

**CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES
OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT
OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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Constitution and statutes of the Grand encampment of Knights templar of the United States of America by Various

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VARIOUS

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OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT
OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

CONSTITUTION
and STATUTES

of the

*Grand Encampment of
Knights Templar*

of the United States of America

TOGETHER WITH

F O R M S

FOR TEMPLAR TRIALS, CONSTITUTING OF NEW
COMMANDERIES, INSTALLATION OF
OFFICERS, ETC.

Passed and Adopted at the 31st Triennial Conclave, held
in Chicago, Illinois, August 9th, 10th and 11th, 1910.



1910
Raynor and Taylor, Printers
Detroit

To the Grand Encampment

At the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment held in 1907 the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence was charged with the duty of revising the Constitution and Statutes, and was directed to present its report thereon at the 31st Triennial Conclave. In accordance with this action of the Grand Encampment the Committee submitted its report at Chicago, August 9th, 10th and 11th, 1910. The report was read and with some amendments adopted section by section and finally as a whole, together with the Disciplinary Rules; Forms for constituting new Commanderies, Installation of Officers, Form of Petition for the orders, etc.

The whole report of the Committee as amended was adopted.

By resolution the members of the Committee which prepared and presented the report were instructed to arrange and prepare for publication, the newly adopted Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Forms, etc., and in connection with the Committee on Printing, have the same printed and distributed. In accordance with these instructions, we publish the following as the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, together with the Rules, Forms, etc., named above and the Burial Service adopted in 1904.

We call particular attention to the fact that the following are the only laws of the Grand Encampment now governing in Templar Masonry. All constitutional provisions not included in this Constitution, and all laws heretofore enacted, adopted or approved have been repealed.

Courteously,

BERNARD G. WITT,
GEORGE MCGOWN,
CALEB SAUNDERS,
LEONIDAS P. NEWBY,
FREDERIC SPEED,

Committee.

CONSTITUTION
of the
GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

PREAMBLE.

In order to secure greater unity, better government, and to increase the prosperity and influence of the Orders of Christian Masonic Knighthood, this Constitution is ordained and established.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

SECTION 1. This body shall be known and designated as the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

ARTICLE II.

OF WHOM COMPOSED.

SEC. 2. It shall consist of the following members:

- (A) The Grand Master,
The Deputy Grand Master,
The Grand Generalissimo,
The Grand Captain General,
The Grand Senior Warden,
The Grand Junior Warden,
The Grand Prelate,
The Grand Treasurer,
The Grand Recorder,

The Grand Standard Bearer,
 The Grand Sword Bearer,
 The Grand Warder,
 The Grand Captain of the Guard;
 the first nine of whom, excepting the Grand
 Prelate, shall be elected by ballot. The last
 four, together with the Grand Prelate, shall be
 appointed by the Grand Master.

- (B) All Past Grand Masters,
 All Past Deputy Grand Masters,
 All Past Grand Generalissimos,
 All Past Grand Captains-General, of the Grand
 Encampment;
- (C) All Past Grand Commanders, of Grand Com-
 manderies,
- (D) All Grand Commanders,
 All Deputy Grand Commanders,
 All Grand Generalissimos, and
 All Grand Captains-General, of each of the
 Grand Commanderies,
- (E) And the first three officers of each Commandery,
 holding its Charter immediately from the
 Grand Encampment of the United States, shall
 be members, for the time being.
- (F) Any distinguished Knight Templar, from a for-
 eign country, may, by a vote of two-thirds of
 the members present, be elected an Honorary
 member.

ARTICLE III.

JURISDICTION.

Sec. 3. It has supreme legislative, judicial and ex-
 ecutive power and jurisdiction over the Orders of the
 Red Cross, Knights Templar and Knights of Malta, in the
 United States of America and the countries over which
 the United States exercises jurisdiction, and may estab-

lish Commanderies in any country in which there is no supreme governing body of the said Orders, exercising jurisdiction.

SEC. 4. All questions shall be determined by a majority of votes unless otherwise provided. In case the vote is equally divided, the presiding officer shall give the casting vote.

ARTICLE IV.

POWERS AND DUTIES.

SEC. 5. It may grant and revoke Warrants, Dispensations, and Charters for Commanderies, where there is no Grand Commandery.

SEC. 6. It shall have exclusive power to constitute new Commanderies within any State, District, or Territory, over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, wherein there is no Grand Commandery regularly formed under the authority of the Grand Encampment.

SEC. 7. It shall review and consider all the official reports of its officers, and the proceedings of the Grand Commanderies and Commanderies under its immediate jurisdiction, and settle all controversies that may arise between Grand Commanderies.

SEC. 8. It may adopt such Statutes, Laws and Rules not inconsistent with this Constitution, as shall be necessary for the good of the Order.

SEC. 9. It shall examine the accounts of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder and such other Officers, Committees or Trustees, as may have in charge or handle any funds or property of the Grand Encampment.

SEC. 10. It shall consider and do all matters and things appertaining to the good, well-being and perpetuation of the principles of Templar Masonry, not inconsistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE V.

REVENUE AND FINANCES.

SEC. 11. The revenues of the Grand Encampment shall consist of the fees for dispensations and charters for Commanderies under its immediate jurisdiction, a fee for each Knight Templar created therein and an annual per capita upon each member thereof. And also of dues that may be prescribed to be paid by each Grand Commandery for the aggregate membership in its jurisdiction. And of interest and profits upon the deposit or investment of its funds.

SEC. 12. It shall supervise the condition of the finances, and adopt such measures in relation thereto, as may be necessary to increase, secure, and preserve the same, and also to insure the utmost fidelity and punctuality on the part of every accounting officer, in the safe-keeping and paying over of the funds and property of the Grand Encampment.

ARTICLE VI.

TENURE OF OFFICE.

SEC. 13. The officers of the Grand Encampment shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall be duly elected or appointed, and installed.

ARTICLE VII.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

THE GRAND MASTER.

SEC. 14. It is the prerogative and duty of the Grand Master generally to exercise, as occasion may require, all the rights appertaining to his high office, in accordance

with this Constitution and the usages of Templar Masonry; and, as a part thereof, he shall have a watchful supervision over all Commanderies, Grand and Subordinate, under its jurisdiction, and see that all the constitutional Enactments, Statutes and Edicts of the Grand Encampment, are duly and promptly observed; that the work, Rituals and discipline of Templar Masonry are uniform; that the insignia of rank is as prescribed by the Grand Encampment and the dress of the Commanderies under the immediate jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment is uniform and as prescribed by the Grand Encampment.

SEC. 15. To fill all vacancies which may occur in any office other than Deputy Grand Master, Grand Generalissimo or Grand Captain General, which appointees shall serve during the pleasure of the Grand Master, or until their respective successors shall have been elected or appointed, and installed.

SEC. 16. To appoint all committees authorized by the Constitution or by the Grand Encampment, and remove them at pleasure.

SEC. 17. To visit and preside in any Commandery, Grand or Subordinate, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment, and give such instructions and directions as the good of the Order may require, always adhering to the Constitution, Laws, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment.

SEC. 18. To cause to be executed, and securely to preserve and keep, the official bonds of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder.

SEC. 19. To grant Letters of Dispensation for the holding of a Commandery of "the Indispensable Number" in territory in which there exists no Grand Commandery.

SEC. 20. Upon the petition of at least nine Knights Templar in good standing, to grant Letters of Dispensation, during the recess of the Grand Encampment, for the formation of new Commanderies in Countries, States or