

**MNRAM CONSTITUTION -**

**CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
GRAND CHAPTER  
OF  
ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF MINNESOTA**

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**ARTICLE 1 - NAME - JURISDICTION - SEAL**

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*Section 1.* This Grand Chapter shall be known by the name of "Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Minnesota," and its jurisdiction shall be the concerns of Capitular Masonry within said State.

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*Section 2.* It shall have a corporate seal, with such device and inscription, as is now, or hereafter be, determined, for use on all instruments issued under its authority.

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**ARTICLE II - COMPOSITION**

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*Section 1.* This Grand Chapter shall be composed of a Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Grand Captain of the Host, Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Grand Master of the Third Veil, Grand Master of the Second Veil, Grand Master of the First Veil Grand Sentinel, and all Past Grand High Priests, Past Grand Kings, Past Grand Scribes, and Past High Priests of the subordinate chapter of this jurisdiction who at the time are members of subordinate chapters of this jurisdiction, together with High Priests, Kings and Scribes and Secretaries for the time being, of the several subordinate chapters or the proxies of the High Priests, Kings and Scribes appointed by them, respectively, from among eligible voting members of their chapters.

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**ARTICLE III - OF ITS POWERS AND AUTHORITY**

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*Section 1.* This Grand Chapter is the only source of, and has supreme power and authority over, Capitular Masonry in Minnesota, with all the attributes of sovereignty and government, - legislative, executive and judicial, limited only by the Ancient Landmarks, the laws and usages of Freemasonry, this Constitution, and the General Regulations and laws adopted in conformity therewith.

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*Section 2.* It has the sole authority to grant dispensations and charters for the opening and holding of chapters of Royal Arch Masons, and of lodges of Mark, Past and Most Excellent Masters, and assign the jurisdictions thereof, and when expedient to revoke, annul, or suspend the same; to enact and repeal laws and regulations for the government thereof, and of Capitular Masonry in Minnesota; to try its own members; to

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34 hear and determine all appeals and to settle controversies and grievances arising  
35 between its chapters or the members thereof; to prescribe and require a uniform mode  
36 of work and of the by-laws for chapters; to require from its chapters such dues and fees  
37 as will at all times discharge its engagements, and to do all things whatsoever which  
38 may seem necessary to the peace, harmony, well being, advancement and perpetuity of  
39 Royal Arch Masonry.

40 *Section 3.* Whenever this Constitution, and the Regulations and laws adopted in conformity  
41 therewith, are silent upon any subject, the following shall govern:

42 1. The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of  
43 Minnesota, so far as applicable, and

44 2. If the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and this Grand Chapter are the same,  
45 the decisions of the Grand Lodge there under, unless from time to time otherwise  
46 specifically provided for, by this Grand Chapter.

47 *Section 4.* The Grand High Priest is vested with all the powers and authority of this Grand  
48 Chapter, not herein or by express law otherwise limited, during the interval between the  
49 annual convocations of the Grand Chapter, in any case which may require action  
50 without delay, subject to review by this Grand Chapter

51 *Section 5.* The Legislative powers of this Grand Chapter extend to every matter not herein  
52 expressly delegated to its chapters.

53 *Section 6.* The Executive powers of this Grand Chapter are such as will make effectual this  
54 Constitution, and legislation in conformity thereto, and as will enforce Masonic usage,  
55 and shall be carried out by the Grand High Priest in all cases, unless this Grand Chapter  
56 has specifically provided otherwise

57 *Section 7 ..* The Judicial powers of this Grand Chapter are:

58 **1st.** Original, - embracing all controversies between its chapters, or between chapters  
59 and its members, or between members of different chapters, and the enforcement of  
60 discipline upon its members and chapters, and upon all other Capitular Masons in this  
61 jurisdiction: Provided, that this clause shall not be construed to deprive a subordinate  
62 chapter of the right to enforce discipline upon any of its own members, wherever they  
63 may be, except its High Priest or a Grand High Priest while in office, and

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64 **2nd.** Appellate - embracing all matters of controversy or discipline arising in any  
65 chapter, and over which it has not exercised original jurisdiction.

**ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS - QUORUM - VOTING**

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67 *Section 1.* The Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter shall regularly occur at such time as  
68 may be fixed by General Regulations.

69 *Section 2.* Special Convocations may be held at any time by order of the Grand High Priest  
70 upon thirty (30) days previous notice to each chapter and member of the Grand  
71 Chapter, specifying the purpose of the proposed meeting, and no business shall be  
72 transacted thereat, except such as is specified in said call.

73 *Section 3.* Emergent Convocations may be opened at any time by the Grand High Priest,  
74 or upon his order, for any Masonic ceremonial purpose, without notice.

75 *Section 4.* Representation from twenty five (25%) percent of the chartered Chapters in good  
76 standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at Annual or  
77 Special Convocations, but lesser numbers may meet until a quorum appears.

78 *Section 5.* Every member of, and representative to, the Grand Chapter, present at an  
79 annual or special convocation, shall be entitled to cast one vote upon. all questions:  
80 Provided, that in case of the election of officers, or when the ayes and nays are  
81 called, if a High Priest, King or Scribe is not present representing his Chapter in  
82 person or by proxy, his vote may be cast by the senior officer of the chapter who is  
83 present; or, if no Dias Officer is present, and none has appointed a proxy, their  
84 remaining three available votes may be claimed by the chapter Senior Past High  
85 Priest among those who may be present; or in the absence of all chapter Past High  
86 Priests, by the Chapter Secretary. Neither an absent chapter Secretary nor an  
87 absent chapter Past High Priest may appoint a proxy to cast his vote, as such. Be it  
88 further provided, that in all cases of a tie aye and nay vote, the Grand High Priest  
89 may cast another one vote.

90 *Section 6.* Whenever, by reason of epidemic, danger to life, war, or other cause, the holding  
91 of the Annual Convocation, at the time and place specified by law is rendered  
92 inexpedient, the Grand High Priest, by the advice and consent of the Grand Council,  
93 may change the time or place of meeting for that Convocation, upon notice to all  
94 chapters and members, giving the reason for the change; provided that if it is

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95 necessary or expedient to change the time of the Annual Convocation under the  
96 conditions hereinbefore provided then and in that event the elective officers for the  
97 ensuing year shall be elected by the members of the Grand Chapter upon a ballot  
98 furnished by the Grand Council and Grand Secretary, and which elective officers,  
99 together with appointments made as provided, after being duly installed, shall hold  
100 office (unless previously removed by death or for other cause) until their successors  
101 are elected and qualified.

**ARTICLE V - OF ITS OFFICERS**

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103 *Section 1.* The officers of the Grand Chapter shall be - Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand  
104 Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Grand Captain of the Host,  
105 Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Grand Master of the Third Veil,  
106 Grand Master of the Second Veil, Grand Master of the First Veil, Grand Sentinel, and a  
107 board of three (3) Trustees. The first three (3) officers named shall constitute the Grand  
108 Council.

109         The first three officers named shall constitute the Grand Council.

110 *Section 2.* The first five officers named in Section 1, and the Grand Captain of the Host,  
111 shall be elected by written ballot and majority vote, at the Annual Convocation, and  
112 each shall hold office (unless previously removed by death or for other cause) until  
113 his successor is elected and qualified; except as herein otherwise' provided. The  
114 Board of Trustees shall consist of three elected members, the Grand High Priest by  
115 virtue of his office, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary as advisory  
116 members. Beginning with the 1974 Grand Convocation, the first Board of Trustees  
117 shall be elected from among the membership of this Grand Chapter, one for one  
118 year, one for two years and one for three years. That companion receiving the  
119 highest number of votes at the 1974 Grand Convocation shall be elected for three  
120 years, the next highest for two years and the third highest for one year. Thereafter,  
121 as vacancies occur for elected terms, the successors shall be elected for three  
122 years. If any vacancies occur between Grand Convocations, the Grand High Priest  
123 may appoint a member of this Grand Chapter to fill the position until the following  
124 Grand Convocation.

125 *Section 3.* All other officers shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest with the approval  
126 of the Grand Council, provided, however, that the Grand High Priest cannot appoint  
127 a member of the same chapter of which he may be a member unless previously

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128 appointed to the advancing line, to the office of Grand Principal Sojourner, Grand  
129 Royal Arch Captain, Grand Master of the Third Veil, Grand Master of the Second  
130 Veil, Grand Master of the First Veil or Grand Sentinel.

131 *Section 4.* Each officer, to be eligible to hold office in the Grand Chapter, must be a  
132 member of a Chapter in this jurisdiction and all, except the Grand Chaplain, a  
133 present or past High Priest.

134 *Section 5.* The Grand High Priest while holding such office cannot be also hold the office of  
135 High Priest of any chapter in which he holds membership.

136 *Section 6.* The titles by which the officers and past officers of this Grand Chapter shall be  
137 addressed are as follows:

138 Grand High Priest and all Past Grand High Priests - "*Most Excellent;*"  
139 Grand King, Past Grand Kings, Grand Scribe, Past Grand Scribes, Grand  
140 Treasurers, Past Grand Treasurers, Grand Secretary and Past Grand  
141 Secretaries - "*Right Excellent,*"  
142 and all other officers - "*Excellent.*"

143 *Section 7.* Every officer shall be installed before entering upon his duties; and if not present  
144 for installation at the Annual Convocation, he shall be installed at such time and  
145 place as the Grand High Priest may direct.

146 *Section 8.* In the event of the death, or permanent absence or inability of the Grand High  
147 Priest, the Grand King, the Grand Scribe and the Grand Captain of the host, in the  
148 order named, will assume the office and become acting Grand High Priest until a  
149 new Grand High Priest is elected. If the acting Grand High Priest is to serve more  
150 than seven (7) months of the elected Grand High Priest, he shall be installed as  
151 Grand High Priest and consider that his term. He shall be entitled to all the rights  
152 and privileges of a Past Grand High Priest when his term is completed.

153 *Section 9.* A vacancy occurring in an elective office of the Grand Chapter shall be filled by the  
154 next lower ranking officer in line moving up and serving as acting, except the offices of  
155 (Grand Treasurer and/or Grand Secretary which shall be filled by the Grand Council.  
156 All other offices shall be filled by the Grand High Priest.

157 **ARTICLE VI - OF THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF GRAND OFFICERS**

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158 *Section 1.* The Grand High Priest, in the interval between the Annual Convocations of the  
159 Grand Chapter, is vested with the executive power and authority, except to grant  
160 charters, and by virtue thereof,

161 **1st.** May grant dispensations, for charters, for change of the meeting  
162 place of a chapter, for public processions or assemblies held under  
163 Masonic direction, (provided that no dispensation shall be required  
164 for a Masonic funeral) and for election of officers at a subsequent  
165 stated convocation where the regular time has passed, or in case  
166 of vacancy in any elective office except the High Priest, but such  
167 dispensation must require notice of such election to be given at a  
168 stated convocation or by mail to each member in the jurisdiction  
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170 **2nd.** May convene any chapter at any time, preside at any of its meetings,  
171 inspect its paraphernalia and appurtenances and its books, papers,  
172 work and proceedings, or deputize it to be done by another, and  
173 require of it and its officers full conformity to Masonic law and  
174 usage.

175 **3rd.** May arrest the charter or dispensation of any chapter and suspend  
176 the operations thereof, until the close of the next Annual Grand  
177 Convocation.

178 **4th.** May suspend a High Priest from the exercise of his office, and arrest  
179 his jewel, when charges are preferred against him, or for other  
180 good reason until the next Annual Convocation, and appoint a  
181 commission of Past High Priests to take and report the evidence  
182 upon his alleged offense.

183 **5th.** May convene the Grand Chapter in special or emergent convocation  
184 as hereinbefore specified.

185 **6th.** May appoint representatives near other Grand Chapters, and receive  
186 and accredit representatives from them.

187 **7th.** May draw orders upon the Grand Treasurer for the payment of relief,  
188 or or other emergent purposes, or to make or change investments,  
189 as provided by the Grand Chapter.

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190           **8th.** May exercise such other powers as are warranted or required by the  
191                           Ancient Landmarks, Usages and Customs of the Craft; Provided,  
192                           that he shall have no power to suspend or in any manner  
193                           supersede the operation of any law of this Grand Chapter.

194           The duties of the Grand High Priest are:

195                   **1st.** To preside at all convocations of the Grand Chapter.

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197                   **2nd.** To execute the will of the Grand Chapter.

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199                   **3rd.** To appoint all officers and committees of the Grand Chapter not  
200                           otherwise provided for.

201                   **4th.** To constitute, either in person or by proxy, all newly chartered chapter  
202                           and install their officers.-

203                   **5th.** To exercise a supervisory control over all Grand officers, and  
204                           several chapters, and all Royal Arch Masons - in Minnesota, and  
205                           see that the Constitution an-d General Regulations, laws and  
206                           orders of the Grand Chapter are observed, supported and  
207                           obeyed.

208                   **6th.** To present an address to the Grand Chapter immediately after the  
209                           opening of each Annual Convocation, detailing his Official acts  
210                           during the preceding year, the condition of Capitular Masonry in  
211                           Minnesota, together with such matters as he may deem best, and  
212                           make such recommendations for legislative action as may seem  
213                           necessary or expedient.

214           *Section 2.* The duties of the Grand King are:

215                   **1st.** To attend the convocations of the Grand Chapter and assist the  
216                           Grand High Priest as he may require, and in his absence preside.

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218                   **2nd.** In case of the temporary absence of the Grand High Priest from the  
219                           jurisdiction or of any disability which prevents him from performing his duties  
220                           and exercising his powers, - the Grand King if necessary, shall perform  
221                           such duties and exercise such powers, during such absence or disability -

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222 as acting Grand High Priest, and

223 **3rd.** In the event of the death, or permanent removal from the  
224 jurisdiction or disability of the Grand High Priest, he shall assume  
225 and exercise all the powers of that office, as acting Grand High  
226 Priest, until a new Grand High Priest is elected and installed.

227 **4th.** To have general supervision of the District Officers as to  
228 arranging dates and places for Festivals and Schools of  
229 Instruction.

230 *Section 3.* The duties of the Grand Scribe shall be to assist the Grand High Priest in the  
231 convocations of the Grand Chapter, to attend him upon visitations when required by  
232 him, and to discharge such other duties as appertain to his office.

233 In the absence of the Grand King he shall fill the station vacant and perform  
234 the duties thereof. In the event of the death, absence from the jurisdiction or  
235 inability otherwise of both Grand High Priest and Grand King, he shall likewise  
236 succeed to and exercise all the powers and duties of the office of Grand High Priest  
237 as acting Grand High Priest.

238 *Section 4.* The duties of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall be such as may be  
239 prescribed by their installation obligations and charges, and by this Constitution and the  
240 General Regulations of this Grand Chapter.

241 *Section 5.* The duties of the Grand Captain of the Host shall be to assist the Grand High  
242 Priest in the Convocations of the Grand Chapter, attend him upon visitations when  
243 required by him and to discharge such other duties as appertain to his office.

244 In the event of the death, absence from the jurisdiction or inability otherwise  
245 of the Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe, he shall succeed to and  
246 exercise all the powers and duties of the office of Grand High Priest as acting Grand  
247 High Priest.

248 *Section 6.* The duties of the Board of Trustees shall be:

249 **1st.** To direct investments, reinvestment and liquidate or transfer of all funds  
250 of this Grand Chapter, which are not needed for current operating  
251 expenses, into investment instruments that are guaranteed and insured.

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252                   Such investments may be jointly decided with the Grand High Priest or  
253                   as directed by legislation at a Grand Chapter Convocation.

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255                   **2nd.** To hold in trust all records, property, equipment and paraphernalia as  
256                   may be owned or controlled by the Grand Chapter and report annually  
257                   net worth of such.

258                   **3rd.** Direct an annual audit of the financial condition of the Grand Chapter  
259                   and certify to the accuracy of same at each Grand Chapter  
260                   Convocation. Such audit to be conducted by Auditors chosen by the  
261                   board of Trustees and acceptable to the Grand High Priest; such audit  
262                   to show balances, inventories of securities, properties, earnings and  
263                   disbursements.

264                   **4th:** The Grand Treasurer/Secretary shall be bonded in the amount of sixty  
265                   percent (60%) of the value of the total funds of the Grand Chapter. The  
266                   bond is to be paid by the Grand Chapter.

267                   *Section 7.* The duties of all other officers shall be those which traditionally pertain thereto, or  
268                   which shall be required of them by the Grand Chapter.

**ARTICLE VII - OF GRAND CHAPTER FINANCES**

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270                   *Section 1.* The fiscal year of this Grand Chapter shall end with the close of banking hours on  
271                   December 31st, beginning with the year 1992, and it shall be the duty of both the Grand  
272                   Treasurer and Grand Secretary to close their books of accounts as of that date and to  
273                   submit them to the Committee on Finance at such time and place as the Grand High  
274                   Priest shall designate. The Committee on Finance shall submit acceptable copies of the  
275                   books of accounts to the Board of Trustees for audit who, then, shall report on such  
276                   audit to the Committee on Finance at least one month prior to the opening of the  
277                   following Grand Convocation.

278                   *Section 2.* The revenues of this Grand Chapter shall be derived from:

279                   **1st.** Fees charged for dispensations, charters, diplomas, certificates and  
280                   other instruments issued under its authority.

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282                   **2nd.** Dues from its subordinate chapters, which shall be equal and uniform,  
283                   and paid annually upon the memberships in good standing as shown

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284 on their last preceding annual reports respectively, and upon all  
285 exaltations during the fiscal year just ended.

286 **3rd.** The sale of any supplies or books required to be purchased of the  
287 Grand Chapter.

288 **4th.** The funds, dues or proceeds of property of defunct or dissolved chapters.

289 **5th.** The interest and income from its investments or from any other source.

290 *Section 3.* The following fees shall be charged:

291 **1st.** For every original charter or dispensation to open a chapter - \$25.00

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293 **2nd.** For every charter to perpetuate an original charter - \$ 10.00.

294 **3rd.** For a diploma, certificate or for books and supplies, such charges as  
295 may be fixed by the Grand Council - the fee or charge shall accompany  
296 the petition or request in each of the foregoing cases.

297 **4th.** For each Royal Arch Mason reported in good standing by a chapter in its  
298 last preceding Annual Return, the per-capita dues of \$9.00, excepting  
299 that no dues shall be charged upon indigent members in good standing,  
300 whose dues have been remitted by the subordinate Chapter and,  
301 providing that a list of those members be included in and made a part of  
302 such Annual Return and, provided further, that such exemption of dues  
303 to the Grand Chapter cover only such members as have their dues  
304 remitted for a period of such Annual Return. This amendment to be  
305 effective with the per capita payable on February 10, 2011 and shall,  
306 automatically, amend the By-Laws of all Subordinate Chapters by  
307 increasing the dues for all members by an amount equal to the increase  
308 in per capita.

309 **5th.** For each exaltation by a Chapter, or at its request, upon its own  
310 election during the fiscal year just ended - \$ 15.00

311 The amounts called for in the last two items shall accompany the  
312 annual returns, and both must be in the Grand Secretary's hand on or  
313 before February 10th in order to constitute a chapter in good standing.

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314 *Section 4.* All moneys from every source received by the Grand Secretary and by him paid to  
315 the Grand Treasurer as required by law shall be deposited by the latter in the name of  
316 "Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Minnesota, " in some bank or other financial  
317 institution, designated from time to time, by the Grand Chapter, of (if it has not done so)  
318 by the Grand High Priest, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer.

319 *Section 5* Any permanent or special fund of the Grand Chapter shall be kept separate from  
320 its general fund against which appropriations for the ordinary general expenses of  
321 the Grand Chapter are made and orders drawn.

322 *Section 6.* No money shall be drawn or obligated from the funds of the Grand Chapter without  
323 approval of the majority of the Finance Committee and using standard business and  
324 banking processes.. A Warrant shall be such form as may be designated by the Finance  
325 Committee or prescribed by such bank or depository, and shall be issued and approved  
326 prior to drawing or obligating funds. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary shall  
327 maintain a record of all Warrants and Checks issued, A quarterly report shall be issued  
328 detailing all financial transactions of the previous months to the Grand Council and  
329 Finance Committee members..

330 All financial accounts shall have no less than two (2) signatures affixed as  
331 authorized access.

332 *Section 7.* The Grand Treasurer, at least one (1) month before the same becomes payable,  
333 shall deliver to the Grand Secretary any and all bonds or other evidence of indebtedness  
334 belonging to the Grand Chapter; and if any moneys shall come to his hands from any  
335 source (except through the Grand Secretary), he shall promptly pay the same to the  
336 Grand Secretary for his proper accounting under the law.

337 *Section 8.* Except to make or change investments, or for relief or emergent purposes as  
338 provided by Article VI, Section 1, of this Constitution, no order shall be drawn upon  
339 any fund of this Grand Chapter, unless expressly authorized by an appropriation  
340 therefor.

341 *Section 9* Grand High Priest Expenses - On or before sixty days [60] prior to the Annual  
342 Convocation of the Grand Chapter, the Grand King, who traditionally becomes the  
343 Grand High Priest shall report in writing to the Committee on Finance his plans for the  
344 year involving expenses to be incurred, this for the use of the Committee on Finances in  
345 considering and determining what amount should be appropriated for such purposes and

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346 what its recommendations are thereto.

347 The amount appropriated may he paid to the Grand High Priest in advance, up to  
348 two-twelfths (2/12) thereof within ten (10) days after the Annual Communication of the  
349 Grand Lodge and upon submission of a complete accounting of all prior expenditures of  
350 previously advanced funds, up to two-twelfths (2/12) thereof each month thereafter  
351 during the Grand High Priest's year, until such appropriation for the Grand High Priest's  
352 expense is exhausted,

353 The Grand High Priest must submit an accounting of his expenses to the Grand  
354 Treasurer, provided, however, if any portion of said appropriation is not needed, the  
355 Grand High Priest shall so report to the Grand Treasurer and the same shall not be paid  
356 to him. Any moneys paid to him not properly expended for the purposes appropriated  
357 shall be refunded to the Grand Treasurer.

358 Section 10. Other Officer's Expenses - On or before sixty days [60] prior to the Annual  
359 Convocation of the Grand Chapter, the Committee on Finance shall budget and  
360 appropriate money for the expenses of the following Officers for the next Grand King,  
361 Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Lecturers, District Officers, and  
362 the Keystone Editor. The amount appropriated may be paid in advance upon written  
363 request and must be full accounted for. Any moneys paid out that are not properly  
364 expended for the purposes appropriated shall be refunded to the Grand Treasurer

365 Section 11. All unexpended balances of appropriations made for a fiscal year just ended  
366 shall revert back to the General Fund without action by the Grand Chapter.

367 Section 12. Every resolution, or motion contemplating an appropriation of funds, shall be  
368 proposed by, or referred to, the Committee on Finance before it can be acted upon;  
369 and no appropriation can be made after that committee has made its regular report,  
370 except by unanimous consent. Provided, however, that nothing herein contained  
371 shall prevent the reference of such resolution, first to some other appropriate  
372 committee for consideration and report, before its reference to the Committee on  
373 Finance.

374 Section 13. The Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, in company with the Trustees, shall  
375 submit a quarterly summary of all orders, checks issued, investments made or changed  
376 monthly to the Grand High Priest.

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377 *Section 14.* The Grand Treasurer, and the Grand Secretary and his Assistant, shall receive for  
378 his services such compensation as may be appropriated by the Annual Convocation.

379 *Section 15.* A Charity Fund shall be established in the amount of twenty five thousand  
380 dollars (\$25,000.00) and a standing committee of three (3) shall be appointed each  
381 year by the Grand High Priest to administer this fund. The proceeds from the fund  
382 may be distributed among distressed worthy persons, their widows or orphans, aid  
383 to the distressed during a disaster in any area, benevolent foundations or anywhere  
384 the fund might relieve suffering and want.

385 Any Chapter within this jurisdiction may submit requests to the committee stating  
386 full particulars relative to the case; and if the Committee determines the situation  
387 worthy, aid may be given.

**ARTICLE VIII - OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

388 *Section 1.* This Grand Chapter shall have the following Standing Committees:

- 390 1. A Committee on Appeals and Grievances to consist of five (5) members.
- 391 2. A Committee on Chapters to consist of five (5) members.
- 392 3. A Committee on Credentials to consist three (3), the Grand Secretary and two (2)  
393 other members.
- 394 4. A Committee on Finance to consist of five (5) members.
- 395 5. A Committee on Foreign Correspondence to consist of one (1) member.
- 396 6. A Committee on Jurisprudence to consist of five (5) members.
- 397 7. A Committee on State of the Rite to consist of three (3) members.
- 398 8. A Committee on Capitular Masonry Education and Promotion to consist of three  
399 (3) members.
- 400 9. A Committee on York Rite Cooperation to consist of three (3) members.
- 401 10. A Committee on Annual Grand Convocations to consist five (5), the Grand  
402 Scribe as Chairman, the Grand Captain of the Host, and three (3) other  
403 members.

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404 13. A Committee on Charity to consist of three (3) members. *(See Article VII, Section 13).*

405 14. A Nominating Committee to consist of three (3) members.

406 15. A committee on the Souvenir Program Booklet to consist of one (1) or more  
407 members.

408 All committees shall make a written report upon the matters belonging to them  
409 respectively to the Annual Convocation.

410 *Section 2.* The Grand High Priest shall appoint from members of the Grand Chapter the  
411 Committee on Appeals and Grievances, Foreign Correspondence and Jurisprudence as  
412 soon as possible after his installation and all other committees shall be appointed by the  
413 Grand High Priest at the beginning of his term of office. He shall notify in writing all  
414 Chairmen of Committee members of their appointments, and advise the Grand  
415 Secretary of his selections.

416 *Section 3.* The Grand High Priest may convene any committee when he deems it necessary,  
417 and he shall convene the Committee of Finance and Distribution, Appeals and  
418 Grievances and Jurisprudence at least one day before the Annual Convocation, if there  
419 is any business for them, respectively, to consider and report upon at such Convocation.

420 *Section 4.* No elective line officer of this Grand Chapter shall be named as Chairman of a  
421 Standing Committee, except the Committee on Credentials, and the Committee on  
422 Annual Grand Convocation; and there shall be, on each Standing Committee, at least  
423 one Dias Officer or Secretary from a Subordinate Chapter.

424 *Section 5.* It shall be the duty of the Committee on Appeals and Grievances to meet upon order  
425 of the Grand High Priest, and to hear, consider and report upon all appeals, as well as  
426 all controversies between chapters, and charges against members of the Grand  
427 Chapter, all of which matters must be referred to it.

428 *Section 6.* It shall be the duty of the Committee on Chapters to have referred to it and to  
429 examine and report upon, the work and proceedings of all chapters under dispensation,  
430 the annual returns of chapters, together with all petitions for, and other matters  
431 concerning, charters. It shall notify the Committee on Finance of the amount any chapter  
432 has paid in excess of the amount due, that provisions may be made to refund the same.

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433 *Section 7.* It shall be the duty of the Committee on Credentials to prepare and report a roll of the  
434 members of, and representatives to, the Grand Chapter present at any annual or special  
435 convocation, and to include therein the names of the representatives present of foreign  
436 Grand Chapters near this Grand Chapter during the first session of the convocation.

437 It shall also be its duty to make a preliminary oral report at the opening of the Grand  
438 Convocation, of whether or not a quorum of the chapters are therein represented, and a  
439 final report, after roll call, not later than the opening of the afternoon sitting of that day. In  
440 order to facilitate the preparation of said reports, it is made the duty of each officer and  
441 member of and representative to, the Grand Chapter, as well as of each committeeman,  
442 to present himself at once at the Grand Secretary's office or at his desk in the Grand  
443 Chapter hall, upon arriving at the place of meeting, and register his attendance and  
444 receive and sign an attendance card. No one who fails to so register shall be reported in  
445 the proceedings as present. In addition: to examine and report upon the qualifications of  
446 visitors, when directed by the Grand High Priest, and recommend Honorary  
447 Memberships of the Grand Chapter.

448 *Section 8.* It shall be the duty of the Committee on Finance to have referred to it and to report  
449 upon the books and accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and to  
450 consider and report at the last session of the Grand Convocation, upon all motions and  
451 resolutions involving appropriations of the funds of the Grand Chapter, with its  
452 recommendations of appropriations for the expenses of the Grand High Priest not  
453 including inspection visitations; for the expenses of visitation and inspections made by or  
454 by order of the Grand High Priest or by other Grand Officers or committees, as well as  
455 other sums to carry on the work of the Grand Chapter for the ensuing year, and no  
456 appropriation not included in such report shall thereafter be made except by unanimous  
457 consent.

458 *Section 9.* It shall be the duty of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence to review the  
459 reports submitted to it in writing by the Grand Representatives of other Grand Chapters  
460 near the Grand Jurisdiction of Minnesota concerning the transactions of such Grand  
461 Chapters as they represent.

462 This Committee shall make a brief summary of each such report and place the same  
463 in the hands of the Grand Secretary on or before the date of the Annual Grand Chapter  
464 Convocation for printing.

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465 *Section 10.* It shall be the duty of the Committee on Jurisprudence to have referred to it, and to  
466 consider and report its recommendations upon, all acts, decisions and  
467 recommendations of the Grand High Priest, as well as upon all proposed legislation  
468 affecting this Constitution, or any law, rule or regulation of this Grand Chapter, or of the  
469 Ancient Landmarks, Usages or Customs of Masonry, all such to be referred to this  
470 committee at least ten days prior to the Grand Convocation.

471 *Section 11* It is the duty of the Committee on State of the Rite to report on all matters not  
472 otherwise disposed of, all matters of general interest which should add to the knowledge  
473 and create and interest in Capitular Masonry in Minnesota.”

474 *Section 12.* The duties of the Committee on Capitular Masonry, Education and Promotion shall  
475 be to conduct and maintain an active, aggressive campaign of Masonic Education and  
476 Membership promotion. To formulate plans for such Education in Subordinate Chapters  
477 advising on what is available in books, pamphlets and articles on Chapter Masonry. To  
478 promote Membership recruitment and retention, and promote involvement in relationship  
479 with other Masonic bodies by establishing plans for liaison with them.

480 *Section 13.* The duties of the Committee on York Rite Cooperation shall be to promote, with  
481 other York Rite Bodies, joint activities. The installations of Officers, Festivals, Social and  
482 Religious events by Subordinate Bodies, to promote the establishment of a York Rite  
483 events calendar and submit it to the Royal Arch Magazine to be printed in the Minnesota  
484 section quarterly, together with such other Masonic news that will encourage and  
485 promote York Rite Cooperation in this Grand Jurisdiction.

486 *Section 14.* The duties of the Nominating Committee shall be to select candidates and review  
487 their qualifications for the elected, non line officers of Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary  
488 and Trustee(s) of this Grand Chapter and to present the names of those "selected for  
489 nomination in a written report published prior to election of the Grand Officers.

490 *Section 15.* The duties of the Committee on Annual Grand Convocation shall be to handle all  
491 arrangements and details relating to the following Grand Convocation as directed by the  
492 Grand High Priest. That the Finance Committee shall, each year, recommend a dollar  
493 sum be budgeted for allocation to the use of this Committee. That within thirty (30) days  
494 following the Grand Convocation, this Committee will prepare a full report for printing in  
495 the Proceedings of such Grand Convocation; containing a detail of all financial  
496 transactions and other pertinent activities and that any remaining dollar balance in its

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497 keeping be paid over to the Grand Secretary for return to the General Fund. The term of  
498 this Committee shall begin with the date of the discharge of its predecessor and shall  
499 conclude upon its discharge by the Grand High Priest then in office.

500 *Section 16* It shall be the duty of the Committee on the Souvenir Program Booklet to send all  
501 information pertaining to the purchase of advertisement in the Booklet for the upcoming  
502 Annual Convocation to all Subordinate Chapter and other Masonic Bodies prior to  
503 December 1, of the next Grand Convocation. To secure a printer to print the Booklet,  
504 and when completed pay over to the Grand Secretary one-half (½) of the net income  
505 derived from Booklet as soon as all outstanding Booklet accounts have been collected  
506 and the Booklet bills have been paid. The committee shall give a report on its activities  
507 at the Annual Convocation.

**ARTICLE IX - OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS**

508  
509 *Section 1.* A chapter of Royal Arch Masons can be formed only by a charter or warrant of this  
510 Grand Chapter, but a dispensation may issue from the Grand Chapter or, in the interval  
511 between its annual convocations, by the Grand High Priest - in either case upon the  
512 petition of not less than nine regular Royal Arch Masons, of known skill and moral  
513 standing, in the form and under the conditions prescribed by the General Regulations,  
514 authorizing them to open a chapter of Royal Arch Masons and lodges of Mark, Past and  
515 Most Excellent Masters, and therein to confer the several capitular degrees in conformity  
516 with the law governing the same, until forty-five (45) days preceding the next Annual  
517 Convocation of this Grand Chapter.

518 *Section 2.* A chapter working under dispensation shall be governed by the same laws and rules  
519 as chartered chapters as to petitions for and the conferring of degrees, including the  
520 fees to be charged therefor, and such chapters shall have no power otherwise, except to  
521 adopt By-Laws and to elect officers preliminary to their being granted a charter.

522 *Section 3.* Chapters take precedence according to seniority of their respective charters - those  
523 granted upon the same date receiving numbers in the order in which they started work  
524 under dispensation.

525 *Section 4.* No chapter shall be named for a living person.

526 *Section 5.* A subordinate chapter has the powers specified in its dispensation or charter, and by  
527 the Constitution, General Regulations and laws of this Grand Chapter, and they are:

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528           **1st.** Executive - in the direction and performance of its work under control of its High  
529           Priest, who has the primary executive powers of a chapter and is responsible to  
530           the Grand Chapter for its acting properly and within legal bounds.

531           **2nd.** Legislative - embracing all matters relating to its internal concerns, which are not  
532           in derogation of the Ancient Landmarks, the Constitution, General Regulations  
533           and laws of the Grand Chapter and the By-Laws of the chapter. Provided, that  
534           every chapter must be governed by the uniform Code of By-Laws adopted by this  
535           Grand Chapter, as to all matters therein specified, after filling the blanks in the  
536           Code form and

537           **3rd.** Judicial - embracing the exercise of the power of discipline, and the settlement of  
538           controversies between and over its members, except its High Priest and a Grand  
539           High Priest, within its territorial jurisdiction, subject to review thereof by appeal to  
540           this Grand Chapter.

541    *Section 6.* A chapter shall be composed of its charter members, and all such Royal Arch  
542           Masons as subsequently affiliate with or are exalted upon, its election while they retain  
543           such membership.

544    *Section 7.* A chapter may receive petitions for Capitular Degrees from Master Masons who are  
545           members in good standing of a Symbolic Lodge, recognized as such by the Grand  
546           Lodge of Minnesota, and having resided in the jurisdiction of Minnesota for at least  
547           ninety (90) days. Provided, that should a petitioner petition a chapter other than the one  
548           nearest his residence, the petitioned chapter will notify that chapter nearest his  
549           residence of such petition and no further action will be taken on such petition for twenty-  
550           eight (28) days.

551    *Section 8.* Any chapter which elects a petitioner may, for the convenience of the candidate, or  
552           otherwise; request any other chapter to confer the capitular degrees for it, and the latter  
553           in such case, at its convenience, after making sure of the identity of the candidate,  
554           should fraternally comply with the request without charge.

555    *Section 9.* Each chapter has jurisdiction for all purposes over its own members, except the High  
556           Priest or the acting Grand High Priest, if a member of it, wherever such members may  
557           reside, and over its unfinished work wherever dispersed, and concurrent jurisdiction for  
558           the exercise of penal powers over all Royal Arch Masons, whether its members or not,  
559           residing within its area except the members of a chapter of a concurrent jurisdiction - for

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560 any violation of a moral or capitular law or Masonic obligation ...

561 *Section 10.* The officers of a chapter shall be High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer and  
562 Secretary, (the offices of Treasurer and Secretary may be held by the same  
563 companion), all of whom shall be elected by ballot and majority vote as prescribed in its  
564 By-Laws; together with Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, Royal Arch Captain,  
565 Master of the Third Veil, Master of the Second Veil, Master of the First Veil, Sentinel and  
566 such other officers as its By-Laws provide - all of whom shall be appointed by the High  
567 Priest. Each of said officers shall perform such duties as traditionally belong thereto  
568 respectively, or as may be specifically prescribed by law, and shall hold office for one  
569 year or until his successor is installed. The title of the High Priest, for address, shall be  
570 "*Excellent*" and of all other subordinate officers and members shall be "*Companion.*"  
571 There must be an annual installation of all chapter officers.

572 *Section 11.* The convocation of a chapter shall be Stated or Special. Stated Convocations shall  
573 be held at the time fixed by its By-Laws, at which all business must be transacted,  
574 except the conferring of degrees and ceremonial observances. Special Convocations for  
575 work or for ceremonials may be held at the pleasure of the High Priest, but no other  
576 business shall be transacted thereat, except the receiving and balloting on petitions.  
577 Provided, no convocation for work shall be held on the Sabbath or first day of the week.

578 *Section 12.* Nine (9) members of a chapter shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the  
579 transaction of any business, except conferring degrees and ceremonials, for which  
580 members of other chapters may be counted for the purposes of a quorum, of the  
581 particular body working.

582 *Section 13.* If nine (9) members are not present, a six (6) member opening is allowable to  
583 enable the chapter members to ballot on petitions and conduct chapter business using  
584 the six (6) member ritual which is now on file at the Grand Secretary's Office.

585 *Section 14* Every convocation of a chapter must be opened and closed upon the same  
586 calendar day, and when closed the chapter cannot be reopened that day. Provided, that  
587 in case of a chapter trial, if it impracticable to conclude the same within such day, the  
588 convocation may be extended into the following day, or be called off to a later date, and  
589 the trial be completed then.

590 *Section 15.* Every chapter must provide for at least one stated convocation in each calendar

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591 month, and any chapter failing to hold such convocation for more than three consecutive  
592 months, shall be liable to have its charter, and all rights there under, forfeited.

593 *Section 16.* No chapter shall charge less than forty dollars (\$40) for the capitular degrees to be  
594 conferred, at least one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of which shall accompany the application and the  
595 balance to be paid to the Secretary of the Chapter before any degree except Mark  
596 Master degree, shall be conferred.

597 *Section 17.* A chapter can be dissolved only by:

598 **1st.** By the act of the Grand Chapter revoking or forfeiting its charter; or  
599

600 **2nd.** By the voluntary surrender of its charter after due notice to all its members living in  
601 the jurisdiction, however no chapter can surrender its charter so long as nine (9)  
602 resident members thereof object.

603 *Section 18.* Whenever a charter of a defunct chapter is restored upon petition, only the  
604 companions who united in such petition shall be members of the restored chapter.

605 *Section 19.* Any officer of a chapter, except the High Priest, King and Scribe, can resign; and  
606 any vacancy may be filled by an election, held after notice thereof has been given at one  
607 Stated Convocation and laid over until the next, or by mailing the same to each member  
608 in the jurisdiction at least ten days before such election

609 *Section 20.* If a chapter allows the date for its annual election to pass without holding it, the  
610 election may be held at a subsequent Stated Convocation, upon a dispensation from the  
611 Grand High Priest, and ten (10) days' notice by mail to all members in the jurisdiction, or  
612 said notice may be given at one Stated Convocation, and laid over until the next.

613 *Section 21.* No chapter shall ever be incorporated.

614 *Section 22.* The Grand Secretary upon recommendation of the Grand Council shall be  
615 authorized to merge any chapter with other chapters in those instances where on  
616 account of an absence of a quorum no action could be taken upon a proposal to merge,  
617 consolidate or dissolve.

618 **ARTICLE X - OF DEGREES AND MEMBERSHIP**

619 *Section 1.* The capitular degrees can only be conferred by a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

620 *Section 2.* Membership in a chapter may be acquired only through a petition in due form

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621 presented to a chapter, and -  
622 **1st.** By election thereon, and receiving the degree of Royal Arch Mason thereafter in  
623 such chapter, or elsewhere at its request, or

624 **2nd.** By election for affiliation, reinstatement or restoration. Such membership will  
625 thereafter continue until terminated by death, or otherwise as provided by law.

626 *Section 3.* A candidate for the capitular degrees must be in such physical condition as will  
627 enable him to meet the requirements of each degree he is to take, when he takes it.  
628 Provided, that if a candidate uses an artificial limb which enables him to conform to all  
629 our rites and ceremonies, he is eligible; but if the candidate has lost the sight of both  
630 eyes, he is not eligible except by dispensation from the Grand high Priest.

631 *Section 4.* If a candidate for the capitular degrees neglects or refuses to present himself to  
632 receive them within six months after notice of his election, his right to receive the same  
633 upon, and all fees paid prior to, such election shall be deemed forfeited, unless the  
634 chapter waives the default.

635 *Section 5.* Dual membership shall be permitted in the same manner and procedure as outlined  
636 in the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of  
637 Minnesota.

638 *Section 6.* Honorary Memberships' may be conferred upon selected Royal Arch Masons by  
639 election at a Grand Chapter Convocation, subject to vote.

**ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS**

641 *Section 1.* This Constitution may be amended by a proposition therefor presented in writing at,  
642 and approved by, one Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ )  
643 vote of the members present thereat, published in the proceedings of that Convocation,  
644 and adopted by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the members present at the next Annual  
645 Convocation. Provided that unless such proposal of amendment is presented by the  
646 report of a committee appointed at a previous Annual Convocation to prepare and report  
647 a revision of the laws, no amendment shall be acted upon until it is first reported upon  
648 by the Committee of Jurisprudence.

649 *Section 2.* This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter.  
650 Provided that a proposition to amend has been published and circulated to all  
651 Subordinate Chapters, Grand Officers, Past Grand High Priests, and the Committee on

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652 Jurisprudence no later than sixty (60) days prior to the Grand Convocation, received at  
653 one *session* of the Grand Convocation without vote or debate, reported on by the  
654 Committee on Jurisprudence at a subsequent *session* when it may be adopted by a  
655 three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) majority vote of the members present at such Convocation. Should the  
656 proposition fail by its failure to receive a three-fourths ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) majority vote, but receives at  
657 least a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote, it shall layover until the next annual Convocation for  
658 action as provided in ARTICLE XI, section 1, above.

659 *Section 3.* No proposition to amend shall be submitted after sixty (60) days before the Annual  
660 Convocation, except by permission of the Grand High Priest. Any special committee  
661 appointed for the purpose of studying and recommending change is exempt from the  
662 sixty-day (60) requirement.