



Grand Commandery of Tennessee

Billy B. Young - Right Eminent Grand Commander
100 7th Ave North, Suite 3
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

General Order #3

March 25, 2021

Sir Knights:

The following information has been released by Charles Mixon, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, F&AM.

As we move into 2021, we at Grand Lodge are excited about the upcoming year. We continue to monitor the COVID 19 situation across the state of Tennessee. As state and local restrictions continue to ease, we must continue to monitor restrictions and continue to remain vigilant in keeping our members and our families safe and healthy. As of today, I am lifting the ban on all Masonic degree work in the state of Tennessee. All lodges are free to proceed with any pending or new degree work. I believe that if each person and individual lodge follows the safest and mandated protocols, we will be able to continue to perform degree work through the 2021-2022 year.

**Lodges may now conduct degree work.*

**Masks are encouraged but not mandatory except where such mandates remain.*

**The Worshipful Master of each lodge and his District Chairman MUST be vigilant and stay informed of state, county, and city mandates.*

**The Worshipful Master of each lodge and his District Chairman will be held accountable and responsible for any non-compliance to COVID-19 mandates reported to the Grand Lodge.*

Following the guidelines of the MWGM, I am ordering the following to go into immediate effect:

Commanderies statewide are permitted to open in long form and confer the commandary orders under the same circumstances as local lodges, following local guidelines. Per guidelines disseminated by Grandmaster of the Grand Encampment Jeff Nelson, ritual work for Commanderies falls under the following guidelines:

Phase Zero:

Ritual Work: Any type of ritual work associated with the conferral of any of the Commandery orders on candidates is PROHIBITED.

Phase One:

Due to the close physical contact required and the inability to maintain proper social distancing, ritual work associated with the conferral of any of the Commandery orders on candidates is PROHIBITED in Phase One with the exception of the temporary short form of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and short form of the Order of Malta.

Phase Two:

Ritual work associated with the conferral of any of the Commandery Orders on candidates may resume.

By this General Order, I hereby authorize constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee to conduct ritual work and confer the commandary orders, adhering to the guidelines of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Tennessee, Charles Mixon, and the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment USA, Jeffrey Nelson.

This General Order must be read at your next Commandery Conclave and made of part of the Minutes and reported on your Monthly Activity Report.

Billy B. Young
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Tennessee