ascends the stairsteps diagonally, keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**. As soon as the WM turns to return to his station, all Brethren in both lines immediately and simultaneously turn to face the East. When the WM reaches his station he sits, then seats the Lodge.

After the WM is seated and raps, the SS turns **RIGHT**, the JS turns **LEFT**, and both proceed to their respective Outside Lines of March with the Brethren following in line. As they reach the 1/3 Line, the JS stops, the SS turns **RIGHT** and advances to meet the JS, then turns **LEFT**. Both Stewards return side by side to their places, turn 180° **RIGHT** and sit. The SD and Candidate remain stationary facing East until the procession passes them.

When the procession clears, the SD turns **LEFT** and conducts the Candidate via the Outside Lines of March to salute the JW and SW at their stations. When saluting the Wardens, the SD lines himself up with the center of the pedestals at the South and West, turns toward the pedestal, and conducts the Candidate two steps forward.

The JW rises and steps one step to his **LEFT** just prior to the Candidate's arrival. The SD quietly instructs the Candidate how to salute the Warden. The JW returns the salute after the Candidate completes it, steps back behind his pedestal, and is seated. The same actions are followed by the SW when the Candidate reaches the West.

(The SD does not move or leave the JW or SW stations until those officers are seated.)

After saluting the SW, the SD rotates the Candidate backward clockwise 90° to place him on the centerline, then moves around him clockwise and proceeds with the Candidate to the Altar, where they salute the WM.

The WM stays seated and touches his left breast with the gavel to acknowledge the salute. The SD then moves back one pace. (The WM always returns a salute by touching his left breast with the gavel.) The WM then orders the SD to re-conduct the Candidate to the SW for instruction on how to wear his apron.

The SD moves forward to take control of the Candidate, moves back one pace with him, rotates 180° clockwise with the Candidate remaining centered, and conducts him to the 1/3 Line. He moves back one pace and gives the WM's instructions to the SW. The SW orders the SD to face to the East.

The SD moves 180° clockwise around the Candidate and stops with him centered facing East.

The SW descends the stairsteps, keeping the pedestal to his **LEFT**, advances one pace past the Candidate, turns to his **LEFT** and explains the apron. After the SW says "...one corner turned up" and while staying in position, he uses his left hand to extend the apron corner closest to him straight up in front of the Candidate, lifts and tucks the other corner under the waistband of the apron with his right hand, and finishes the explanation. On completing the explanation, the SW turns **LEFT**, ascends the stairsteps with the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, returns directly behind the pedestal, and sits.

As the SW turns to leave the Candidate, the SD steps up to the Candidate's left, takes him by the left arm and remains in place until the SW sits. The SD then conducts the Candidate directly back to the Altar and both salute the WM. The SD moves back one pace.

The WM orders the Candidate conducted to the East. The SD takes the Candidate by the left arm, turns **LEFT**, just clears the Altar and using the North Inside Line of March conducts the Candidate straight East to the East Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**, and using the East Outside Line of March, conducts the Candidate South until the SD is centered on the pedestal, then turns **LEFT** and advances two paces.

The WM rises, moves to the **LEFT** and forward to present the Working Tools to the Candidate. The WM gestures with his right hand toward the working tools placed upon the top step as he says "...all the implements of Masonry." He pauses his oration as he mentions the trowel, and then hands it to the Candidate. The WM explains the operative use of the trowel, and after saying "But we...", he again pauses, collects the trowel from the Candidate, and completes the lecture.

Following the presentation of the Working Tools, the WM places the trowel upon his pedestal, moves behind it, informs the Candidate that he will be re-conducted to the place from whence he came, and sits.

The SD takes the Candidate by his left arm using the same method as before, then returns to the Altar.

As the SD and Candidate reach the Altar, the WM rises, moves one pace to his **LEFT**, instructs the Candidate on the proper way to enter and retire from a lodge, then moves behind his pedestal and sits. The SD and the Candidate follow his instruction. (The WM should allow the Candidate to echo each step of the salute, to ensure he can perform the movements correctly.)

Both Stewards rise at the word "sign". The SS advances to the 1/3 Line, and the JS goes to the Preparation Room door and immediately exits. The SD takes the Candidate's right arm, and without any raps or instruction from the WM, turns to his **LEFT** with the Candidate, and goes to the 1/3 Line by way of the West Altar Line and the North Outside Line of March. As the SD arrives at the 1/3 Line, the SS turns 180° **LEFT**, and takes the Candidate by his left arm. (The SS takes the Candidate by his left arm in all three degrees.) The SD conducts the Candidate through the open Preparation Room door and the JS closes it behind them.

The SD turns **RIGHT** 180°, returns to his place, turns **RIGHT**, and sits.

While the Candidate is absent, the JW descends his stairstep with the pedestal on his left, advances to the SW's station using the South and West Outside Lines of March, salutes the SW, exits the lodge room through the Reception Room door, and takes the jewel to the Candidate to wear. The Candidate will wear the jewel for his return to the lodge. The JW reenters the lodge, salutes the SW, and is seated as close as possible, but not in, the JW's chair. The 24-inch gauge should be placed on the step to the West of the JW's pedestal. The square should be placed on the SW's pedestal. The sprig of acacia should be placed on the first stairstep on the North side of the SW's pedestal. The setting maul and canvas should both be placed out of sight near the Northeast corner.

(A brief break may be taken at this time.)

## SECOND SECTION DEGREE WORK

After the Candidate is suitably attired, the SS instructs the Candidate to knock three times on the door. The SD, on hearing the knocks, immediately rises without instruction from the WM, goes to the door and opens it without returning the knocks. (This sequence should be a very reverent period in the degree and the lodge must be silent. No remarks are to be directed to the Candidate.) The SD takes charge of the Candidate and, using the North Outside Line of March and West Altar Line, conducts him to the Altar, then both salute the WM.

Following the salute, the SD turns **RIGHT** with the Candidate, conducts him to the JW's station, and directs him to sit in the JW's chair. The Candidate moves directly to the chair and sits. The SD turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, turns **RIGHT**, and is seated. (The Candidate will both ascend and descend the stairstep to the JW's chair on the West side of the pedestal.)

After allowing a suitable amount of time for the Candidate to contemplate his situation, the WM raps up the SD and orders him to conduct the Candidate to the East. (The WM uses the Candidate's name for this order.) The SD turns **RIGHT**, follows the North Outside Line of March, and turns **LEFT** at the West Altar Line. Halfway between the Altar and the JW's station, he motions with his right hand for the Candidate to rise and step down to the lodge room floor.

The SD turns 180° **LEFT**, then takes the Candidate by the left arm and conducts him along the West Altar Line to the North Outside Line of March. He turns **RIGHT** and conducts the Candidate straight East to the East Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and using the East Outside Line of March, conducts him South. Once the SD is centered on the WM's pedestal, they turn **LEFT**, and advance two paces. The SD then moves back one pace.

The WM rises, moves to his **LEFT**, then forward to the edge of his stairsteps and delivers the address to the Candidate. When the WM refers to the Trowel, he briefly grasps and displays it with his right hand, then lays it back upon the pedestal. After he says "...badge of office.", he takes the JW's Jewel in his right hand and continues the oration. (The WM may step down one step with his right foot, if necessary, to safely retrieve the jewel.) The WM maintains hold on the jewel until the words "...officers of this lodge." He then moves back to the top step and finishes his statement. When the WM asks "Is it so?", the SD moves forward one pace, answers on behalf of the Candidate, then moves back one pace.

After the WM says "...Go then, my brother..." he presents his right hand to the Candidate to grasp his, removes his hat with his left hand and places it over his heart, and then completes the address. The WM releases the Candidate's hand at the words "may the blessing of God attend you", then uses his right hand to re-cover, goes behind his pedestal, and sits.

The SD steps forward to take control of the Candidate at the words "Go then...". After the WM sits, the SD rotates the Candidate backward clockwise 90°, and with a slow pace, conducts the Candidate to the South Outside Line of March, then turns **RIGHT** and proceeds to West Outside Line of March. On reaching the West Outside Line of March, the SD turns **RIGHT**, continues to the center line of the Lodge, turns **RIGHT**, and approaches the Altar with the Candidate centered on it.

(During the conducting of the Candidate from the WM's station to the Altar, "Nearer My God to Thee" may be played and/or sung.)

On arriving at the Altar, the SD releases the Candidate, places his rod in its holder, and moves directly behind the Candidate. The SD informs him he must again be hoodwinked, the WM raises the lodge with three raps, then standing directly behind the Candidate the SD hoodwinks him. The SD places the Candidate's hands upon the Altar, then directs and assists him to kneel. The WM stands and places his hat over his left breast with his right hand in the attitude of prayer, which all Brethren likewise assume. Once the Candidate kneels, the SD informs him of his prayer, and instructs him to rise on completion. The SD then assumes an attitude of prayer.

Following the prayer, the WM covers, sits, then seats the Lodge with one rap. After the Candidate rises, the SD turns him **LEFT**, facing North, and standing directly in front of and facing the Candidate, delivers a lecture. Upon completion of it, the SD backs 180 counter-clockwise, takes the Candidate's left arm, moves to the North Outside Line of March, and begins circumambulation. (The SD's rod remains in its holder.)

During circumambulation, the SD moves at a brisk pace to the three stations. The SD never releases the Candidate until arriving at the 3rd Ruffian (JM) station near the SD's chair.

The first two Ruffians (JA and JO) are stationed directly in front of the JW and SW (respectively) pedestals and two paces inside their respective Lines of March to prevent the Candidate from passing.

During questioning, the SD pulls the Candidate backward while JA tries to pull him forward. When JA releases his hold on the Candidate, the SD pulls the Candidate back two paces and delivers his response, again attempts to pass JA, and is again blocked. This pattern is repeated a third time. Following the third refusal, the SD steps off to continue his journey. Before the Candidate passes the JW pedestal, JA retrieves the 24-inch gauge, moves to the North of the Candidate, and employs it. JA then replaces the gauge atop the pedestal, turns **RIGHT**, and follows three paces behind the Candidate and two paces inside the Outside Lines of March, then proceeding **RIGHT** on the West Outside Line of March to JO.

As before, during JO's questioning the SD pulls the Candidate backward while JO tries to pull him forward. When JO releases his hold on the Candidate, the SD pulls him back two paces and delivers his response, again attempts to pass JO, and is again blocked. This pattern

is repeated a third time. Following the third refusal, the SD steps off to continue his journey. Before the Candidate passes the SW pedestal, JO retrieves the square, moves Northeast of the Candidate, and employs it. JO replaces the square atop the pedestal, turns **RIGHT**, and follows three paces behind the Candidate, on the Outside Lines of March and abreast of JA, as they move toward JM.

(While the SD is engaged with JO, the six canvas bearers should move to the Northeast corner of the lodge, retrieve the canvas, and place themselves on the South side of the North Outside Line of March. Canvas bearers are not permitted to cross between the Altar and the East to get into position.)

After the Candidate is engaged by JM, the six canvas bearers quietly center themselves on the North Outside Line of March and hold the canvas open directly behind the Candidate. The canvas is held at approximately 45° to the floor with the East end about six inches above the floor and close behind the Candidate's ankles. The two Brethren located on the East end of the canvas stretch it taut, being careful to not touch the Candidate. Great care must be taken by canvas bearers to avoid all verbal and other noise during this sequence.

JA (on the South) and JO (on the North) locate themselves at the West end of the canvas facing East. During his conversation with the SD, JM tightly grasps the Candidate's lapel or shirt with his left hand and slightly rocks him to lessen his off balance.

The SD releases his hold on the Candidate as soon as JM grasps him, moves North of the North Outside Line of March, and faces South. The SD retrieves the setting maul with his right hand and places it in JM's right hand. JM places the setting maul handle upon the Candidate's left temple immediately prior to saying "I hold in my hand...". The SD responds to the demands presented by JM, and then remains out of the way until the Candidate, canvas bearers, and Ruffians depart.

JM strikes the Candidate on the forehead with the setting maul and pushes him backward. The two Brothers holding the leading edge of the canvas pull it taut and forward, striking the Candidate just above his heels simultaneously as JM pushes him.

JM hands the setting maul to the SD, who places it in the Northeast corner. (The setting maul is NOT used as a pillow for the candidate.)

The canvas is then lowered to the floor. If necessary, the Candidate is instructed to reposition himself on the canvas. (The body remains uncovered.)

The six canvas bearers step back one pace (North or South as their positions dictate) and remain in place while the Ruffians have their discussion. When JM says "...among the rubbish.", the six canvas bearers lift the canvas and follow JM, who turns **LEFT** and proceeds South on the East Outside Line of March to the South Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT** and proceeds West far enough for the canvas to be placed in the Southeast corner. He turns 180° **RIGHT** and faces East while the canvas is laid down.

The canvas bearers center it on the South Outside Line of March and gently lower it to the ground while facing inward, then move back one pace. During transporting of the canvas, it

should be carefully carried about 6" off the floor in a reverent manner in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion, and not "bounced" or "jiggled" in any manner.)

(The SD now portrays the 1Cf.) As soon as the Ruffians and canvas bearers leave the Northeast corner, the SD turns **RIGHT**, proceeds on the North Outside Line of March to the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT**, goes to the Altar and retrieves his rod, and returns to his station via the North Outside Line of March. The SD backs into his station, places the rod in its holder, and turns **RIGHT** to proceed down the North Outside Line of March. The SD silently gestures for the 2Cf (SS) and 3Cf (JS) to join him, and all three leave the Lodge through the Preparation Room door. The 1Cf opens the door and exits and the 2Cf and 3Cf follow in order. The 3Cf closes the door behind them.

While in the Southeast corner, JA and JO remain abreast, East of the canvas, facing West. JM is positioned at the center of the canvas on the West end facing East. The canvas bearers remain one pace back from the canvas to allow JA and JO to pass, and remain in that position until the three Ruffians return from the West. (The body remains uncovered.)

JM says "...meet here again.", and all lighting except the three Lesser Lights are turned off. JM turns 180° **RIGHT** and leads the march in a triangular position on the South Outside Line of March to the West. The GSW should start the chimes when the Ruffians leave the body.

When the chime strikes "six," regardless of how far West they have advanced, all three Ruffians turn 180° **RIGHT** and return in the same triangular position to the canvas. The Ruffians must pace themselves to arrive at their original positions as the chime sounds for the 12th time.

When JS and JO arrive in place at the East end of the canvas, they both turn 180° **RIGHT** to face West. When JM says "...we will bury it.", he 180° **RIGHT**, and the canvas bearers lift the canvas and all follow JM to the West.

Led by JM, the carrying party completes two and one-half decreasing radius circles, then lowers the canvas to the floor (centered on the Altar halfway between it and the GSW's station) with the Candidate's feet to the East. The two sides of the canvas are used to cover the Candidate's body from the chest down. The canvas carriers return to their seats. JM is centered at the feet and facing West while JA and JO are shoulder to shoulder at the head of the body facing East. (JA is on the South while JO is on the North.)

JA takes one side step **RIGHT**.

JO takes one step back to the West.

JM advances to the GSW's station along the South side of the body, retrieves the Sprig of Acacia, turns **RIGHT**, and places it at the head of and centered on the canvas. The lodge lights are returned to full.

JM says "...by way of Joppa.", turns 90° **LEFT**, takes two paces North and turns **RIGHT**, moves to the middle of the canvas, turns **LEFT**, and advances to the SFM.

JO advances two paces West and follows JM one step behind and one step to his left.

JA turns **RIGHT**, moves past the foot of the canvas, turns **LEFT** and advances to one step behind and one step to JM's right, and all three proceed in a triangular position to the SFM. (The SFM is located on the NORTH side of the Lodge centered on the canvas.)

Following discussion with the SFM, all three Ruffians turn 180° **RIGHT**. JM advances to the center of the canvas. JO moves around the head of the canvas and places himself at the shoulders on the South side, facing North. JA moves around the foot of the canvas to the knees on the South side, facing North. Once in position, a discussion is held on how to proceed.

After JA says "back into the country," he turns 90° **RIGHT** while JO turns **LEFT**. JA moves around the foot of the canvas with **LEFT** turns to a line two paces to the right of JM then turns **RIGHT**. JO moves simultaneously around the head of the canvas with **RIGHT** turns to a line one step to the right of JM then turns **LEFT**. JM turns 180° **RIGHT** facing North and all three advance abreast to sit on the North sideline, JM seated furthest West and JA seated furthest East.

(At this point the Brethren create confusion and the WM becomes King Solomon.)

KS raps to halt the confusion, then asks the GSW about its meaning. The GSW raps the lodge up, and inquires if any of the Brethren have seen HA. The GSW gestures to the Brethren on the South side of the lodge and leads them in asking the question. He then gestures to the Brethren on the north side of the lodge and leads them in the response. (Both gestures are performed with the right hand.) The GSW raps the Brethren down and informs KS of HA's absence.

KS responds, and upon completion of his statement "...some accident has befallen him.", the 1Cf knocks three times on the door of the Lodge. The JD reports the alarm to KS, who orders him to attend to it.

The JD turns **RIGHT**, goes to the door, knocks three times, opens it, and makes inquiry. He closes the door, returns to his place, faces East and reports. When ordered, he turns **RIGHT**, goes to the door and opens it without knocking, and moves to the South. Once the Craftsmen have entered, the JD closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place and sits.

The three Craftsmen enter in column led by the 1st Cf. They turn **LEFT** on the West Outside Line of March, go to the North Outside Line of March, turn **RIGHT** and go to the West Altar Line, turn **RIGHT**, and once the 2Cf is centered on the Altar, turn left 90° **LEFT** facing East. The 1Cf steps forward one pace and reports to KS, then moves back one pace.

KS addresses the GS and raps once. The GS rises, receives his orders, and advances to the West along the South Outside Line of March until he passes the JW's station. Without stopping, he calls the first three names before reaching the West Outside Line of March. The GS solicits a response by gesturing with his right hand toward a Brother sitting between the JW station and the West Outside Line of March as he calls each of the first set of three names. On reaching the West Outside Line of March, he stops, turns **RIGHT**, faces the grave at a 45° angle, and calls JA's name three times. The GS should briefly pause between each time he utters JA's name as if waiting for a response.



Not receiving an answer, he continues North on the West Outside Line of March and calls the 2nd set of three names before reaching the North Outside Line of March. He once again solicits a response by gesturing toward a Brother sitting between the Southwest corner and the Northwest corner as he calls each of the second set of three names. On reaching the North Outside Line of March, he stops, turns **RIGHT**, faces the grave at a 45° angle, and calls the JO's name three times. The GS should briefly pause between each time he utters JO's name as if waiting for a response.

Not receiving an answer, he continues East on the North Outside Line of March calling out the 3rd set of names before he reaches the West Altar Line. He once again solicits a response by gesturing toward a Brother sitting between the Northwest corner and the West Altar Line. On reaching a position one step West of the West Altar Line, he stops, turns **RIGHT**, faces the grave at a 45° angle, and calls JM's name three times. The GS should briefly pause between each time he utters JM's name as if waiting for a response.

He proceeds South, one step West of the West Altar Line, passes behind the three Craftsmen, and completes the roll call by placing his right hand on the right shoulder of the three Craftsmen in order as he calls the last three names.

On reaching the South Outside Line of March, the GS turns **LEFT**, steps forward to line up with the center of the Altar, stops and reports to KS. KS then raps to dismiss the GS, who proceeds directly East to his table and sits.

KS addresses the Craftsmen. The 1Cf moves one pace forward, answers for the group, then moves back. When dismissed by KS, all three Craftsmen turn **RIGHT**, go in column to the South Outside Line of March, turn **RIGHT**, and advance in column to the intersection with the West Outside Line of March where they stop in column facing the WFM, and enter into dialogue. The WFM is situated on the South Outside Line of March, one step West of the West Outside Line of March. Following dialogue, the 1Cf turns 90° **RIGHT**, turns his head an additional 90°, addresses the other two Craftsmen, waits for them to agree with his suggestion, and returns to the Altar by way of the West and North Outside Lines of March and the West Altar Line, with the 2Cf and 3Cf following in order. The 1Cf goes to the South edge of the Altar, and all face East.

The 1Cf moves forward one step, reports to KS, and moves back. KS gives them further orders. All Craftsmen turn **RIGHT** and march in column to the South Outside Line of March by way of the West Altar Line, turn **RIGHT**, go to the West Outside Line of March, and turn **RIGHT**.

The 1Cf proceeds one step North of the Candidate's head, then stops. The 2Cf makes his announcement and kneels at the Candidate's head. The 1Cf turns 180° **RIGHT**, grasps the 2Cf by the left arm, and admonishes him to pursue the journey. Once the 2Cf finishes expressing his surprise, the Ruffian lamentations begin. The 1Cf moves just beyond the Candidate, turns **RIGHT**, moves to the center of the Candidate on the North side, and faces South. The 2Cf turns **LEFT**, disposes of the sprig of acacia on the SW's step, North of the pedestal, turns **LEFT**, moves to the Candidate's shoulders on the South, and faces North. Once the 2Cf moves toward the SW's pedestal with the acacia, the 3Cf moves forward one pace, turns **RIGHT**, moves to the Candidate's knees on the South, and faces North.

Following the lamentations, the Craftsmen complete their dialogue. The 1Cf turns 180° **RIGHT** and advances to JM. The 2Cf simultaneously moves to his **LEFT** around the head of the grave, passes behind the 1Cf, and advances to JO. The 3Cf simultaneously moves to his **RIGHT** around the foot of the grave and advances to JA. (The Ruffians should be seated with JM furthest West, centered on the Candidate. JO is seated just East of JM, and JA on the East end of the three.)

Moving in column, the Craftsmen conduct the Ruffians on the North Outside Line of March and the West Altar Line to the Altar, with the 2Cf lined up on the center, and the 1Cf on the North. The Craftsmen turn and cause the Ruffians to face East, release their holds, and remain directly behind "their" Ruffian.

The 1Cf moves one pace to his left and advances to the center of the Altar on the North Inside Line of March, reports to KS, turns 180° **RIGHT**, and makes two left turns to position himself directly behind JM. While the 1Cf is moving to his position behind JM, KS starts his dialog with JA.

On the words "Take them" the Craftsmen take hold of their Ruffians' arms, turn **RIGHT**, and using the West Altar Line, conduct them to the South Outside Line of March, turn **RIGHT**, and release their Ruffians on the way to the Southwest Corner. The Ruffians take seats on the South side of the Lodge. (The Ruffians are released between the JW's pedestal and the West Outside Line of March.)

The 2nd and 3rd Craftsmen continue West one step past the West Outside Line of March, and turn 180° **RIGHT** to face East. The 2Cf is now in front of the 3Cf. The 1Cf turns **RIGHT** at the West Outside Line of March and returns to the Altar by way of the North Outside Line of March and the West Altar Line with the 2nd and 3rd Craftsmen following in column. On arriving and centering themselves at the Altar, all turn **LEFT**, the 1Cf moves forward one pace, reports to KS, then moves back. When dismissed, all turn **RIGHT** and use the South Outside Line of March to return to the West.

When they arrive at the grave, the 1Cf stops one step South of the southernmost shoulder of the Candidate on the West Outside Line of March, announces they have arrived at the correct place, proceeds to just past the canvas, turns **RIGHT**, proceeds East to the center of the Candidate on the North side, then turns **RIGHT** facing South.

The 2Cf stops at the South Inside Line of March until the 1Cf starts to move North, then moves forward one pace, turns **RIGHT**, continues to the shoulders on the South side of the Candidate, turns **LEFT**, and takes one step forward. As soon as the 2Cf starts to move the 3Cf follows suit. He moves forward one pace to the spot previously occupied by the 1Cf, turns **RIGHT**, proceeds to the knees on the South side of the Candidate, turns **LEFT**, and takes one step forward. The 3Cf makes his proclamation and the Candidate is uncovered. The 2Cf delivers his assessment. The 1Cf suggests a course of action, issues his findings, and waits for agreement from the 2nd and 3rd Craftsmen before retrieving the jewel.

All three Craftsmen rise. The 1Cf turns **RIGHT** and goes to the West Outside Line of March and turns **RIGHT** again. The 2nd and 3rd Craftsmen turn **LEFT**, move to the West Outside Line of March, turn **RIGHT** and follow the 1st Craftsman in column to the North Outside

Line of March and turn **RIGHT**. The 1Cf turns **RIGHT** one step before reaching the West Altar Line and is followed by the 2nd and 3rd Craftsman.

On arriving at the Altar, all turn **LEFT**. The 1Cf moves forward one pace, reports to KS, then after saying “However,” pauses speaking, turns **LEFT**, passes on the West Altar Line in front of the 2nd and 3rd Craftsmen, turns **RIGHT** at the North Inside Line of March, and proceeds East. As soon as the 1Cf has passed in front of the 2nd and 3rd Craftsman, they step forward one step to the West Altar Line. The 1Cf completes his report to KS as he proceeds East, ascends KS’s stairsteps, and hands the jewel to him. (The 1Cf’s report should finish just as he hands the jewel to KS, who remains seated.) Once the jewel has been presented to KS, the 1Cf turns 180° **RIGHT** and returns to the West Altar Line via the North Inside Line of March. KS accepts the jewel and starts his address to the GSW, who immediately rises. (KS begins his address while the 1Cf is returning to the Altar). KS finishes the address, the GSW sits without orders to do so, and KS lays the jewel upon his pedestal. The 1Cf passes one step beyond the West Altar Line, turns **LEFT**, passes behind the 2nd and 3rd Craftsmen, and turns **LEFT** to his prior location at the South end of the Altar.

KS pardons the Craftsmen, raps to dismiss them, and three things occur simultaneously: 1) The Craftsmen turn **LEFT** and advance toward the North Outside Line of March. The SD continues to the North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**, advances to his chair, turns **RIGHT** and retrieves his rod and remains standing. The 3Cf turns at the North Outside Line of March and the 2Cf turns at a point in line with his chair. Both turn **LEFT** simultaneously and advance abreast to the Stewards' chairs. Upon reaching the chairs, both turn 180° **RIGHT**, retrieve their rods, and remain standing. 2) The JW returns to his station in the South. 3) The Marshal rises and moves West on the South Outside Line of March, turns 90° **RIGHT** facing North, and stops.

KS raps three times to raise the lodge and issues an order to the GSW. The GSW repeats the order to the Brethren, and after the GSW says "...find out the right," the Marshal proceeds North on the West Outside Line of March, turns 90° **RIGHT** one step before the North Outside Line of March, and proceeds East. The Stewards step forward and fall in behind the Marshal, with the JS on the Outside Line of March, and the SS two paces inside the Outside Line of March. The Marshal, with his sword at Carry, proceeds around the Lodge one pace inside the Outside Lines of March, followed by the Stewards and the Brethren. (During the procession, the Funeral Dirge is played or sung by a good singer.) The Brethren may join the procession forming columns of two as it passes. As the procession passes the Southwest Corner, the Deacons, who have been positioned one step beyond the Outside Lines of March, fall in line at the rear, the JD on the inside. The GSW falls in on the inside of the line behind the JD as the procession passes the SW’s station. As the procession passes KS’s station, he falls in line on the outside, beside the GSW.

When the Marshal begins moving East, the 1Cf moves just enough forward to clear the Marshal and Stewards, turns **RIGHT**, and proceeds directly West to the North side of the Candidate, lays his rod on the floor, removes the Candidate’s hoodwink, rises, picks up his rod, and takes a position to the **LEFT** of the JD in the Southwest corner.

When the Marshal reaches KS's pedestal the third time, he stops on the center line, turns 90° **LEFT**, raises his sword to the East at a 45° angle and splits the procession into two lines. The SS turns **RIGHT** and continues West along the North Inside Line of March with his

column of Brethren in line behind him. The JS passes the Marshal and turns **RIGHT** on the South Inside Line of March with his column of Brethren in line behind him.

When the last member of the procession passes, the Marshal ascends KS's stairsteps, takes the Chaplain by his right arm, descends diagonally back to the center line and conducts him to the Altar. As soon as all are in place, the Marshal extends his sword point to one inch over the Bible, with the edge downward.

Both Stewards lead their respective columns toward the West using the Inside Lines of March. They continue around the head of the grave passing each other (both staying to the right as they pass) and advance East to the center of the Altar on the Inside Lines of March. The Stewards, Brethren, and Deacons all face in simultaneously. The Stewards raise their rods directly over the Altar with the JS's rod supporting the SS's rod.

The JD stops at the West end of the South line and the SD stops at the West end of the North line.

At the end of the march, KS stands directly in front of the GSW's station, one pace East of the Deacons, facing East. The GSW goes between the canvas and the South Inside Line of March to the foot and faces KS. The Deacons raise their rods with the JD's rod supporting the SD's rod.

KS commands the GSW to apply the grip of an EA. The grip fails, and the GSW explains the reason. The lodge lights are dimmed by 1/3. All Brethren give the GHSD. KS commands the GSW to apply the grip of a FC, which also fails and the GSW again explains the reason. The lodge lights are dimmed another 1/3, and the GHSD is again given by all Brethren. KS asks "What shall we... ", the GSW answers, the lodge lights are turned completely off, the JW raps the entire lodge up for prayer while the Brethren at the grave kneel. (Those unable to kneel remain standing and assume an attitude of prayer.) When the Brethren kneel, the Stewards' and Deacons' rods are released, and on rising, their rods are returned to Carry in the left hand. The Marshal places his sword at rest (point down) and returns his sword to Carry when the prayer is finished.

During the prayer, the lights are gradually turned up to 2/3 brightness. At the conclusion of the prayer, the JW raps down all Brethren in the lodge room not assembled at the grave. When KS says "My mind is now clear..." the lights are turned to full brightness.

KS finishes his address, tipping his hat on the words "inexhaustible supply above ...", covers, then tips his hat again at "...Tribe of Judah...", and covers after saying "He shall prevail."

After the prayer, KS moves by way of the North side to the Candidate's right foot. The GSW walks clockwise around the Candidate, joins KS at the Candidate's left foot, and assists KS in raising the Candidate.

In preparing the Candidate for raising, KS and the GSW instruct and assist the Candidate to bend his knees, tuck the canvas backward past his feet so they are flat on the floor, then pull him up to a standing position. (After the Candidate is raised and when he can do so safely, the SD removes the canvas and places it out of the way in the West sidelines.)

When KS and the GSW pull the Candidate to his feet, KS uses the strong grip of a Master Mason on his right hand and the GSW uses a normal grip on the Candidate's left hand. KS maintains his grasp of the Candidate's hand, the GSW ensures both KS and the Candidate are on the FPF, and KS whispers the GMW into the Candidate's left ear. Once the GMW has been whispered back to him, KS begins an explanation. While maintaining his grip upon the Candidate's right hand, KS mentions each point, then positions himself with the Candidate on each point, in order. He then releases the Candidate's hand, moves back one pace, and explains the symbolism of all five points. During the explanation, KS tips his hat as he says, "Deity."

KS demonstrates and vocalizes the GHSD, then explains it. Once the explanation of the GHSD is complete, KS waits until the SD takes charge of the Candidate, then turns **RIGHT**, goes to the North Inside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**, and proceeds to the East between the JS and the Marshal. The JS, Marshal, Chaplain, and SS turn simultaneously and walk toward the East abreast with KS. All Brethren in the lines face East, follow the Stewards to the East, and remain facing East. The SS stops one pace short of the East Outside Line of March. The GSW and the JD turn **RIGHT**, return to their places, and remain standing. The Chaplain returns to his seat without being escorted up KS's stairsteps.

Upon reaching the East, the Marshal recovers the jewel from KS's pedestal and moves to the East end of the South Line. When the Marshal is in place in front of the SS, all Brethren face the Center Line.

KS continues straight up the stairsteps with the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, returns directly behind his pedestal, remains standing, and instructs the SD to conduct the Candidate to the East (using the Candidate's full name.) The SD conducts the Candidate on the Center Line, turning **LEFT** and **RIGHT** to clear the Altar, turns **LEFT** on the Center Line with the Candidate on it, and proceeds to the base of KS's stairsteps.

As the SD conducts the Candidate East between the two lines of Brethren, the lines turn East as the Candidate passes.

When the Candidate is in place at the East, KS sits. (No congratulations, presentations, or comments may be made by the WM or other Brother at this time.)

KS raps once to dismiss the two lines of Brethren. The Marshal turns **RIGHT** and is followed by the SS and the Brethren who are on the South Inside Line of March to move in column to the South Outside Line of March and turn **RIGHT**. The Marshal proceeds to the JW's station, turns **LEFT**, moves forward one pace, places the jewel upon the JW's pedestal, turns **LEFT**, returns to his place, and sits. The Brethren return to their seats on the sidelines.

When KS dismisses the lines, the JS and the Brethren who are on the North Inside Line of March turn **LEFT**, move in column to the North Outside Line of March, turn **LEFT**, and proceed West to their sideline seats.

Both Stewards proceed West to the 1/3 Line. The JS stops upon reaching the 1/3 Line. The SS turns **RIGHT** at the 1/3 Line and proceeds North to a point in line with his chair. Both turn **LEFT**, advance abreast to their seats, turn **RIGHT**, and sit.

The SD remains in place with the Candidate until all have passed by, then backs up one pace, turns **LEFT**, and conducts the Candidate to a seat near the SD. The SD rotates 90° **LEFT** to place the Candidate in front of his chair, allows him to sit, then seats himself.

## **LECTURE**

### **LECTURE INSTRUCTIONS**

After the WM instructs the Candidate on the upcoming Lecture, the Stewards rise without rods, set the correct number of chairs on the 1/3 Line centered on the Altar, and place the rod holder on the North side of the chairs for the SD's use. When the chairs are in place, the SD rises without further instruction and uses the North Outside Line of March to conduct the Candidate to the chairs. The SD is seated at the North end of the chairs.

The Stewards do not remove the chairs or replace the rod holder beside the Altar until after the Charge has been delivered.

All Brothers giving the Lecture should not cross in front of the Candidate to get into their positions.

### **FIRST SECTION LECTURE**

The Brother asking the questions faces South on the North Inside Line of March, halfway between the Candidate and the Altar.

The Brother answering the questions faces North on the South Inside Line of March, halfway between the Candidate and the Altar.

### **SECOND SECTION LECTURE**

The Brother giving the Lecture faces South on the North Inside Line of March, halfway between the Candidate and the Altar.

### **THIRD SECTION LECTURE**

The Brother delivering the Lecture faces South on the North Inside Line of March, halfway between the Candidate and the Altar. After the Lecturer says, "...melancholy abode," he pauses speaking. The WM raps up the lodge, the Lecturer turns **LEFT**, moves East on the North Inside Line of March to the East Altar Line, turns **RIGHT**, moves one pace South, and turns **RIGHT** to face the Altar. The Lecturer should end up between the Center Line and the North edge of the Altar facing West. The SD conducts the Candidate directly East to the Altar. The Lecturer continues his lecture and immediately after saying, "opening scenes of eternity," the Lecturer will pause speaking and move backwards two paces to the East. He then continues the lecture from that position until after he says, "... we are in death." The Lecturer pauses again and moves two paces forward to the Altar and completes the lecture.

## CHARGE

(The Brother giving the Charge should be in place to the South of the WM before the Candidate is conducted to the East.)

Following the Lectures, the WM orders the SD to conduct the Candidate to the East to receive the Charge. The WM uncovers with his right hand and places his hat over his left breast. (In the event the WM delivers the charge, he remains directly behind his pedestal to do so.) The SD takes the Candidate by the left arm, turns **LEFT**, turns **RIGHT** at the North Inside Line of March, and conducts the Candidate straight East to the East Outside Line of March. The SD turns **RIGHT** on the East Outside Line of March, conducts the Candidate South until the SD is centered on the pedestal, then turns **LEFT**, advances two steps, and stops at the base of the stairsteps. The SD moves back one pace. When the Charge has been given, the WM covers, sits and raps once to seat the lodge. The SD moves up to take charge of the Candidate and remains in place until the WM instructs the Candidate to sign the lodge's bylaws. The SD turns **RIGHT** and conducts him to the Secretary's table. Once the Candidate has properly signed the bylaws, the SD takes him by the left arm, rotates him to face West, conducts him West on the South Outside Line of March to the West Altar Line, turns **RIGHT**, conducts him to the North Outside Line of March, turns **RIGHT**, returns him to a seat next to the SD's place, and both sit.

## CLOSING

Closing begins with the WM seated and addressing the SW, then raising him with one rap to inquire if he has anything further to say. The WM raises the JW with one rap and asks if he has anything to say. He then raps up the Secretary and asks him for any response. (Each officer rises on the rap, gives his report, and immediately sits.) The WM then offers the floor for any appropriate comments.

The WM raises the lodge and says "Brethren, let us pray." The Chaplain recites the closing prayer, during which the WM places his hat over his left breast with his right hand. All Brethren assume an attitude of prayer. The Deacons and Stewards lower their rods in the proper manner.

Following the prayer, the WM covers and asks the SW "How should Masons meet?". After the SW responds, the WM descends the stairsteps diagonally to the center line keeping the pedestal to his **RIGHT**, then moves forward two paces upon reaching the floor. The SW and JW descend their stairsteps simultaneously with the WM, keeping their pedestals to their **LEFT**, and move out one pace upon reaching the floor. (The WM, SW and JWs should all be directly in front of their pedestals.) The WM asks the JW "How act, Brother Junior Warden?", and after the JW responds, instructs the members on how to part.

The WM removes his hat with his right hand, places it over his left breast, assumes the attitude of prayer, and delivers the closing benediction. All Brethren assume an attitude of prayer. The Deacons and Stewards lower their rods in the proper manner. The WM takes his hat with his left hand, raises his right arm at 45°, and delivers the closing declaration. At the word "closed", the WM lowers his arm and the SW turns **RIGHT** and lowers his column.

Following the declaration, the WM takes his hat with his right hand, leaves it over his left breast, and orders the JD and SD to perform their duties.

Simultaneously, the SD moves to the Altar by way of the North Outside Line of March, the JD moves to the door of the lodge, and the WM returns to his station, ascending the steps diagonally, keeping the pedestal to his RIGHT. The WM remains uncovered and standing.

While the SD attends the Altar, the JD knocks three times on the lodge door, waits for the return knocks, opens it, and informs the Tyler that the lodge is closed. The JD closes the door, turns **RIGHT**, returns to his place, and waits until the SD completes his duties.

As soon as the Lesser Lights and Letter G are extinguished, the WM covers, remains standing, and awaits the report of the JD.

The JD waits until the SD has reached his place via the North Outside Line of March, then informs the WM that he has performed his duty. The WM raps once and the lodge is closed.