

July 26, 2017

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

The Ritual 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 submitted draft rituals of the following degrees for consideration prior to the Grand Executive through the office of the Grand Secretary prior to the 2017 Grand Assembly:

Degree of St. Lawrence the Martyr,
Degree of Knight of Constantinople,
Degree of Excellent Master,
Degree of Masters of Tyre, and
Degree of Architect.

This was done by performing each of these degrees at least once over the last two years, most several times, with particular attention to the mechanics and wording of the degrees. 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, confusion based on phrasing or wording, timing or logistical oddities from the degrees as last published between 2004 and 2011. Now that they are in print, even if in draft form, we hope that members from many councils will review them and provide suggestions for improvement.

We have begun work on the following:
Degree of Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri, and
Degree of Grand Tyler of Solomon,
and we expect both of them to be submitted to the Grand Executive through the office of the Grand Secretary shortly.

We have not yet begun to work on the following:
Ceremony of Installation and Investiture,
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.

The Installation and Investiture, Grand Architect and Superintendent will be performed and reviewed in 2017, and sent out as above early in 2018, which will bring the total degrees and ceremonies reviewed and circulated by the committee in two years to 10, leaving it needs to be

noted only three seldom considered Eri degrees to be looked at going forward.

It is to be noted that several of these degrees should be compared to the shorter ceremonies for communication of the degrees that are in use now under a probationary period, with dispensation, and that these communications come up for review in a year. We hope to have reports from councils that have used them as to their reception and effectiveness at that time.

We note that several core degrees are now being worked in French by the members of Mozart Council 218, that copies of the work have been reviewed and found in line with those published in English (as far as we are able to judge). The Ritual Committee hopes that eventually all ceremonies will be available in Canada in both official languages.

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 (V. Bro. Michael S. Bayrak, V. Bro. Douglas J. Bewick, V. Bro. Douglas Choptiany, R. V. Bro. R John Hayes, V. Bro. Roland M. Mansell, V. Bro. Gregory Smith). We especially thank V. Bro. Michael S. Bayrak for his work compiling the written documents for the full degrees, V. Bro. Gregory Smith for his work on the abbreviated communication ceremonies, and the members of Mozart 218, Yellowhead 220 and Borealis 223 Councils for their willingness to work the degrees and provide input into their felicities and deficiencies.

The Grand Lecturer wishes to thank the Sovereign Grand Master and Members of the Allied Masonic Degrees of Canada for the opportunity to serve in this office for these two years. The work has been enjoyable and fulfilling. Thanks are also most definitely due to the Grand Secretary for his advice, support and patience, perhaps more than anything for his patience.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Ven. Bro. R John Hayes

Grand Lecturer, Chair
Ritual Committee