

**THE COMMEMORATIVE ORDER OF
ST. THOMAS OF ACON**



**CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND MASTER'S COUNCIL
FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

REVISED VERSION 4 - 2023

Any subject not herein dealt with by these Constitutions shall be governed by the general rules of the Knights Templar, so far as such Rules are applicable to the Order and not inconsistent with these Constitutions.

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GRAND MASTERS COUNCIL

1. Governing Body

The Order of St. Thomas of Acon shall be governed by a body styled "The Grand Master's Council"

All Masters and Priors (past and present) of Chapels of the Order are Members of the Grand Master's Council.

2. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Grand Master's Council shall be September 1st through August 31st.

3. Ranks

All Grand Officers must be subscribing members of a Chapel on the Register of the Order and Installed Masters of the Order. Members of the Grand Master's Council are entitled to the undernoted post-nominals and rank in the following order:

Grand Master	G.M.
Grand Prior	G.P.
Past Grand Masters	P.G.M.
Past Grand Priors	P.G.P.
Knight Humilitas	K.H.
Knight Caritas	K.C.
Grand Preceptor	G.Prec. (Jurisdiction)
Past Grand Preceptors	P.G.Prec. (Jurisdiction)
Grand Marshal	G.Mar.
Past Grand Marshals	P.G.Mar.
Grand Treasurer	G.Treas.
Past Grand Treasurers	P.G.Treas.
Grand Registrar	G.Reg.
Past Grand Registrars	P.G.Reg.
Grand Secretary	G.Sec.

Past Grand Secretaries	P.G.Sec.
Grand Historian	G.Hist.
Past Grand Historians	P.G.Hist.
Deputy Grand Marshal	Dep.G.Mar.
Past Deputy Grand Marshals	P.Dep.G.Mar.
Grand Almoner	G.Alm.
Past Grand Almoners	P.G.Alm.
Grand Warden of Regalia	G.W.Reg.
Past Grand Warden of Regalia	P.G.W.Reg.
Grand Sword Bearer	G.Swd.B.
Past Grand Sword Bearers	P.G.Swd.B.
Deputy Grand Secretary	Dep.G.Sec.
Past Deputy Grand Secretaries	P.Dep.G.Sec.
Grand Banner Bearer	G.B.B.
Past Grand Banner Bearers	P.G.B.B.
Assistant Grand Marshals	Asst.G.Mar.
Past Assistant Grand Marshals	P.Asst.G.Mar.
Assistant Grand Treasurer	Asst.G.Treas.
Past Assistant Grand Treasurer	P.Asst.G.Treas.
Assistant Grand Secretary	Asst.G.Sec.
Past Assistant Grand Secretaries	P.Asst.G.Sec.
Grand Herald	G.Her.
Past Grand Heralds	P.G.Her.
Grand Organist	G.Org.
Past Grand Organists	P.G.Org.
Deputy Grand Organist	Dep.G.Org.
Past Deputy Grand Organist	P.Dep.G.Org.
Grand Doorkeeper	G.Dk.
Past Grand Doorkeepers	P.G.Dk.
Grand Cellarers	G.Cel.
Past Grand Cellarers	P.G.Cel.
Grand Sentry	G.Sent.
Past Grand Sentry	P.G.Sent.
Assistant Grand Sentry	Asst.G.Sent.
Past Assistant Grand Sentry	P.Asst.G.Sent.

4. Styles

The Grand Master	is styled:	“Most Worthy”
The Grand Prior	is styled	“Most Eminent”
A Knight Humilitas	is styled:	“Right Worthy”
A Knight Caritas	is styled:	“Right Worthy”
The Grand Preceptor	is styled	“Right Worthy”
All other Grand Officers	are styled:	“Right Worthy”
The Provincial Grand Prior	is styled:	“Right Eminent”
The Master of a Chapel	is styled:	“Worthy”
The Prior of a Chapel	is styled:	“Eminent”

The holder of a Past Rank or Office retains the style of the Active Rank or Office.

All other members of the Order shall have the style of

"Sir _____ of _____ "

5. Salutations

Salutations shall be given as follows:

Grand Master	11
Past Grand Master	11
Grand Prior	9
Past Grand Prior	9
Knight Humilitas	7
Knight Caritas	7
Grand Preceptor	7
Past Grand Preceptor	7
Past and Present:	5
Grand Marshal	
Grand Treasurer	
Grand Registrar	
Grand Secretary	
Grand Historian	
Provincial Grand Prior	5

(in their own Province)
All Other Grand Officers 4
and Provincial Grand Officers

6. Meetings and the Election of a Grand Master

- a) The Annual Meeting of the Grand Master's Council shall be held on the Thursday included in the Masonic event commonly known as “Masonic Week”, unless the Grand Master has issued a dispensation, approved by the Board of General Purposes, to permit it to be held on another more convenient date.
- b) Any Past Master of a Chapel under the jurisdiction of the Grand Master’s Council of the United States of America shall be eligible to be nominated, either by the Nominating Committee and/or from members of the Board of General Purposes, to be elected to serve as Grand Master.
- c) A prospective Grand Master shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee consisting of five (5) Past Masters, only one (1) of whom shall be a Past Grand Master. They shall not self-nominate and they shall recommend one candidate to be elected by the Board of General Purposes.
- d) A meeting of the Nominating Committee will be held every even year prior to July 1, and at an ensuing meeting of the Board of General Purposes held prior to September 15 in the same year, an election of a Grand Master shall be held by the Board of General Purposes, in accordance with Article 8 herein.
- e) The term of a Grand Master shall be two (2) years only, commencing with his installation at the Grand Master’s Council meeting to be held in an odd numbered year and terminating with the election and installation of the successive Grand Master.
- f) No Sir Knight, having been elected and installed in the office of Grand Master, may be eligible for election and installation in the office of Grand Master at any future time beyond the initial two-year term .
- g) The two year term limitation shall not apply to a specific

temporal occasion when a Sir Knight may be appointed “Grand Master pro tem” for the purpose of conducting ceremonies, to serve in the absence of the Grand Master for a specified meeting and ceremonial purpose. With the exception of performing the ceremony (ies), no other power or prerogative may be delegated to any Sir Knight acting as “Grand Master pro tem.”

- h) Should the Grand Master die or resign, or by reason of infirmity or incapacity, be unable to discharge his duties, or otherwise be removed from office for cause by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, the Grand Prior shall pro tem exercise all powers of the Grand Master in his stead until such time as a Grand Master shall be elected. The Grand Prior shall, as soon as may be practicable, summon the Nominating Committee, and thereafter the Board of General Purposes, for the purpose of electing a new Grand Master who shall be installed immediately or at a convenient date thereafter. From the day of election the Grand Master shall exercise the powers and prerogatives of the office. Anyone who is elected and serves under these circumstances for less than one year shall not be barred by Section 7 above from being subsequently elected and installed for one full term as Grand Master.

7. Appointments

At the regular meeting of the Grand Master's Council, the Grand Master may appoint the following Grand Officers, who shall thereupon be invested:

Grand Prior	Deputy Grand Secretary
Grand Marshal	Grand Banner Bearer
Grand Treasurer	Assistant Grand Marshals (3)
Grand Registrar	Assistant Grand Treasurer
Grand Secretary	Assistant Grand Secretary
Grand Historian	Grand Herald
Deputy Grand Marshal	Grand Organist
Grand Almoner	Grand Doorkeeper

Grand Warden of Regalia Grand Cellarers (6)
 Grand Sword Bearer Grand Sentry

a) The Grand Master may, once a year confer the rank designated Provincial Grand Rank on Knights who have rendered meritorious service to the Order as members of an Unattached Chapel and are Past Masters in the Order. They shall wear the regalia as prescribed for a Provincial Officer who is not in active office. Each Knight may append the post-nominal P.G.R. after his nomen.

b) The award of merit of Knight Humilitas and Knight Caritas is the gift of the Grand Master, which he can revoke, and is limited to 12 and 33 subscribing members, respectively, at any one time.

c) The Grand Master and Past Grand Masters are Knights Humilitas, and the Grand Prior, and Past Grand Priors are Knights Caritas and by virtue of their rank. Receiving either award is not a prerequisite for election to Grand Master or appointment as Grand Prior. To remove doubt, current and past Grand Masters and Grand Priors are not included in the numerical limitations in note 6.b) above. (Revised 2019)

d) Grand Preceptors are invited to recommend appointments to Grand Rank, before the 1st of September, for consideration by the Grand Master according to the following table:

No. of Chapels		Permitted No. of Recommendations
From	To	
1	6	1
7	10	2
11	14	3
14	20	4
21	+	5 (plus one for each additional Chapel)

All Grand Officers are appointed; promoted; replaced and or removed and shall serve in office, at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master.

8. Executive Committee

There shall be an Executive Committee, chaired by the Grand Master, comprising:

- Grand Master
- Grand Prior
- Grand Marshal
- Grand Treasurer
- Grand Registrar
- Grand Secretary
- Deputy Grand Marshal
- Deputy Grand Secretary

The Executive Committee shall meet at the Grand Masters discretion at least once per year.

9. Board of General Purposes

There shall be a Board of General Purposes, chaired by the Grand Master, comprising:

The members of the Executive Committee and 7 Grand Preceptors (whether Past or Present) 3 of whom shall be appointed by the Grand Master or his nominee and 4 of whom shall be elected by the Grand Master's Council from time to time, each serving until replaced by their respective appointing person or body.

The Board of General Purposes shall meet once a year and on such other occasions as the Executive Committee shall by resolution determine.

The Board of General Purposes shall consider all matters placed before it by the Executive Committee and give comment and guidance thereon where appropriate prior to such matters being considered by the Grand Master's Council.

The Board of General Purposes shall each year elect the Grand Master in accordance with the preceding provisions by simple majority and in case of equality of votes the senior Grand Preceptor shall have a second and casting vote.

10. Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal shall notwithstanding any previous rule to the contrary consist of such members as shall be appointed from time to time and at any time by the Grand Master's Council.

11. Grand Master's Award (Repealed 2017)

12. Discipline

A Knight of the Order, who believes another Knight needs to be disciplined, may submit a written statement to the Grand Master who shall determine if the complaint is an offense against the laws of Freemasonry. If the complaining Knight is not satisfied with the Grand Master's decision, he may appeal to the Grand Master's Council.

If the Grand Master believes discipline should be considered, he will appoint a three member Trial Commission who shall appoint appropriate personnel and oversee written charges, appropriate notice, opportunity for legal representation, trial and recommended punishment, if found guilty at the trial.

A full written report from the Trial Commission shall be available at the next Grand Master's Council. After consideration, the Grand Master's Council, by majority vote, may impose one of the following punishments:

Expulsion
Indefinite Suspension
Definite Suspension for a given period
Reprimand
or determine the Knight to be not guilty.

Readmission into the Order after expulsion or indefinite suspension shall be by the same election as if never a member.

GRAND PRECEPTOR'S COUNCILS

13. Grand Preceptor's Council

Each Province of the Order shall be governed by a body styled "The Grand Preceptor's Council for (title of jurisdiction)".

14. Provincial Ranks

Every Grand Preceptor's Council shall be composed of the Grand Preceptor, the Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers, and the Master and Priors (present and past) of every Chapel in the Province, with all the Installed Masters who are subscribing members of a Chapel within such Province.

Past Provincial rank can only be bestowed on knights after the Province has been in existence for a year.

Provincial appointments are not to be conferred on knights who are not in possession of the mantle and tunic of the Order.

Note: Grand Preceptor and Past Grand Preceptor are Grand Ranks.

15. Appointments

Every Grand Preceptor shall, at least once in every year, hold a Meeting of the Grand Preceptor's Council at such a place within his Province as he may think fit, and appoint annually from amongst the

subscribing members of Chapels within his Province, the following Provincial Grand Officers (who shall bear the indicated post-nominals):

Provincial Grand Prior	Prov.G.P. *
Provincial Grand Marshal	Prov.G.Mar. *
Provincial Grand Treasurer	Prov.G.Treas. *
Provincial Grand Registrar	Prov.G.Reg. *
Provincial Grand Secretary	Prov.G.Sec. *
Provincial Deputy Grand Marshal	Prov.Dep.G.Mar. * +
Provincial Grand Almoner	Prov.G.Alm.
Provincial Grand Warden of Regalia	Prov.G.W.Reg.
Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	Prov.G.Swb.B.
Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary	Prov.Dep.G.Sec. +
Provincial Grand Banner Bearer	Prov.G.B.B.
Provincial Assistant Grand Marshal	Prov.Asst.G.Mar. +
Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary	Prov.Asst.G.Sec. +
Provincial Grand Herald	Prov.G.Her.
Provincial Grand Organist	Prov.G.Org. +
Provincial Grand Doorkeeper	Prov.G.Dk.
Provincial Grand Cellarers	Prov.G.Cel.
Provincial Grand Sentry	Prov.G.Sent.

Only Installed Masters may be appointed to those offices marked with an asterisk (*).

Officers marked with a cross (+) are not mandatory appointments.

Not more than six Provincial Grand Cellarers may be appointed.

Past Provincial Grand Officers shall rank immediately after the corresponding Active Officer for the year, they will bear the title of their previous active rank preceded by the word "Past" and in the corresponding Post nominals will replace "Prov." With "P.Pr."

16. Past Rank

Every Grand Preceptor may additionally from time to time appoint Knights of ability, who are members of Chapels within his Province and have rendered service to the Order to such Past Provincial Grand Ranks below the rank of Past Provincial Prior as he may deem advisable, according to the following scale.

No. of Chapels		Permitted No. of Recommendations
From	To	
1	6	1
7	10	2
11	14	3
14	20	4
21	+	5 (plus one for each additional Chapel)

Every Grand Preceptor may also from time to time promote such Knights who have served as Provincial Grand Officers or hold Past Provincial Grand Rank and have rendered further service to the Order to such Past Provincial Grand Ranks below the rank of Provincial Grand Prior as to him may seem appropriate.

17. Executive Committee

There shall be a Provincial Executive Committee, chaired by the Grand Preceptor, comprising:

Grand Preceptor

Provincial Grand Prior

Provincial Grand Marshal

Provincial Grand Treasurer

Provincial Grand Registrar

Provincial Grand Secretary

Provincial Deputy Grand Marshal (optional at the discretion of the Grand Preceptor)

Provincial Deputy Grand Secretary (optional at the discretion of the Grand Preceptor)

To meet at the Grand Preceptor's discretion at least once per year.

18. Meetings

The Province shall meet as determined by the by-laws of the Grand Preceptor's Council, with at least one meeting occurring each calendar year.

PRIVATE CHAPELS

19. Operating Year

The operating year of private Chapels shall be September 1st through August 31st. The Chapel meeting immediately preceding September 1 of each calendar year shall be designated the annual meeting at which the election and installation of officers shall be held.

Officers of the Chapel shall officially assume their duties upon their installation prior to September 1 of each calendar year.

The Secretary of each local Chapel shall annually report to the Grand Secretary the officers of the Chapel as part of the annual return.

20. Petition

A petition for a warrant of Constitution for a Chapel shall be signed by at least seven Knights of the Order who are the subscribing members of Chapels on the register of the Order, and shall be submitted to the Grand Preceptor for his countersignature, and shall then be transmitted to the Grand Secretary for presentation to the Grand Master.

21. Officers

The Officers of a Chapel shall be:

Master
Prior
Marshal
Treasurer
Secretary
Deputy Marshal
Almoner
Four Working Knights
Herald
Organist
Doorkeeper
Cellarer(s)(6)
Sentry

Note: The Cellarer and Organist are permissive appointments

22. Progression

A Knight shall not be Master of more than one Chapel at the same time.

Should a vacancy occur in the office of Worthy Master, a Past Worthy Master shall preside at each meeting of the Chapel until the next annual election and installation of officers. Preference should be given to the most junior Past Worthy Master, succeeding through the Past Worthy Masters to the most senior.

23. Elections

The Sentry, Examiners of Accounts and members of a Chapel Committee shall be elected at the meeting previous to the Installation Meeting. The Examiners of Accounts and members of a Chapel Committee should be as follows:

Examiners of Accounts: Marshal, Deputy Marshal
Chapel Committee: Deputy Marshal, Almoner

The Master and Treasurer shall be elected and invested strictly in accordance with the rituals of the Order. Every Master shall forthwith on his Installation appoint and invest the Prior, other Officers, and invest the Treasurer.

24. Meetings

The Chapel shall meet as determined by the by-laws of the Chapel. The Worthy Master must be present for the Chapel to be opened. Should the Worthy Master be unable to open a meeting of the Chapel because of infirmity or emergency as required by the Chapel by-laws, the Worthy Master will consult with the Grand Preceptor, for those Chapels within a Province, or the Grand Master for Chapels subordinate to the Grand Master's Council. The Grand Preceptor or Grand Master will appoint a Past Worthy Master to preside pro-tem. The Worthy Master must actively complete his term of office in order to receive the title and benefits of the office of Worthy Master.

25. Candidates

Admission as a Knight of the Order is by invitation. A candidate for admission must be a subscribing Master Mason in a Craft Lodge in amity with the United Grand Lodge of England, a subscribing Royal Arch Mason in a Royal Arch Chapter, or its equivalent in other countries, in amity with Supreme Grand Chapter of England and a subscribing Knight Templar, or its equivalent in other countries, in amity with the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas.

Each candidate must complete and submit a petition for admission into the Order on the approved application form duly proposed and seconded by two members of the Chapel to which he applies.

If a candidate for Installation or joining seeks admission to a Chapel in a locality in which he neither resides nor is his normal place of employment, he shall state in writing his reasons for doing so, and not seeking admission to a Chapel in the locality of his residence or principal place of business. Permission must be obtained from the Provincial Secretary of the Province in which he resides or principle place of business is situated, or if neither be situated within a Province, from the Grand Secretary before his election, in accordance with the traditions of the Order, and his subsequent admission into the Chapel can take place.

For avoidance of doubt the election for Installation, joining, re-joining and honorary membership is not secret and does not employ ballot balls, knights who are in agreement remain silent.

In circumstances where there is an objection and the knight concerned does not wish to be identified it is permissible for him to make his objection known by informing BOTH the Master and Secretary in private before the election meeting (which he must attend if the objection is to be reported) and they indicate the number of objections that have been received, from the knights present, when the election takes place.

A Chapel may install up to 2 knights at a meeting. A dispensation to install 3 knights may be granted by the Grand Preceptor; more than 3 knights requires a dispensation from the Grand Secretary.

26. Honorary Members

The Grand Master can, or be petitioned to, make a Knight an Honorary Member of the Order at his will and pleasure. This entitles the Knight to attend but not address the Grand Master's Council and any Chapel to which he has received a summons. Honorary members of the Order are not required to pay the annual subscription.

A brother Knight who has rendered distinguished service to the Order in general, or to a particular Chapel, may be elected as an Honorary Member of a Private Chapel. This action does not grant said Knight Honorary Membership in the Order, but only within the Private Chapel. Only the Grand Master can grant Honorary Membership in the Order, as previously outlined.

Honorary members of a Private Chapel are not required to pay the annual subscription to that Private Chapel following the date of their election.

27. Membership

Upon joining the Order, a Knight will assume a Nomen. Nomen's are constructed as follows:

Sir [INSERT NAME] of [INSERT PLACE]

The chosen name should be associated with the Knight, such as his first name or middle name. Sobriquets are not acceptable.

The chosen place must be real and not fictitious. The names of cities, towns, municipalities, or colloquial names of areas are acceptable. The Knight need not reside in the area denoted in his nomen.

If the Nomen is already in use a numeral will be added after the Christian name to ensure uniqueness e.g. Sir David IV of London.

Once chosen and approved, a Nomen cannot be changed.

All Nomens are subject to approval by the Grand Master.

To remain a member, a Knight of the Order must be a subscribing Master Mason in a Craft Lodge in amity with the United Grand Lodge of England and a subscribing member of at least one Chapel of the Order; otherwise his membership of the Order ceases automatically. In circumstances where he holds honorary

membership this ceases at the Grand Master's Council meeting, which he may attend but not address, in the year he became non-subscribing. The Grand Master has the power to override this provision.

The Grand Master can, or be petitioned to, make a Knight an Honorary Member of the Order, at his will and pleasure. This entitles the Knight to attend but not address the GMC and any Chapel to which he has received a summons.

An ex-member may apply to re-join the Order, (using the appropriate joining / re-joining form) and having found a Proposer and Secunder, and thereafter, being subject to election, in the Chapel of his choice, before re-admission to the Order.

A knight, once admitted or a joining / re-joining member, must continue to be a subscribing member of the Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas, or its equivalent in other countries.

A knight of the order who is a subscribing member in more than one private Chapel must remain in good standing in all Chapels of which he is a member. He can discontinue his membership in a Chapel by resigning while a member in good standing. If he is excluded from membership in one Chapel, he is de facto excluded from membership in all Chapels until he remedies the situation in the Chapel from which he had been initially excluded.

28. Resignation

Any Knight may voluntarily resign from a Private Chapel if he is in good standing. His resignation should be placed in writing and submitted to the Chapel Secretary. The Secretary shall provide the resigning Knight a Clearance Certificate within a fortnight of receiving the resignation and shall read the resignation at the next

regular meeting of the Chapel. No vote to approve is required.

In addition to the provisions for Resignation of a member in the Constitutions of Grand Lodge in which he holds membership, a resignation also becomes in force on acknowledgement by recorded/special delivery from the Chapel secretary.

FEES

29. Schedule of Fees and Payments to be made to the funds of the Order

The Fees hereunder set out are payable to the Grand Master's Council of the Order:

For a Warrant of Constitution	\$80
Registration of each Founder of a new Chapel	\$10
Registration of a Knight on Admission	\$10
Registration of each joining or re-joining member	\$7
Replacement Certificates	\$20
Replacement Warrants	\$80

Fee of Honour payable on the first appointment or election as a Grand Officer or Past Grand Officer as follows:

Grand Master	\$200
Grand Prior	\$160
Knight Humilitas	\$160
Knight Caritas	\$160
Grand Preceptor	\$160
G.Mar., G.Treas., G.Reg., G.Sec.	\$120
G.Hist., Dep.G.Mar., G.Alm., G.W.Reg., G.Swd.B., Dep.G.Sec	\$100
G.B.B., Asst.G.Mar., Asst.G.Treas., Asst.G.Sec.	\$80
G.Her., G.Org., Dep.G.Org., G.Dkr.	\$60
G.Cel., G.Sent., Asst.G.Sent	\$40

On promotion in Rank, the fee of Honour shall be the difference

between the fee for the former rank and that due for the higher rank.

Annual fee payable by every Chapel to the Grand Masters Council as at 31st August, in each year in respect of every Knight who has been a subscribing member during the whole or any part of the preceding 12 months (Checks made to The Order of St Thomas of Acon). An affirmative vote of the Chapel is not required to approve the disbursement of fees or payments to the Grand Master's Council. \$14

Chapels will be assessed a 25% surcharge, per Knight, by the Grand Master's Council if the annual fee has not been paid in full by December 31st of the same year.

30. Schedule of Fees and Payments to be made to the funds of Provinces

The Fees hereunder set out are payable to the Grand Preceptor's Council:

Registration of each Founder of a new Chapel	\$5
Registration of a Knight on Admission	\$7
Registration of each joining or rejoining member	\$15

Fee of Honour payable on the first appointment or elections a Provincial Grand Officer or Past Provincial Grand Officer as follows:

Provincial Grand Prior	\$100
Prov.G.Mar., Prov.G.Treas., Prov.G.Reg., Prov.G.Sec.	\$60
Prov.Dep.G.Mar., Prov.G.Alm., Prov.G.W.Reg., Prov.G.Swd.B., Prov.Dep.G.Sec.	\$50
Prov.G.B.B, Prov.Asst.G.Mar., Prov.Asst.G.Treas., Prov.Asst.G.Sec.	\$40
Prov.G.Her., Prov.G.Org., Prov.G.Dkr.	\$30
Prov.G.Cel, Prov.G.Sent.	\$20

On promotion, the Fee of Honour shall be the difference between the fee for the former rank and that for the higher rank.

Annual fee payable by every Chapel to the Grand Preceptor's Council as at 31st August in each year in respect of every Knight who has been a subscribing member during the whole or any part of the preceding 12 months. (Checks made to Province). An affirmative vote of the Chapel is not required to approve the disbursement of fees or payments to the Province. \$10

REGALIA

31. Regalia

The Clothing, Insignia and Jewels, and Arms which shall be borne by members of the Order of St. Thomas of Acon are:

i) Knight

a) Tunic of stone white material; long enough to cover the knees; to be fastened at the back; on the front a Latin Cross, four inches wide, the full length of the tunic, colour Medici Crimson, on which is superimposed a white Latin Cross one third of the width. The centre of the intersection of the Cross charged with a Bronze Escallope Shell. (Note: in this Order the Badge is worn [on every garment] "a coquille" with the hinge of the Escallope shell at the bottom and fan opening at the top).

b) Mantle of similar stone white material to the Tunic, long enough completely to cover the Tunic, a white silken cord around the neck with a silken tassel at each end which shall be tied in front of the collar with a bow; on the left breast a Greek Cross (straight limbs of ten inches length) divided vertically and horizontally red, white, red in even widths of 0.5 inches each, the white cross terminating 0.5 of an inch short of the ends of the cross; the mid-point of the Cross charged with a Bronze Escallope Shell, which shall be of a size to fit in a circle of no greater than 1.5 inches; the top of the cross six to

eight inches below the left shoulder; the Mantle is to be shaped or pleated at the neck and shoulder so that the two edges hang vertically in front.

c) Cap of crimson velvet, three inches deep; on the front of the cap a Bronze Escallope Shell upright.

d) Sword (Templar pattern) and Scabbard - regardless of office, active or past; an Ordained Clergyman may carry a bible rather than a sword at his discretion.

e) Belt of brown leather two inches wide, the buckle and tongue brass; a leather Sword Frog on the left side.

(Note: Priors and Almoners wear neither Belt nor Sword)

ii) Master

A sceptre with a large bronze scallop on top is part of the regalia of a Worthy Master of a private Chapel. He shall only carry this sceptre in his own Chapel.

iii) Past Master

As for a Knight (above) but in addition wears a silver chain round the neck from which is suspended a silver Canterbury Cross.

iv) Provincial Grand Officers

As for a Past Master, but the Escallope Shell on the tunic, mantle and hat are of silver.

Note:

a) Neither the Provincial Grand Prior nor the Provincial Grand Almoner wears either belt or a sword.

b) A seated Provincial Grand Officer, where not otherwise a Grand Officer fulfilling a Provincial Office, will, with the exception of the Provincial Grand Prior, wear an additional brooch type smaller silver shell on his mantle, located one inch above the upper arm of the cross. He may wear this additional silver shell for so long as he holds a seated Provincial Grand Office.

v) Grand Preceptor

A sceptre with a large silver scallop on top is part of the regalia of a Right Worthy Grand Preceptor of a province. He shall only carry this sceptre at meetings of the Grand Preceptor's Council of his Province and in private Chapels in his Province.

He will be distinguished by a silver patriarchal crown sewn on his mantle one inch above the upper vertical arm of the cross. On the cessation of office, the Patriarchal Crown will continue to be worn unless the knight is promoted.

vi) Provincial Grand Prior

As for a Provincial Grand Officer, but in addition:

a) The Provincial Grand Prior, if in Holy Orders, is to wear the clerical vestments suitable to his Office and Church. If the Grand Prior is not in Holy Orders, he will continue to wear the habit of the Order, but will be distinguished by a small silver mitre sewn on his mantle one inch above the upper vertical arm of the cross, carries a Bible, and does not wear a belt or a sword.

b) A Past Provincial Grand Prior will cease to wear clerical vestments, if in holy orders; the small silver mitre sewn on his mantle will continue to be worn unless the knight is promoted.

vii) Grand Officers

As for a Past master, but the Escallope Shell on the tunic, mantle and hat are of gold. Grand Officers (past and present) wear a silver neck chain from which is suspended a token of St. Thomas (which replaces the Canterbury Cross worn by Past Masters).

Note:

a) Neither the Grand Prior nor the Grand Almoner wears either belt or a sword.

b) A seated Grand Officer will wear an additional brooch type smaller gold shell on his mantle, located one inch above the upper arm of the cross, and will continue to wear the same for so long as he holds a seated Grand Office.

c) Grand Officers who are not seated in Grand Master's Council, but who undertake a seated Office as a Provincial Grand Officer will wear the Regalia of a Grand Officer, but are permitted to wear an extra silver shell of a seated Provincial Grand Officer. (Revised 2017)

d) Grand Officers who are seated in Grand Master's Council, but who undertake a seated Office as a Provincial Grand Officer below the rank of Provincial Grand Prior, will wear the regalia of a Grand Officer until no longer a seated Officer in Grand Master's Council, at which time the small gold shell of a seated Grand Officer is replaced with the small silver shell of a seated Provincial Grand Officer.

viii) Knight Caritas

A Knight who has been awarded the title Knight Caritas shall be entitled to wear a crimson collaret with the letters "KC" in gold on either side from which they will suspend their Grand Officer's jewel.

ix) Knight Humilitas

A Knight who has been awarded the title Knight Humilitas shall be entitled to wear a black collaret with the letters "KH" in gold on either side from which they will suspend their Grand Officer's jewel.

x) Grand Master

As for a Grand Officer, but in addition:

- a) Wears a princely crown above the Cross on the Mantle;
- b) Bears on his right hand a gold ring with the Cross of the Order; the words "IN HOC SIGNO VINCES" inscribed thereon;
- c) A sceptre with a large gold scallop on top is part of the regalia of the Most Worthy Grand Master of Grand Master's Council.

xi) Grand Prior

As for a Grand Officer, but in addition:

- a) The Grand Prior, if in Holy Orders, is to wear the clerical vestments suitable to his Office and Church. If the Grand Prior is not in Holy Orders, he will continue to wear the habit of the Order, but will be distinguished by a small gold mitre sewn on his mantle one inch above the upper vertical arm of the cross, carries a Bible, and does not wear a belt or a sword.
- b) A Past Grand Prior will cease to wear clerical vestments, if in holy orders; the small gold mitre sewn on his mantle will continue to be worn unless the knight is promoted.

xii) Badges

The badges worn on the mantle, tunic and hat band must either be metal plated in the appropriate colours, or genuine sea shell, painted in the appropriate colours. The badges may be pinned or sewn on the garments.

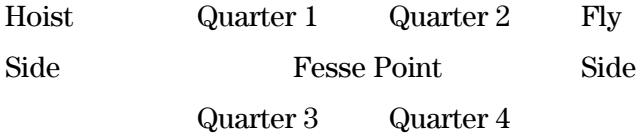
xiii) Sceptres

Knights who have previously served in an office that carries a sceptre may keep their sceptres as a memento of their service, but they should not carry them in meetings of Grand Master's Council, a Grand Preceptor's Council or a Private Chapel unless acting as Most Worthy Grand Master or Grand Preceptor during a Chapel consecration, investiture or some other ceremony in the absence of and upon request of the current holder of that office.

32. Banners

a) The Banner of the Order depicts the Arms of the Order and comprises: argent (34" square) a cross rouse (4.5" in width) reaching to the edges of the banner on which is superimposed a white cross (1.5" in width terminating 1.5" from the edges of the banner), The banner should be charged with a scallop shell or fimbriated rouse in the first quarter and with a glory or, breaking through a cloud proper, surrounding an azure field bearing a constellation of thirteen mullets argent (as found on the obverse of the Great Seal of the United States) in the second quarter. As this is a military order, the Banner should be borne on a carrying pole and affixed to said pole at the hoist side and an upper horizontal bar. (It should not be suspended from a cross bar.)

b) Banner quarters are arranged as follows:



b) Provinces use the Banner of the Order (as above) charged with an additional device representing the Jurisdiction Territory placed in the third quarter. Where appropriate, this device must be fimbriated.

d) Private Chapels use the Provincial Banner of their Province (as above) charged with an additional device representing the Chapel in the fourth quarter. Where appropriate, this device must be fimbriated.

e) Any armigerous Knight may carry his personal Banner and place it behind his stall at all meetings of the Order.

f) All designs for banners must first be submitted for approval to the Grand Secretary, and also where appropriate to the Provincial Grand Secretary.

33. Altar Frontal

Chapels may use either a plain white Altar cloth, or an Altar frontal bearing the Arms of the Order. In the latter case, the Red Greek Cross on the front of the white Altar Cloth should have arms of equal length, the lesser of 34" or one third the width of the Altar. The arms of the red cross should be 4.5" in width, the white cross superimposed thereon should be 1.5 inches in width ending 1.5" before the ends of the red cross. The cross should be charged with a gold scallop shell at "Fesse" point.

AMENDMENTS

34. Amendments

Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to the Grand Secretary by August 31st in order to be considered at the Annual Meeting the following February.

The Grand Secretary will distribute proposed Constitutional Amendments to Chapel Secretaries by October 15 preceding the February Annual Meeting.

A proposed Constitutional Amendment must receive a two-thirds majority at an Annual Meeting in order to be adopted.

CERTIFICATION

Constitutions promulgated and approved by the Grand Master in Council on the afternoon of Thursday the twenty ninth day of the month of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen.

As amended subsequently either by Grand Magisterial Decree or by the Most Worthy Grand Master in Council with the Executive Committee and issued as an Administrative Instrument before the twenty first day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty one.

As amended subsequently by action of the voting members of the Grand Master's Council on the tenth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty two.

As amended subsequently by action of the voting members of the Grand Master's Council on the ninth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty three.

Signed on behalf of Sir Terry of Chattanooga, K.H., Most Worthy Grand Master:



Sir Jeremy of Anitsalagi, Grand Secretary

1st. Edition Revision 1 - Dated February 21, 2019

1st. Edition Revision 2 - Dated January 21, 2021

1st. Edition Revision 3 - Dated February 10, 2022

1st. Edition Revision 4 - Dated February 26, 2023