

III. INSTALLATION OF LODGE OFFICERS

The election of officers of the lodge shall be annually, at the November stated communication and the installation takes place between the December Stated Communication and the end of January. If the annual election or installation is not held as thus prescribed, it must be at a time fixed by dispensation from the Grand Master. In case of an election or installation to fill a vacancy consult the Code. Officers re-elected or re-appointed need not, but may be, installed.

It is a prerogative of the Master to install his successor, but the installing officer may be any Past Master in good standing. One who has not attained the rank of Master or Past Master cannot act as installing officer.

This ceremony, like that of constituting a lodge or dedicating a Masonic hall, may be conducted in public. If in public the lodge need not be opened, but if opened, it must be closed or called to refreshment before the public is admitted.

The installing officer is addressed as Most Worshipful Grand Master or Worshipful Master, according to rank.

All officers-elect should appear on the date fixed for installation if possible, but failure to so appear does not invalidate the installation of other elective officers who do appear. Officers unavoidably detained may be installed at any subsequent meeting. No officer can be installed by proxy. No person can be installed as Master who has not served as Warden.

The appointment of Deacons, Stewards, Chaplain, Marshal, and Tyler is vested in the newly elected Master. His appointees, however, cannot be installed unless he is.

The installing officer will select a competent brother to act as Marshal.

The Marshal will see that the jewels, gavel, a small Bible, all the working tools of the three degrees, a Book of Constitutions, the Charter, and a copy of the lodge by-laws are placed on a table or stand at the right and in front of the East, arranged for convenient use.

INSTALLING OFFICER: The installation of officers in a Masonic lodge marks the completion of one year's work and the beginning of the next. It impresses upon us the democratic nature of our Institution and teaches the peculiar art of laying aside the insignia of rank with willingness and gracefulness and of assuming the honors and responsibilities of office with humility.

As the present officers step out of their stations in token of the completion of the past year's duties, we are once more reminded of the equality that should always exist among the members. The officers will now vacate their stations.

Brother Secretary, announce the names of the officers elected and appointed for the ensuing year. Brother Marshal, as the names are called, place the officers in position.

The officers, as their names are called, take positions standing in front of chairs placed west of the altar, facing east. The Marshal personally conducts the Master to his position on the right of the line.

MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I present these worthy brothers who are ready to be installed as officers of this lodge. I believe them to be of good morals and great skill, true and trusty, and lovers of the whole Fraternity wheresoever dispersed. I doubt not they will discharge their respective duties with fidelity.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brethren of _____ Lodge No.____, you see before you the brethren who have been selected as officers of this lodge for the ensuing year. If any brother knows of any just cause why they or any of them should not be installed, let him now make it known.

Before proceeding with these important ceremonies, let us invoke the blessing of Deity. Brother Chaplain, lead us in prayer.

Calls up the lodge or audience. ***

Prayer

CHAPLAIN: Grant, O Lord, our God, that these brethren who are about to be invested with the government of this lodge may be endowed with wisdom from on high. May they bring to their new work, devotion, loyalty, enthusiasm, and tact. May they take up their duties, not lightly, but with a deep sense of responsibility to Thee and to their brethren.

May each officer be so imbued with the spirit of Masonry, so inspired by its sublime teachings, that he may discharge the duties of his office with honor to the Fraternity.

May harmony and brotherly love prevail among the members of this lodge, that it may do its part in the building of character and in the advancement of Thy kingdom. Amen.

RESPONSE: So mote it be.

INSTALLING OFFICER: My brethren, before proceeding to invest you officially, it is necessary for you to take a solemn obligation.

You will, therefore, each of you, place your right hand upon your left breast, say I, (your name), and repeat after me.

Covenant Obligation

I, _____, do most solemnly promise and declare, that I will support and maintain the Constitution, Laws, Edicts, and Regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Iowa, of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, and that I will to the best of my knowledge and ability perform the duties of the office with which I am now to be invested.

Lodge seated. *

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, present the Master-elect for installation.

Master

The Marshal then conducts the Master-elect in front of the East.

MARSHAL: Worshipful Master, I present my worthy Brother _____, who is ready to be installed Master of this lodge.

The installing officer rises in his place.

INSTALLING OFFICER: My brother, in inducting you into your office, as a symbol of the commencement (on continuation) of your government of this lodge, I am performing a most pleasing duty. By immemorial usage and the established landmarks of Freemasonry you are to be installed Master of this lodge, with powers and prerogatives, which are of the highest importance and solemnity. The good resolutions which I doubt not you have formed that these powers and prerogatives shall not be abused or perverted by you I would gladly strengthen by a word of admonition.

The very consciousness of the possession of great authority will ever make a generous man cautious and prudent in its exercise. To rule well has been the fortune of few, and may well be the object of an honorable ambition. It is not by the strong arm or the iron will that obedience and order – the chief objects of good government – are secured, but by holding the key to the hearts of men.

The office of Master is of great antiquity and honor, and is one of the highest positions to which a Mason can aspire. Its incumbent, to rule well, should possess and exemplify several important qualifications.

{As a man, he should be of approved integrity and irreproachable morals; free from the domination of hasty temper and ill-governed passions, of good repute before the world, and practicing as an example to his brethren, the cardinal virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice.

As a citizen, he should be loyal to his government, obedient to its laws, prompt in the duties he owes to society, and a pattern of fidelity in all social and domestic relations.

As a Mason, he should cling to the old landmarks, and be firmly opposed to their infringement; desirous to learn and apt to teach; prompt to aid and relieve, and ever mindful that, though elevated for a time above his fellows, he is elevated by them, and should therefore cultivate, everywhere and at all times, the golden tenets of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

As an officer, he should remember that he is an individual Mason, sharing in that respect a common lot with his brethren, and therefore interested in the welfare of each and all. He should cultivate the closest friendship with his brethren; to be eager to take counsel and ready to give it; and wholly impartial.

Such are some of the most important qualifications the Master should possess. Be it your purpose to reach this high standard and become a bright and shining example to those who shall follow you.}

My brother, previous to your investiture it is necessary that you signify your assent to those ancient charges and regulations which point out the duty of the Master of a lodge.

The following questions must be propounded. If not accurately committed to memory they should be read. It is not necessary that each question be separately answered.

“You promise to be a good man, and true, and strictly to obey the moral law?

“You promise to be a peaceable citizen, and cheerfully conform to the laws of the country in which you reside?

“You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the government, but patiently to submit to the law and the constituted authorities?

“You promise to pay a proper respect to the civil magistrates; to work diligently, live creditably, and act honorably toward all men?

“You promise to avoid private piques and quarrels, and to guard against intemperance and excess?

“You promise to be cautious in your behavior, courteous to your brethren, and faithful to your lodge?

“You promise to respect genuine brethren, and to discountenance impostors and all dissenters from the original plan of Freemasonry?}

“You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master for the time being, and to his officers, when duly installed, and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge, or general assembly of Masons, that is not subversive of the principles and ground-work of Freemasonry?

“You promise a regular attendance on the committees and communications of the Grand Lodge, on receiving proper notice, and to pay attention to all the duties of Freemasonry on convenient occasions?

{“You agree to hold in veneration the original rulers and patrons of Freemasonry, and their regular successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their stations, and to submit to the awards and resolutions of your brethren when in lodge convened, in every case consistent with the constitutions of Freemasonry?

“You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate the social virtues, and to propagate the knowledge of the mystic art?

“You agree that no visitors shall be received into your lodge without due examination and satisfactory evidence of their having been initiated in a regular lodge?

“You admit that no person can be made a Mason in, or admitted a member of, any regular lodge without previous notice and due inquiry into his character?

“You admit that no new lodge shall be formed without permission from the Grand Lodge, and that no countenance shall be given to any irregular lodge, or to any person clandestinely initiated therein, being contrary to the ancient charges of Freemasonry?}”

“You admit that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovations in the body of Freemasonry?”

“Do you submit to these charges and promise to support these regulations, as Masters have done in all age before you?”

The Master-elect will answer in an audible voice:

I do.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother _____, in consequence of your cheerful conformity to the charges and regulations of the Fraternity, I now install you as Master of _____Lodge No. _____, not doubting your care, skill, and capacity.

You will now be invested with the Charter, furniture, and implements of your lodge.

The Marshal will hand each of these, as it is referred to, to the Master-elect who will retain it during the explanation thereof by the installing officer, and then return it to the Marshal.

The Charter or warrant from the Grand Lodge of this jurisdiction alone gives authority to this lodge to meet and work, and without its presence no meeting of the lodge is lawful. This you are carefully to preserve. In no case should it ever be out of your immediate control, until, at the expiration of your term, you shall have duly transmitted it to your successor in office.

The Book of Constitutions you are to search at all times. Cause it to be read in your lodge, that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts it enjoins.

Receive also the **by-laws** of your lodge, which you are to see carefully and punctually executed.

The Holy Bible, the Great Light in Masonry, will guide you to all truth, it will direct your path to the temple of happiness, and point out to you the whole duty of man.

The square is the distinguishing jewel of your office. It is an instrument made use of by operative Masons to square their work. But as Free and Accepted Masons, making use of the tools of the operative craft as symbols for our moral instruction, we are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of squaring our actions by the square of virtue.

The compass teaches us to circumscribe our desires and stay within the boundary line of our duty to God and man. Within its two points are contained the most excellent tenets of our Institutions, which are Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love.

The various implements of your profession are all emblematical of the virtues which should characterize your daily life, and to them your attention cannot be too frequently directed.

The 24-inch gauge teaches us so to measure and divide our time that just proportions of it may be given to the service of God and a distressed worthy brother, to our usual vocations, and to refreshment and sleep. Ruling our lives by a punctual observance of duty and following the *line* of moral rectitude, we travel the straight path of virtue which leads at last to immortality.

The common gavel we should use, symbolically, to break off the corners of our rough earthly natures, thereby fitting ourselves, as living stones, for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations before God and man.

The level teaches equality.

The trowel, in the olden times, was the Master's especial tool. Use it, my brother, to spread in this lodge the cement of brotherly love and affection.

I invest you with the jewel of your exalted station, and seat you in the oriental chair. I cover you with that mark of distinction which has been worn by Masters from time immemorial when presiding over a Masonic lodge.

Calls up the lodge. ***

Worshipful Master; behold your brethren; brethren, behold your Master. Let us salute him with the Public Grand Honors of Masonry. Finally, my brother, I place in your hand this gavel, the symbol of your authority. Wield it, my brother, with prudence and discretion.

New Master seats the brethren. *

If the new Master desires to offer any remarks, he may now do so or he may wait until the installation is completed. He may also proceed to install the other officers or may invite the installing officer to continue. In the latter case the Master will uncover and surrender the gavel until he assumes charge of the lodge.

Music

Appropriate instrumental or vocal music may be introduced here.

Installation Continues

The installing officer then orders the Marshal to present in turn each of the other officers in the order of rank, the manner of presentation, and the response of the Marshal, following the same form (modified in each case according to the officer presented) as for the Master.

Senior Warden

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother _____, you have been elected Senior Warden of this lodge, and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. (*The Marshal places the jewel.*) The level demonstrates that we are descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature, and share the same hope; and though in every organization there must be some who are elevated to govern and direct, yet he who governs but serves the rest; and no eminence of station should make us forget that we are brethren; he who is placed on the lowest spoke of fortune's wheel may be entitled to our regard; because a time will come and the wisest knoweth not how soon, when every distinction but that of goodness shall cease and we shall all indeed meet upon the same level.

Your regular and punctual attendance is essentially necessary. In the absence of the Master you are to govern this lodge; in his presence you are to assist him. In this important trust it will be your duty and should be your pleasure to justify the confidence of your brethren.

Brother _____, look well to the West. You will be conducted to your station.

The Senior Warden is conducted to the West by the Marshal.

Junior Warden

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother _____, you have been elected Junior Warden of this lodge, and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. The plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations, to hold the scales of justice in equal poise, to observe the just medium between intemperance and pleasure, and to make our passions and prejudices coincide with the line of our duty. To you is committed the superintendence of the Craft during the hours of refreshment. It is therefore indispensably necessary that you should not only be temperate and discreet in the indulgence of your own inclinations, but carefully observe that none of the Craft convert the purposes of refreshment into intemperance and excess.

Your regular and punctual attendance is particularly requested and I have no doubt that you will faithfully execute the duties you owe to your present station.

Brother _____, look well to the South. You will be conducted to your station.

The Junior Warden is conducted to the South by the Marshal.

Treasurer

Brother _____, you have been elected Treasurer of this lodge, and will now be invested with the jewel of your office. It is your duty to receive all moneys from the hands of the Secretary, keep just and regular account of the same, and pay them out at the Worshipful Master's will and pleasure, with the consent of the lodge. I trust that regard for the Fraternity will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office. You will be conducted to your place.

Secretary

Brother _____, you have been elected Secretary of this lodge, and the Marshal will now invest you with the jewel of your office. It is your duty to observe the Worshipful Master's will and pleasure; to record the proceedings of the lodge; to receive all moneys, pay them over to the Treasurer and take his receipt therefore. Your good inclination to Masonry and this lodge will induce you to discharge the duties of your office with fidelity, and by so doing you will merit the esteem and approval of your brethren. You will be conducted to your place.

Chaplain

Brother _____, you have been appointed Chaplain of this lodge. The Holy Bible is the Great Light of Masonry and forever sheds its benign rays upon every lawful assemblage of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons. From it we may learn our duty to God, our neighbor, and ourselves. Teach us from its life-giving precepts and you will have faithfully fulfilled your sacred and important trust. It is fitting that an emblem of the sacred volume should be the jewel of your office, and with it you will now be invested. You will be conducted to your place.

Deacons

The Senior and Junior Deacons should be installed together.

Brothers _____ and _____, you have been appointed Senior and Junior Deacons of this lodge and will now be invested with the jewels and rods of office. These rods which you will bear in the performance of your duties are now placed in your hands as symbols of deputed authority. It is your province to attend on the Master and Wardens, and to act as their proxies in the active duties of the lodge, such as the reception of candidates into the different degrees of Masonry, the introduction and accommodation of visitors, and in the immediate practice of our rites. The square and compass, as badges of your office, are entrusted to your care, not doubting your vigilance and attention. You will be conducted to your respective places.

Stewards

The Stewards should be installed together.

Brothers _____ and _____, you have been appointed Senior and Junior Stewards of this lodge and will now be invested with the jewels and rods of office. It is your duty to prepare candidates for the ceremonies of degree work and as they thus receive their first impressions from you, it should be your earnest care to see that these impressions comport with the dignity of the Institution. It is also your duty to assist other officers in performing their respective duties, and when the lodge is at refreshment, it will be your province to extend to visiting brethren such attentions as circumstances and true fraternal feeling may suggest. Your regular and early attendance at our meetings will afford the best proof of your zeal and attachment to the lodge. You will be conducted to your respective places.

Marshal

Brother _____, you have been appointed Marshal of this lodge. You are invested with this baton as the appropriate symbol of your office. It is your duty to form and conduct processions of the lodge on all public occasions, and to attend such other matters in the practice of our rites as the Master may direct. You will be conducted to your place.

Organist

Brother _____, you have been appointed Organist of this lodge. As harmony is the strength and support of all institutions, so may the harmony furnished by you strengthen and support every gentle and ennobling emotion of the soul. You will be conducted to your place.

Tyler

Brother _____, you have been appointed Tyler of this lodge and will now be invested with the jewel and instrument of your office. As the sword is placed in the hands of the Tyler to enable him effectually to guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, and suffer none to pass or repass but such as are duly qualified, so it should admonish us to set a guard over our thoughts, a watch over our lips, a sentinel over our actions, thereby preventing any unworthy thought, word, or deed, and preserving a conscience void of offense toward God and man. I trust your regard for good will prompt the faithful discharge of your duties. You will be conducted to your place.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Marshal, you will make the proclamation.

Proclamation

MARSHAL: In the name of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Iowa of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, I proclaim the officers of _____ Lodge No._____, duly installed. All interested will take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

An oration may be delivered and other appropriate exercises had.

INSTALLING OFFICER: The Chaplain will pronounce the benediction. (All rise ***)

Benediction

CHAPLAIN: Almighty and everlasting God, from Whom cometh every good and perfect gift, send down upon Thy servants here assembled the healthful spirit of Thy grace, that they may truly please Thee in all their doings. Grant, O Lord, power of mind and great understanding unto those whom we have this day clothed with authority to preside over and direct the affairs of this lodge; and so replenish them with the truths of Masonry and adorn them with humility of life that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve Thee, to the glory of Thy holy name, and to the advancement, for all good purposes, of our beloved institution. Amen.

RESPONSE: So mote it be.

The Master will seat the brethren. *

INSTALLATION CHARGES

By Paul Revere

The following charges were written by Most Worshipful Brother Paul Revere, in 1795, while Grand Master of Masons of Massachusetts. They do not constitute part of the Iowa Ceremony.

“Worshipful Master (who rises), this Worshipful Lodge having chosen you for its Master and representative, it is now incumbent upon you diligently, and upon every proper occasion, to inquire into the knowledge of your fellows, and then find them daily employment, that the art which they profess may not be forgotten or neglected. You should avoid partiality – giving praise where it is due – and employing those in the most honorable part of the work who have made the greatest advancement, for the

encouragement of the art. You should preserve union, and judge in all causes amicably and mildly, preferring peace. That the society may prosper, you should preserve the dignity of your office, requiring submission from the perverse and refractory, always acting upon and being guided by the principles upon which your authority is founded. You should to the extent of your power pay a constant attendance on your lodge, that you may see how your work flourishes and how your instructions are obeyed. You should take care that neither your words nor actions shall render your authority to be less regarded but that your prudent and careful behavior may set an example and give a sanction to your power. And as brotherly love is the cement of our society, so cherish and encourage it, that the brethren may be willing to obey the dictates of Masons that you have occasion to commend.

To the officers: “And you, the officers of this Worshipful Lodge, should carefully assist the Master in the discharge of his office; diffusing light and imparting knowledge to those under your care; keeping the brethren in just order and decorum, that nothing may disturb the peaceful serenity or obstruct the glorious effects of harmony and concord. And that these may be the better preserved, you should carefully inquire into the character of all candidates to this honorable society, and recommend none to the Master who in your opinion is unworthy of the privileges and advantages of Masonry – keeping the cynic far from the ancient fraternity, where harmony is obstructed by the superstitious and morose. You should discharge the lodge quietly, encouraging the brethren assembled to work cheerfully, that none, when dismissed, may go away dissatisfied.

To the brethren: “And you, brethren of this Worshipful Lodge, learn to follow the advice and instruction of your officers, submitting cheerfully to their amicable decisions, laying aside all resentments and prejudices toward each other. Let your chief care be to the advancement of the society of which you have the honor to be members. Let there be a modest and friendly emulation among you in doing good to each other. Let complacency and benevolence flourish among you. Let your actions be squared by the rules of Masonry. Let friendship be cherished, and all advantages of that title by which we distinguish each other, that we may be brothers not only in name, but in the full import, extent, and latitude of so glorious an appellation.

“Finally, my brethren, as this association has been carried on with so much unanimity and concord, in which we greatly rejoice, so may it continue to the latest ages. May your love be reciprocal and harmonious. While these principles are uniformly supported, this lodge will be an honor to Masonry, an example to the world, and therefore a blessing to mankind.

“From this happy prospect I rest assured of your steady perseverance and conclude with wishing you all, my brethren, joy of your Master, Wardens, and other officers and of your constitutional union as brethren.”