

## INSTALLATION CEREMONY

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** Brother Secretary, you will announce the names of the officers duly elected and appointed to serve this lodge for the ensuing year who, as their names are called, will take their positions according to rank in a line West of the Altar, the position of the Senior Warden-elect being at the North end of the line, the Master-elect standing at the Altar.

*After seeing that the officers are properly placed, the Marshal takes his place at the north end of the line. The Marshal returns to this place after conducting each officer to his station or place. If necessary, a double line may be formed at the Altar, with the appointive officers in the rear.*

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** Worshipful Master, are these brethren, who have been selected for their respective offices, qualified for those offices in accordance with the provisions of THE CODE, including the provisions as to proficiency in the Catechism of the degree of Master Mason?

*RESPONSE OF THE MASTER: Note: If all are so qualified, the Master answers, "They are." If any are not, he so states and explains. Any officer not qualified cannot be installed.*

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** Brethren, Behold your officers-elect. *Pause* If there is no objection, we will proceed with the installation. *Pause, then continue.*

Each of the officers to be installed will place his right hand over his heart and repeat after me, in unison, the official declaration.

I promise on the honor of a Master Mason that I will, to the best of my ability, conform to and abide by the Ancient Landmarks, regulations, and usages of Masonry, the Constitution and laws of The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and the laws of this lodge and that I will faithfully perform the duties of the office to which I have been selected.

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** Brother Marshal, present the Master-elect.

**MARSHAL:** Worshipful Master I now present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who has been elected or appointed Master of this lodge for the ensuing year.

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** My Brother, kneel for the purpose of prayer. *The Master-elect kneels facing the East, with hands on the Great Lights. The Marshal stands North of the Altar, facing South.*

INSTALLING OFFICER: *Calls up the lodge for prayer.* Brother Chaplain, approach the South side of the Altar and lead our devotions. **Brother Chaplain, approach the South side of the Altar and lead our devotions.**

## **PRAYER**

CHAPLAIN: **Most holy and Glorious Lord God. We approach You with reverence and implore Your blessings over this lodge and these brethren about to be invested with its government. Fill their hearts with Your fear, that their tongues and actions may pronounce Your glory. Make them steadfast in Your service. Animate their hearts and strengthen their endeavors. May they be endued with wisdom to instruct their brethren in all their duties.**

**May brotherly love, relief, and truth, always prevail among the members of this lodge; and may this bond of union continue to strengthen the lodges throughout the world. Bless all our brethren, wherever dispersed; and grant speedy relief to all who are either oppressed or distressed. We affectionately commend to You all the members of Your whole family. May they increase in grace, in knowledge of You, and in love with each other. Finally, may we finish all our work here below, with Your approval; and then have our transition from this earthly abode to Your heavenly temple above, there to enjoy light, glory and bliss, ineffable and eternal. Amen.**

INSTALLING OFFICER: *Seats the lodge and addresses the Master-elect:* Arise, my brother. Previous to your investiture, it is necessary that you should signify your assent to those ancient charges and regulations which point out the duty of a Master of a Lodge.

- I. You agree to be a good man and true, and strictly to obey the moral law.**
- II. You agree to be a peaceable subject, and cheerfully conform to the laws of the country in which you reside.**
- III. You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against government, but patiently to submit to the decisions of the supreme legislature.**
- IV. You agree to pay a proper respect to the civil magistrates, to work diligently, live creditably, and act honorably by all men.**
- V. You agree to hold in veneration the original rules and patrons of the order of Masonry.**

**VI. You agree to avoid private piques and quarrels, and to guard against intemperance and excess.**

**VII. You agree to be cautious in carriage and behavior, courteous to your brethren, and faithful to your lodge.**

**IX. You Promise to respect genuine brethren, and to discountenance impostors and all dissenters from the original plan of Masonry.**

**XI. You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate the social virtues, and to propagate the knowledge of the art.**

**X. You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master and to his officers when duly installed, and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge, or general assembly of Masons, that is not subversive of the principles and groundwork of Masonry.**

**XI. You admit that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry.**

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

**XIII. You admit that no new lodge shall be formed without permission of the Grand Lodge, and that no countenance be given to an irregular lodge, or to any person clandestinely initiated therein, being contrary to the ancient charges of the order.**

**XIV. You admit that no person can be regularly made a Mason or be admitted as a member of any regular lodge without previous notice and due inquiry into his character.**

**XV. You agree that no visitor shall be received into your lodge without due examination and without producing proper vouchers of his having been initiated into a regular lodge.**

**These are the regulations of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.**

**My Brother, do you submit to these charges and promise to support these regulations, as Masters have done in all ages before you?**

**MASTER-ELECT: I do.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother \_\_\_\_\_, in consequence of your cheerful conformity to the charges and regulations of the Fraternity, you are now to be installed Master of this Lodge in full confidence of your care, skill and capacity to govern the same.**

**Brother Marshal: Invest the Master with the jewel and apron of his office.**

*The installing officer approaches the Altar and continues:*

**Worshipful Master, you will now receive the furniture and various implements used in your lodge. They are emblematic of our conduct in life, and on this occasion are carefully enumerated.**

**The Holy Writings, that Great Light in Masonry, will guide you to all truth; it will direct your path to the temple of happiness, and point out to you the whole duty of man. However men may differ in creed, yet all men agree that within the pages of those Holy Writings are found the principles which lay the foundation upon which to build a righteous life. Freemasonry would take all men by the hand and, leading them to its Altar, would point to the open Scriptures and urge each faithfully to direct his steps through life by the Light he shall find therein. If, from our sacred Altar, the atheist or irreligious man should ever wrest this Book and thus remove, or even obscure, the great Light of Freemasonry, that Light which has been for centuries the rule and guide of all Masons, then we could no longer claim the proud title and rank of Master Mason. As long as that sacred Light shines upon our Altar, as long as it illumines and brightens the pathway of the craftsman by the golden rays of truth; so long will Freemasonry live and shed its beneficent influence among men. Guard, then, my Brother, this sacred Book as you guard your life. Defend it as you would defend the flag of your country. Live according to its sublime precepts; govern yourself that you may be an example to others; for justice, moderation, and decorum should mark the acts of an upright man.**

**The Square teaches us to regulate our actions by rule and line, and harmonize our conduct by the principle of morality and virtue.**

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

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

*Installing officer returns to the East.*

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** **Brother Marshal, conduct the Master to the East by the South side of our Altar. After this is done, he continues: It is fitting that you should be covered when presiding over the lodge. Hands the Master his hat and uncovers as the Master covers.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER CONTINUES:** **Worshipful Master, I now place in your hands the gavel, an additional insignia of your rank and authority. Wield it, my Brother, with prudence and discretion—firmly, but never arbitrarily—to the end that good order and harmony may be preserved.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** *Omit if Charter is to be presented by the Installing Officer:* **The retiring Master of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ will now present the Charter of the lodge to the newly installed Master.**

**RETIRING MASTER or Installing Officer:** **Worshipful Master, I now present to you the Charter of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ and charge you that you must preserve it with unfailing care and deliver it to your successor in office.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** **Brother Secretary, record in the minutes of this communication that the charter of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ or legal substitute thereof has been delivered to Worshipful Brother \_\_\_\_\_, Master.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER CONTINUES:** **The BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS and the By-Laws of your lodge, you are to search at all times. Cause them to be read in your lodge that none may pretend ignorance of their excellent precepts.**

### **CHARGE ON THE INSTALLATION OF THE MASTER OF A LODGE**

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** **Worshipful Master, being selected Master of this lodge, you cannot be insensible of the obligations which devolve on you as their head, nor of your responsibility for the faithful discharge of the important duties annexed to your election. Furthermore, by a diligent observance of the by-laws of your lodge, the constitutions of Masonry, and above all, the Holy Scriptures, which are given as a rule and guide to your faith, you will be enabled to acquit yourself with honor and reputation, and lay up a crown of rejoicing, which shall continue when time shall be no more.**

*The Master returns the gavel to the Installing Officer and uncovers while the Installing Officer recovers and continues.*

**THE SENIOR WARDEN**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, Present the Senior Warden-elect at the Altar for installation.**

**MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I now present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who has been elected *or appointed* Senior Warden of this lodge for the ensuing Year.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, invest the Senior Warden with the jewel and apron of his office. *After this is done, the Installing Officer continues.***

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected *appointed in the case of a new lodge* Senior Warden of this lodge and invested with the ensign of your office. The Level demonstrates that we are descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature, and share the same hope.**

**Your regular attendance at our stated communications is necessary. In the absence of the Master you are to govern his lodge; in his presence, you are to assist him in the government of it. I firmly rely on your knowledge of Masonry and attachment to the lodge for the faithful discharge of the duties of this important trust.**

**----Look well to the West! Brother Marshal, conduct the Senior Warden to his station.**

### **THE JUNIOR WARDEN**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, present the Junior Warden at the Altar for installation.**

**MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I now present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who has been elected *or appointed* Junior Warden of this lodge for the ensuing year.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, invest the Junior Warden with the jewel and apron of his office. *After this is done, the Installing Officer continues:***

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother \_\_\_\_\_ you have been elected *appointed, in the case of a new lodge* Junior Warden of this lodge and invested with the badge of your office. The Plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations, to hold the scales of justice in equal poise, to observe the just medium between intemperance and pleasure, and to make our passions and prejudices coincide with the line of our duty.**

**Your regular and punctual attendance is particularly requested. I have no doubt that you will faithfully execute the duty which you owe to your present election.**

**---Look well to the South! Brother Marshal, conduct the Junior Warden to his station.**

### **THE TREASURER**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, present the Treasurer at the Altar for installation.**

**MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I now present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who has been elected *or appointed* Treasurer of this lodge for the ensuing year.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, invest the Treasurer with the jewel and apron of his office. *After this is done, the Installing Officer continues:***

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected *appointed, in the case of a new lodge* Treasurer of this lodge.**

**It is your duty to receive all money from the hands of the Secretary, make due entries of the same, pay them out by order of the Worshipful Master and the consent of the lodge.**

**I trust your regard for the fraternity will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office. Brother Marshal, conduct the Treasurer to his station.**

### **THE SECRETARY**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, present the Secretary at the Altar for installation.**

**MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I now present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who has been elected *or appointed* Secretary of this lodge for the ensuing year.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, invest the Secretary with the jewel and apron of his office. *After this is done, the Installing Officer continues:***

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother \_\_\_\_\_, you have been elected *appointed in the case of a new lodge* Secretary of this lodge for the ensuing year.**

**It is your duty to observe all the proceedings of the lodge, to make a fair record of all things proper to be written, to receive all monies due the lodge, pay them over to the Treasurer, and to take his receipt for the same. Brother Marshal, conduct the Secretary to his station.**

### **THE SENIOR DEACON**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, present the Senior Deacon at the Altar for installation.**

**MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I now present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who has been appointed *or elected* Senior Deacon of this lodge for the ensuing year.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, invest the Senior Deacon with the jewel and apron of his office. *After this is done, the Installing Officer continues:***

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother \_\_\_\_\_ you have been appointed Senior Deacon of this lodge. You are to act as messenger of the Master in the active duties of the lodge, to give fraternal attention to visiting brethren, to receive and conduct candidates into the different degrees of Masonry. The Square and Compasses, as badges of your office, I entrust to your care, not doubting your zeal and attention. Brother Marshal, conduct the Senior Deacon to his place.**

### **THE JUNIOR DEACON**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, present the Junior Deacon at the Altar for installation.**

**MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I now present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, - who has been appointed *or elected* Junior Deacon of this lodge for the ensuing year.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, invest the Junior Deacon with the jewel and apron of his office. *After this is done, the Installing Officer continues:***

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother \_\_\_\_\_, you have been appointed Junior Deacon of this lodge. It is your duty to act as messenger of the Senior Warden in the active duties of the lodge, to have special care to see that the lodge is properly tyled. If you cannot personally vouch for each person in the lodge room as a Master Mason at the time the lodge is being purged, you shall proceed forthwith in the proper manner to satisfy yourself to that effect. The Square and Compasses as the badge of your office, I now entrust to your care. I do not doubt your vigilance and attention. Brother Marshal, conduct the Junior Deacon to his place.**



## **THE STEWARDS**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, present the Stewards at the Altar for installation.**

**MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I now present Brother \_\_\_\_\_ and Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who have been appointed or elected Stewards of this lodge for the ensuing year.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, invest the Stewards with the jewel and apron of their office. *After this is done, the Installing Officer continues:***

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brothers \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ you have been appointed or elected Stewards of this lodge. It is your duty to provide for the comfort of the brethren, to assist the Deacons and other officers in performing their duties, to perform such other duties as may be required by the usage and custom of the craft, or as may be required by the ritual, by the Master, or by the Junior Warden. Your regular and early attendance will afford the best proof of your zeal and attachment to the lodge. Brother Marshal, conduct the Stewards to their places.**

## **THE CHAPLAIN**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, present the Chaplain at the Altar for installation.**

**MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I now present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who has been appointed Chaplain of this lodge for the ensuing year.**

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, invest the Chaplain with the jewel and apron of his office. *After this is done, the Installing Officer continues:***

**INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother \_\_\_\_\_ you have been appointed Chaplain of this lodge. It is your duty to perform those solemn services which we should constantly render to our infinite Creator and which may, by refining our souls, strengthening our virtues, and purifying our minds, prepare us for admission into the society of those above, whose happiness will be as endless as it is perfect.**

**That Holy Book which rests upon our Altar is the great light in Masonry and forever sheds its benign rays upon every lawful assembly of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. From it we may learn our duty to God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Teach us from its life-giving precepts and you will faithfully have fulfilled your sacred and important trust. Your good inclination to Masonry and your lodge will induce you to discharge the duties of your office with fidelity. By so doing you**

will merit the esteem and approval of your brethren. Brother Marshal, conduct the Chaplain to his place.

### THE TYLER

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, present the Tyler at the Altar for installation.

MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I now present Brother \_\_\_\_\_ who has been appointed Tyler of this lodge for the ensuing year.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, invest the Tyler with the jewel and apron of his office. *The Marshal does NOT invest the Tyler with the sword until instructed to do so by the Installing Officer.*

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother \_\_\_\_\_, you have been appointed Tyler of this lodge. It is your duty to guard the entrance to the lodge, to report all brethren for admission to the Junior Deacon, to announce the name, number and location of his lodge, to see that each brother who enters is duly qualified and properly clothed, to keep a register of visiting brethren, to perform such other duties as may be required by the laws and customs of the Craft or by order of the Master. The Marshal will now invest you with the implement of your office. As the sword is placed in the hands of the Tyler to enable him effectually to guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, and suffer none to pass or re-pass but such as are duly qualified.

Your Early and punctual attendance will afford the best proof of your zeal for the institution. Brother Marshal, conduct the Tyler to his place.

### CHARGE TO THE BRETHREN OF THE LODGE

INSTALLING OFFICER: *Raps up the lodge:* My brethren, such is the nature of our constitution, that as some must of necessity rule and teach; so others must, of course, learn to submit and obey. Humility in both is an essential duty. The officers who are appointed to govern your lodge are sufficiently conversant with the rules of propriety and the laws of the institution. They are to avoid exceeding the powers with which they are entrusted; and you are of too generous dispositions to envy their preferment. I therefore trust that you will have but one aim: to please each other, to unite in the grand design of being happy, and to communicate happiness.

Finally, my brethren, as this association has been formed and perfected in harmony for which we greatly rejoice, so may it long continue. May Kindness and brotherly affection distinguish your conduct, as men, and as Masons. Within your

peaceful walls may your children's children celebrate with joy and gratitude the transactions of this splendid occasion. May the tenets of our profession be transmitted through your lodge, pure and unimpaired, from generation to generation.

INSTALLING OFFICER: **Brother Marshal, I now declare the several officers of this lodge duly installed. You will proclaim this to the South, West, and East.**

MARSHAL: **By order of the Installing Officer, I declare the officers of this lodge for the ensuing year duly installed. I make this proclamation to the South** *Junior Warden raps once: to the West Senior Warden raps once: and to the East* **Installing officer raps once.**

INSTALLING OFFICER: **Worshipful Master, behold your brethren. Brethren, behold your Worshipful Master.**

*The Installing Officer presents the gavel to the Master and uncovers. The Master recovers and seats the lodge.*

Oration, if desired.

### **End of Ceremony**

(Revised 11-27-2014 by The Committee on Miscellaneous Ceremonies)