



GRAND LODGE OF IDAHO ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

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UPDATE #2

Brethren,

There have been lots of questions as we navigate these uncharted waters, we find ourselves in. Our Code was not written with thought on what happens in a virtual shut down. I am very happy to say that many Lodges and Brothers are finding innovative ways to continue practicing Freemasonry. I want to thank everyone who has contacted me just to check and see how my family and I are. This is one of the positives that has come out of this trying time. I hope the checking on our Brothers becomes a habit that continues when we return to our new norm, as it is one of our tenants of Freemasonry.

With the many social media outlets and the multitude of video conferencing apps available we are able to stay in regular communication. The Grand Lodge has chosen the ZOOM platform for video conferencing and I encourage the Masons of Idaho to download the ZOOM app so that you can join in conference calls when required and we are working programs that will utilize this platform.

During this down time is a great opportunity to explore Grandview which is the membership management system we use in this Grand Jurisdiction. There have been many improvements as more and more Grand Jurisdictions have started using this software. There are many resources available to the member once he sets up his account. All you have to do is go to the Grand Lodge website and click on the membership portal to sign up for your access to Grandview. (you will need your membership number which is on your Dues card)

At this time, we do not have a lot of guidelines for the use of the multitude of choices that technology offers us, so here is some guidance from me as Grand Master.

- I highly encourage the use of video conferencing for gathering for Masonic fellowship.
- You can use video conferencing to hold any of our Ceremonies that are open to the public such as Table Lodges, Masonic information nights, planning meetings, forum discussions and game nights...
- You may use video conferencing to coach and perform proficiencies. These should only be done by invitation only and not open to the public and in rooms that are secure from cowans and eavesdroppers.
- **NO MEETINGS WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY THAT REQUIRE A TYLED MEETING.** This includes but is not limited to Stated or Called meetings and any Degree Ritual.
- **No investigations will be accomplished until Edict 1-2020 is rescinded**

I was also asked to share some of my Masonic thoughts with you. One of my favorite Scriptures is 1st Corinthians 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

As Masons we are required to have faith in a Supreme Being. We learn that this is necessary, for if we did not believe in a higher authority, we would not be held to any of our promises or Obligations. Freemasonry is founded on our ability to remain true to the things that we are required to do for ourselves, our God, our Lodge, our Country, our Brother Masons and for mankind. We must know that we will have to atone for our transgressions when we return to that House not made with hands Eternal in the Heavens.

We must have hope that we will be that our Faith is well founded. That we will indeed reap the reward of our faith and live eternally with those that we love. That our trials will end, and we will have eternal peace.

We must have Charity towards all mankind especially for our Brother Masons, his widows and orphans. Charity is not material kind of charity that we think of today but is the true love our Supreme Being and of our fellow man. When we have love for our fellow man, we will extend all kind Charities which are due unto him.

In Masonry we are reminded of Jacob's theoretical ladder which extends from earth to Heaven, the three principle rounds of which are Faith, Hope and Charity.

We are further instructed that our Faith may be lost in sight. Because when we arrive at that house not made with hands eternal in the Heavens, we will meet our Creator and no longer require the faith of his existence.

Our hope will end in fruition for we will no longer Hope for immortality but come to the realization the we will live forever with our creator along with our family and friends who proceeded us in this journey into immortality.

But Charity being the greatest of the three extends beyond the grave into the boundless realms of Eternity. For our love and good works will live in the lives of those that we had the pleasure to meet and love. They will carry that love that we gave them through their lives and share it with those that they love which will make an unbroken chain of sincere affection. Thus, a piece of our love lives beyond our earthly labors.

Fraternally,



M.W. Steven L. Hall
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