

# THE COMMUNIQUE

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## ***From the Grand Master ...***

Brethren,

Freemasonry has long been a beacon of universal tolerance, or I should say, universal respect, since tolerance is an Enlightenment term and today we would choose to say acceptance, inclusion or respect. From time to time we are moved to re-examine how we practise these tenets, and the language that we use.

The Ritual Committee is the only body authorized to make any alterations in our Ritual, and they take it extremely seriously, balancing any changes against the landmarks and considering the practice of other Grand Lodges, most notably those of our brethren in England, Scotland and Ireland.

A task force of members from a variety of faith traditions convened by the Grand Chaplain at my request last year looked at some aspects of our Ritual from a theological standpoint. The Ritual Committee weighed their suggestions as well as other considerations and made some changes which will be included in the Book of the Work when it is reprinted.

The current understanding of most faiths is of a Supreme Being that is forgiving rather than vengeful. Therefore the second question asked of the candidate will be changed to “prefers virtue over vice.”

All references to “Freeborn” and “Free by Birth” will be removed.

So we will say “By being a man, of mature age, and under.....” and “Pass Man of G.R.”

And lastly, we will bring our Ritual in line with the stories of the Abrahamic traditions by

removing the word “only” so the sentence reads “....in not refusing to offer up his son Isaac...”. (That patriarch had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac.)

The specific details will be forthcoming in the new Book of the Work.

This is the time of the year during which brethren of so many traditions hold celebrations which involve lights – Diwali, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa to name just a few.

As we ponder the prospect of a socially distanced holiday season let us try to lighten the darkness however we can. Take a walk or drive to see the Christmas lights. Put up a Kinara, or just light some candles. Practice gratefulness. Be open to the experiences that a slowed pace can reveal.

Consider the inner light at the heart of all the festivals. Call your friends and brothers to lighten their day. And keep safe with your loved ones.

*Eternal Light, shine into our hearts;  
Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil;  
Eternal Power, be our support;  
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance:*

*That we may seek Your face  
With all our heart and mind and soul and strength.*

- Alcuin of York, 8<sup>th</sup> Century

Jill and I wish you many blessings and a meaningful holyday season.

***David J. Cameron  
Grand Master***

## ***From the Deputy ...***

My Brethren:

Picking up where we left off last month, I will continue to pitch your Grand Lodge Chairman as presenters for your monthly virtual Lodge meeting education portion....

Want to shop from the whole list of Grand Lodge Seminars and Workshops that are available? R.W. Bro. Leyland Muss - [leylandmuss@gmail.com](mailto:leylandmuss@gmail.com) - is the keeper of this inventory and is charged with assuring a schedule is kept and followed to avoid competing communication efforts.

Wondering how your Lodge will continue or initiate Cornerstone designation with the proposed changes to the program going forward? Ask the expert – R.W. Bro. David Armstrong at [davidarmstrong@armstrongmanufacturing.com](mailto:davidarmstrong@armstrongmanufacturing.com)

V.W. Bro. Stephen Maizels – [mentorgrc@gmail.com](mailto:mentorgrc@gmail.com) – is well-versed to speak on many Masonic topics, but his favourite these days is the new Mentoring Endeavour that the Mentoring Committee has been developing over the last year. As this Committee is intimately involved with the Ritual-Education-Mentoring thrust, a lot of time and energy has been poured into this team and their work needs to be spread to every Mason in our Jurisdiction.

Interested in a tour of the Grand Lodge web site? R.W. Bro. Michael Locke at [mjlocke@cogeco.ca](mailto:mjlocke@cogeco.ca) does double duty as the Grand Lodge Web Master as well as Chairing the Condition of Masonry Committee.

Ever wonder how the Audit and Finance Committee assures the financial records of Grand Lodge are reviewed for compliance and accuracy on an annual basis? R.W. Bro. Jim Sutherland - [jim@sutherlandelliott.ca](mailto:jim@sutherlandelliott.ca) - and his team would be glad to share their secrets and explain how the Grand Lodge budgeting process is all part of a long-term strategic plan.

How is your Lodge and/or District Benevolence program? R.W. Bro. Iain Wates - [idwates@sympatico.ca](mailto:idwates@sympatico.ca) – can get you started or just tell you what your Grand Lodge can do and has done for our Brethren for the last one hundred and sixty years.

R.W. Bro. Jim Sercombe - [sercombe@rogers.com](mailto:sercombe@rogers.com) – and the Strategic Planning Committee have probably already made a presentation to your Lodge or District on how-to and the importance of each Lodge having a Strategic Plan. He might even give you an insight into the development of the next Grand Lodge Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2026.

Did you know that the Lodge Buildings Advisory Committee has a new Life Safety Policy being developed to replace the current Building Compliance Program? R.W. Bro. Darren Byrne - [dbyrne\\_ca@yahoo.ca](mailto:dbyrne_ca@yahoo.ca) – would love to share the new Policy with your Lodge and solicit your feedback before the proposed implementation date of July, 2021.

Do you have questions about Lodge financial planning, record keeping or forecasting? Lodge or Temple insurance questions? Temple / corporation ownership questions, including Canadian Revenue Agency filing responsibilities? R.W. Bro. Syd Schatzker - [schatzker@rogers.com](mailto:schatzker@rogers.com) – has assembled a crack team of financial and legal professionals to assist any and every question you may have in this very important part of the life of our Lodges, Temples and their leadership.

You have seen them at the Annual Communication every year, but how else does your Grand Lodge support and encourage the youth Masonic related bodies? R.W. Bro. Barry Burchill - [burchillddgm2006@hotmail.com](mailto:burchillddgm2006@hotmail.com) - and the Youth Initiatives Committee are anxious to share their work and to recruit you, your Lodge and your District in joining their team as a sponsor, advisor or mentor to assist the development of these young leaders of tomorrow.

The Public Awareness Committee under R.W. Bro. Charlie Woods - [charleswoods@sympatico.ca](mailto:charleswoods@sympatico.ca) – could easily fill an evening educating members with their work on developing a folding business card to help with your elevator speech and leave a calling card after your speech. They can also talk about the Grand Lodge adoption of the 'Not Just a Man. A Mason' campaign as supported by the BeAFreemason.org follow-up recruitment tool. They could assist you with an Open House program to assure you are ready when the doors can again be opened again. And they could show you the new Grand Lodge branding that the team has been working on over the last year.

Although the Grand Lodge Library, Museum and Archives have been shuttered since March, the Grand Librarian, R.W. Bro. Lanny Salmon - [library@grandlodge.on.ca](mailto:library@grandlodge.on.ca) – could take you on a virtual tour of all the treasures that lie therein.

And of course we can't forget our two seasoned speakers in the persons of R.W. Bros. Dan Glenney ([daniel.glenney@sympatico.ca](mailto:daniel.glenney@sympatico.ca)) our Grand Archivist and Michael Jenkyns ([jenkyns@magma.ca](mailto:jenkyns@magma.ca)) our Grand Historian. Both of these Brethren can fill a week of exciting Masonic Education at the drop of a hat. Now is the time to use these Brethren as they are trapped at home like the rest of us.

Perhaps your members need a refresher on the work of the Masonic Foundation of Ontario – MFO - [www.masonicfoundation.on.ca](http://www.masonicfoundation.on.ca) or The MASONICH.I.P. Ontario program - [masonichip.ca](http://masonichip.ca). Both organizations are more than willing to provide an evening of education on their fine work for your members.

The past nine months of 2020 certainly had its challenges but we should all still be happy to be where we are today. At this time, we remember our Brethren and their families who were not so fortunate. From our home to yours, we wish you all the best of health, happiness and prosperity during the festive season and through 2021!

***Thomas W. Hogeboom  
Deputy Grand Master***

## ***From the Grand Secretary ...***

Brethren,

We are all seeing a continuing increase in the number of virtual sessions (Zoom, etc.) for educational and other purposes. As the situation evolves, we are developing some protocol for taking part in those virtual meetings.

I want to highlight two points this month.

First, should you participate in a virtual call please be sure that you understand where that call originates – is it within our jurisdiction or does it originate outside Ontario? You need to be aware that the culture, ritual and protocol observed in other Masonic jurisdictions may be different from our own.

You may attend any of these virtual sessions (within or outside of Ontario) without seeking permission through the office of the Grand Secretary. However if you are asked to identify yourself and you mention that you are from the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, you must remember that you cannot bring greetings on behalf of this Grand Lodge. Also, if you speak make sure that you indicate that your remarks are personal and that you are not authorized to speak on behalf of our Grand Lodge.

Second, if you are attending a virtual session that originates within our Grand Lodge, even though the session is informal, proper protocol must be followed in addressing our Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master. They should never be referenced by their first or last names, only as Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master.

All the best for the celebration of your festive season, no matter what form it takes this year.

***D. Garry Dowling  
Grand Secretary***