

August 5, 2016

To the Sovereign Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Allied Masonic Degrees of Canada.

The Rituals Committee has met and corresponded over the past year and we report as follows. With regards to the rewriting and clarification of the rituals, we have considered and prepared draft rituals of the following degrees for consideration prior to the 2017 Grand Assembly:

Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr,  
Degree of Knight of Constantinople,  
Degree of Grand Tyler of Solomon,  
Degree of Knight of the Red Branch of Eri,  
Degree of Excellent Master, and  
Degree of Masters of Tyre.

This was done by performing each of these degrees over the last several years, but with particular attention to the mechanics and wording of the degrees in the last year. There have been few substantive changes to the degrees but, with the help of the members of several councils, we have been able to identify and correct a number of minor errors, omissions, timing or logistical oddities from the degrees as last published between 2004 and 2011. It is our plan that the draft rituals will be circulated electronically through the office of the Grand Secretary so that the changes can be reviewed and considered by councils prior to next August.

The following degrees will, we hope, be reviewed by the same group in 2016-2017:

Degree of Architect,  
Degree of Grand Architect,  
Degree of Superintendent,  
Degree of Man At Arms of Knight of the Red Branch of Eri,  
Degree of Esquire of Knight of the Red Branch of Eri, and  
Degree of Knight Commander of Knight of the Red Branch of Eri.

It is our hope that we will present draft degrees of this second group of six following the 2017 Grand Assembly.

We also present to this Grand Assembly shortened forms for conferring the following degrees by communication:

Degree of Excellent Master,  
Degree of Masters of Tyre,

Degree of Architect,  
Degree of Grand Architect, and  
Degree of Superintendent.

These communication ceremonies were prepared by Ven. Bro. Gregory Smith for the Ritual Committee of the Grand Council, AMD of Canada (August, 2015), based on the complete published rituals of the degrees overseen by M. Ven. Bro. Raymond C. Purslow, SGC, and M. Ven. Bro. Lawrence M. Halliday, SGC, (2004, 2007, 2011). They are, in the opinion of the Ritual Committee, very well written and in as much as is possible in a shortened version of already short degrees, faithful to the original degree. The intention behind the forms for communication is to preserve the degrees, as the preamble to the document prepared by V. Bro. Smith clearly states. The Ritual Committee presents these to the Grand Assembly in the attached document for consideration and probationary authorization. It is our view that dispensation to communicate the degrees should be carefully considered when applied for, and that during the probationary period of use a statistical record be kept of dispensations requested and granted for analysis at the end of that period. We are pleased to move the authorization of these five shortened forms as stipulated in the attached document for a probationary period of two years, until the Grand Assembly in 2018, where their continuation should be considered.

Finally, the Ritual Committee believes that individual degrees are of great use in the current published form and, for the purposes of the serious AMD member, all degrees listed above should be printed and published in one combined volume for the use of members and councils in the fall of 2017 or in 2018. Technology now makes this both easy and affordable.

The Ritual Committee and the Grand Lecturer thank the brethren who have worked on these degrees over the past year, most especially the several members of the Ritual Committee (Bro. Michael S. Bayrak, V. Bro. Douglas J. Bewick, Bro. Douglas Choptiany, R. V. Bro. R John Hayes, V. Bro. Roland M. Mansell), V. Bro. Gregory Smith and Bro. Michael S. Bayrak for their work compiling the written documents, and the members of Yellowhead 220 and Borealis 223 Councils for their willingness to work the degrees and provide input into their felicities and deficiencies.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Ven. Bro. R John Hayes

Grand Lecturer