

**Resolution to Append
A Preamble to the
Constitution
(Revised August 29, 2011, Amended September 29, 2014)**

To the Officers, and Members of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International:

Whereas, there is a need to clarify the purposes of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International; and,

Whereas, the authority of the General Grand Council needs to be delineated; and,

Whereas, a statement of the Landmarks for Cryptic Masons will assist in this;

Therefore, let it be resolved that the following be added:

PREAMBLE

In peace, love and unity, the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International, is established to promote, preserve and protect the principles and Landmarks of Ancient Freemasonry and of the Cryptic Rite in particular as an essential and co-equal part of the American York Rite System throughout the Masonic World. To that end, we encourage adherence and preservation of those principles and Landmarks in the Cryptic Rite within the United States of America, and we require the establishment and continuation of those principles and Landmarks in the Cryptic Rite outside the United States of America, thereby ensuring the betterment of Freemasonry in all of Creation.

LANDMARKS AND MAXIMS OF CRYPTIC FREEMASONRY

The essential Degrees of Cryptic Masonry in the Universal or American York Rite are the degrees of Royal Master, Select Master, Super Excellent Master, along with the invitational Orders of the Silver Trowel or Thrice Illustrious Master and the Order of the Secret Vault.

All Degrees of Cryptic Masonry are held in trust by any chartered Council or Grand Council.

Concomitantly, any Council or Grand Council chartered by the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International, is issued that charter as a trustee of the

Universal or American Cryptic Rite and, as such, must conform to these Landmarks and Maxims to retain recognition by the General Grand Council and the issued charter.

All the Degrees of Cryptic Masonry may only be conferred by a chartered Council or Grand Council.

No Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Commandery, Scottish Rite or other Appendant Body of Freemasonry of any jurisdiction may control, supervise, or confer the Degrees of Cryptic Masonry.

No Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, Grand Commandery, Scottish Rite or other Appendant Body of Freemasonry of any jurisdiction may control, supervise, or dictate the governance of a chartered Council or Grand Council.

The governance of a chartered Council or Grand Council includes the maintenance and determination of membership data, financial revenues and obligations, conduct of elections and installations, and all regalia of the Cryptic Rite.

By affirmative vote of its membership, a Chartered Grand Council may enter into cooperative trust arrangements with either or both the Grand Chapter or Grand Commandery of its jurisdiction for joint administration of clerical services, accountable transfers of payments for necessary expenses including per capita due and owing to the chartering authorities of the General Grand Chapter, General Grand Council or Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, provision of expenses for physical locations for use, records storage, or meeting sites, and membership database software systems, provided that the governance of that trust arrangement includes representation of the Chartered Grand Council selected solely by the Chartered Grand Council.

A chartered Council or Grand Council is required to hold elections to fill the offices from qualified individuals as specified in a Constitution and Bylaws that has been approved and accepted by its chartering authority.

All chartered Councils or Grand Councils must be governed by the Solomonic Rule of Three, being the elected Cryptic Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Principal Conductor of the Work and any action by its governing board must include the affirmative vote of at least two of those three officers.

Beyond these Landmarks and Maxims, a chartered Council or Grand Council is to follow the customs and usages of the recognized Grand Lodge or recognized

Grand Lodges with joint authority by recognized treaties over its territorial jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID A. GRINDLE, OPC, PGIM (ID)
WILLIAM G. SNYDER, PGIM (MO)
G. THOMAS TAYLOR III, PGIM (DE)