

*Uniform Code of By-laws
For use by all Constituent Colleges*

(This Uniform Code of By-laws contains those basic elements of the Constitution and By-laws of the York Rite Sovereign College that every York Rite College must have in its By-laws. Options consistent with Sovereign College Regulations may be added as Amendments at the discretion of the membership and with approval of the Governor General.)

By-laws of _____ York Rite College No. _____

This York Rite College hereby declares its fealty to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of _____, and the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

**ARTICLE I
Name, Number and Location**

- A. This College shall be known as _____ York Rite College No. _____.
- B. The City of _____, *(State/Province)* _____ shall be the home, or the usual Assembly place of this College.
- C. *Options: (Jurisdiction).*

**ARTICLE II
College or Fiscal Year**

- A. The fiscal year of this College shall begin on June 1 and end on May 31 of the following year.

**ARTICLE III
Purposes**

- A. The purposes of this York Rite College shall be:
 - 1. To foster a spirit of cooperation and coordination among each of the Bodies of York Rite Masonry.
 - 2. To assist in worthy efforts to improve the ritualistic and dramatic presentation of York Rite work.
 - 3. To conduct an educational program in order to inculcate a greater appreciation of the principles, ideals and programs of York Rite Masonry.
 - 4. To strengthen York Rite Masonry in every proper manner.
 - 5. To build a love of country and to aid and support genuine Patriotism.
 - 6. To reward outstanding service to York Rite Masonry by awards, honors and other methods of proper recognition.
 - 7. To support Charitable and Benevolent endeavors of Free Masonry.

ARTICLE IV Membership

- A. Membership shall be limited to Regular members who are in good standing in a Symbolic Lodge of Master Masons, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a Council of Cryptic Masons [or Royal and Select Masters (Masons)] and a Commandery or Preceptory of Knights Templar, and who are actively engaged in working for the York Rite.
- B. The Council, as described in Article V E, acting as a Screening Committee, shall consider all Proposals for Membership and cause them to be presented to the Assembly or be filed by the Secretary, but a majority vote of the members in attendance at an Assembly can bring a Proposal up for ballot if he qualifies by "A" above.
- C. Membership in this College shall be by written invitation only.
- D. Any member in good standing may recommend an eligible York Rite Mason for membership on the Proposal form provided for that purpose.
- E. Membership in this College shall be as follows:
 - 1. Primal: Regular Member
 - 2. Dual: *(optional)* Membership in this College plus Primal Membership in a different Grand Jurisdiction
 - 3. Plural: *(optional)* Membership in more than one College within this State or Province
- F. A unanimous vote of those members present at a Regular Assembly, or a Special Assembly called for that purpose, shall be necessary for election to membership.
- G. Life (Prepaid Membership) *[This is optional and should be included only if the College has or is proposing a Prepaid Membership Program]*
 - 1. *General*
 - a. *Each of the Chartered Colleges of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America is authorized to establish a Life (Prepaid) Membership Plan in order to establish a Prepaid Dues Plan.*
 - b. *Each Prepaid Dues Fund shall be the property of the College adopting the Life Membership Plan.*
 - c. *A member's dues must be current at the time of becoming a prepaid member.*

- d. *No College shall co-mingle any of its assets with the Prepaid Dues Fund.*
- e. *College shall in no case borrow from the Prepaid Dues Fund, pledge its assets as security, or loan any part of such Prepaid Dues Fund to any individual or private Corporation.*

2. *Establishment and Cost*

- a. *After proper notice according to the By-laws of a College, the members may adopt a Life (Prepaid) Membership Plan by majority vote of its members present, at the stated Assembly designated in the notice.*
- b. *Colleges establishing a Prepaid Dues Fund may set the amount as _____ times the amount of annual dues, which in no case shall be less than \$200.00. This may be a fixed factor or a variable factor based on the age of the individual.*
- c. *Investment of the funds must be consistent with investment policies of the Grand Lodge of the State or Province in which the college is situated and must be approved in advance by the Grand Governor and be reported to the Sovereign College.*
- d. *The College may use all or any part of the interest and dividend earned by said Prepaid Dues Fund, treating it the same as the annual dues paid by the member. The College may not use the principle, capital gains or market value adjustments.*

ARTICLE V
Officers

A. The Officers of this York Rite College by Title and Rank are:

- 1. Preeminent Governor
- 2. Eminent Deputy Governor
- 3. Eminent Chancellor
- 4. Eminent Treasurer
- 5. Eminent Secretary
- 6. Noble Primate
- 7. Noble Preceptor
- 8. Noble Seneschal
- 9. Noble Marshal
- 10. Noble Sentinel
- 11. Noble Organist (*optional*)
- 12. Noble Herald(s) (*optional*)

B. The first five (5) shall be elected at or before the Annual Assembly.

- C. The Governor shall make all appointments.
- D. The term of office shall be one (1) year, or until a successor is duly installed.
- E. The five (5) Elected Officers shall constitute the Council of the College.
- F. It shall be the duty and privilege of the Governor to preside at all Assemblies of the College. In his absence, the Deputy Governor, Chancellor or the Junior Past Governor present, in that order, will open the College and preside.
- G. Should the Office of Governor become vacant, the Deputy Governor or Chancellor, in that order, shall succeed to the Office of Governor until the next Annual Assembly. Should a special election become necessary, the Governor General may grant his dispensation upon application.
- H. The election and installation of Officers must comply fully with applicable Sovereign College Regulations.

**ARTICLE VI
Assemblies**

***Note:** The dates of Regular Assemblies shall be fixed by the By-laws of the College, a minimum of two (2) assemblies must be held each year. (Section 105 of Constitution)*

- A. Due and proper notice shall be given for all Assemblies.
- B. The Annual Assembly of this York Rite College shall be held on the _____ (*i.e. 2nd Saturday of April*).
- C. There shall be a minimum of two (2) Assemblies per College year including the Annual Assembly.
- D. The fixed date of the second Assembly is _____ (*i.e. 2nd Saturday of November*).
- E. The Governor may call Special Assemblies at his discretion providing due and proper notice is sent to the membership.
- F. Nine (9) Companion Knights shall constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE VII
Fees and Dues**

- A. The fee for membership in this College shall be \$_____ plus any Per Capita or special assessment levied by the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.
- B. The annual dues for membership in this College shall be \$_____ plus any Per Capita or special assessment levied by the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

**ARTICLE VIII
Committees**

- A. The Council shall serve as a Standing Committee on Charity and may authorize an amount not to exceed \$_____ to relieve a worthy distressed Companion Knight.
- B. Immediately after his election, the Governor shall appoint Committees on:
 - 1. York Rite Cooperation
 - 2. Membership
 - 3. Budget and Finance
 - 4. Degree Teams
 - 5. Entertainment
 - 6. Other Committees (*optional*)

**ARTICLE IX
Defunct Colleges**

- A. If this College shall cease to exist, except for the purpose of consolidation, the Governor and Secretary shall within thirty (30) days thereafter; transmit to the Secretary General of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America all books, papers, rituals, jewels, seals, robes, all paraphernalia and all other property or Funds, or evidence thereof, together with the Charter unless the same has been arrested or removed by order of the Governor General.

**ARTICLE X
Vacant Offices**

- A. An Office may be vacated in the following way.
 - 1. Death
 - 2. Inability or refusal to serve
 - 3. Temporary or permanent suspension
 - 4. Expulsion from the Order
 - 5. Loss of Prerequisite membership
- B. Appointed Officers serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- C. The Grand Governor may suspend an Elected Officer failing to properly fulfill the duties of his office (e.g., Article X, A, 2 above)

**ARTICLE XI
Conflict Disclaimer**

A. Anything contained herein that is in conflict with the spirit and intent of the Sovereign College Constitution and By-laws, together with the guidelines of the Governor General and the Board of Directors is hereby declared to be null and void.

**ARTICLE XII
Amendments**

A. These By-laws may be amended as follows:

1. The written proposal to amend shall identify the Article, Section, Page and Line(s) to be deleted, amended or replaced.
2. It shall identify the New Amendment by Article, Section and Page.
3. It shall quote the new language exactly.
4. It must be received by a majority vote at a Regular Assembly or a Special Assembly called for that purpose.
5. It must then lay over, and due and proper notice, both as to content of the Amendment and the time and place of the Assembly where it will be voted on, be given to the membership. It must be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote at said Assembly.
6. It must bear the signature of the Grand Governor.
7. It must be properly signed and submitted in triplicate to the Secretary General for the Governor General's signature.

Approved:

Governor _____ Date_____

Grand Governor_____ Date_____

Governor General _____ Date_____

Secretary General _____ Date_____

**Note: All words (in this font) are for information and clarification only. They are not necessary to be actually written into your by-laws.*

03/01/09