



## **LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

**of the**

## **GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE PHILIPPINES**

### **COMMITTEE ON TEMPLAR JURISPRUDENCE**

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**Right Eminent Grand Commander**  
**2023 - 2024**

**LAWS AND REGULATIONS**  
**of the**  
**GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**  
**OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**ARTICLE 1**  
**THE GRAND COMMANDERY**

**Sec. 1. TITLE.** The title of this body is "**THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE PHILIPPINES.**"

**Sec. 2. JURISDICTION.** Its jurisdiction shall be the territorial limits of the Republic of the Philippines, Okinawa, and Guam.

**Sec. 3. OF WHOM COMPOSED.** The Grand Commandery consists of the following:

- a) The Grand Commander  
The Deputy Grand Commander  
The Grand Generalissimo  
The Grand Captain General  
The Grand Treasurer  
The Assistant Grand Treasurer  
The Grand Recorder  
The Assistant Grand Recorder  
The Grand Auditor  
The Grand Prelate  
The Grand Senior Warden  
The Grand Junior Warden  
The Grand Standard Bearer  
The Grand Sword Bearer  
The Grand Warder  
The Grand Sentinel  
The Grand Captain of the Guard
- b) all of whom shall be elected excepting the Grand Prelate, the Grand Captain of the Guard, the Assistant Grand Treasurer, the Assistant Grand Recorder and the Grand Auditor who shall be appointed by the Grand Commander.  
Past Grand Commanders,  
Past Deputy Grand Commanders,  
Past Grand Generalissimos, and  
Past Grand Captain-Generals  
of this Grand Commandery (so long as they remain members of Commanderies under this Grand Commandery).
- c) All Past Commanders of Commanderies, who are members of commanderies of this jurisdiction. A Past Commander from another jurisdiction residing in this jurisdiction, and a member therein, may be elected to membership in this Grand Commandery by a

majority vote of the members at an Annual Conclave, such membership to continue so long as he is a member of a Commandery in this jurisdiction.

- d) The Grand Commander, the Generalissimo and the Captain General of each Commandery under the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery.

**Sec. 4. TITLES AND PRECEDENCE OF RANK.**

- a) The honorary title of the Grand Commander is "Right Eminent", and his official title is "Grand Commander." The honorary title of the Deputy Grand Commander is "Very Eminent," and his official title is "Deputy Grand Commander." The honorary title of the remaining officers of the Grand Commandery is "Eminent."
- b) The honorary title shall be used when an officer is addressed shall immediately precede the official title, thus: "Right Eminent Grand Commander, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander, Eminent Grand Senior Warden.' When referring to an officer, the honorary title shall immediately follow the name, thus: "Sir Knight Ruel L. Ditan, Right Eminent Grand Commander; Sir Knight Gene Aquino, Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander; Sir Knight Arlen P. De Guzman, Eminent Grand Senior Warden.
- c) The precedence of rank shall be as follows:
  - The Grand Commander.
  - The Deputy Grand Commander,
  - The Grand Generalissimo,
  - The Grand Captain General,
  - The Past Grand Commanders according to seniority of service,
  - The Grand Senior Warden
  - The Grand Junior Warden
  - The Grand Prelate
  - The Grand Treasurer
  - The Grand Recorder
  - The Grand Standard Bearer
  - The Grand Sword Bearer
  - The Grand Warder
  - The Grand Sentinel
  - The Grand Captain of the Guard

**Sec. 5. RETENTION OF RANK.**

- a) One who shall has filled by installation and term of service, the office of Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo or Grand Captain General in the Grand Commandery, or Commander in a Commandery, shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him, in Grand Commandery or Commandery, with the word, "Past" immediately preceding and qualifying the official title. Past rank is limited to the offices named in this section.
- b) A member resigning from any of the offices enumerated in the preceding Section shall retain the title of the highest office attained by him, provided, he shall have served the full term for which he may have been elected.

- Sec. 6. WHO MAY VOTE.** In all the proceedings of the Grand Commandery, each member thereof present in person or by proxy shall be entitled to one vote and no more, except that that the presiding officer shall vote only in case of a tie.
- Sec. 7. PROXIES.** The Commander, Generalissimo and Captain General of any chartered Commandery, and no other, may appear and vote by proxy.
- Sec. 8. MEMBERSHIP.** The membership of the Grand Commandery cannot be enlarged or restricted from that prescribed by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.
- Sec. 9. EFFECT OF NON-AFFILIATION.** A member of the Grand Commandery forfeits all the rights of such membership by being voluntarily, during such period of non-affiliation.
- Sec. 10. ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE.** No Knight Templar shall be eligible to any office in this Grand Commandery, except that of Grand Prelate, unless he shall be at the time a member thereof.
- Sec. 11. CHANGE OF RESIDENCE.** A member of the Grand Commandery does not forfeit any of the rights of such membership by removing out of the jurisdiction, provided he maintains affiliation in a Commandery within the jurisdiction.
- Sec. 12. ANNUAL CONCLAVE.** The Grand Commandery shall hold an annual conclave in the morning every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of October every year.
- Sec. 13. CHANGE OF TIME AND PLACE DUE TO EMERGENCY.** In case of an emergency, epidemic, or other occasion or circumstance making it advisable or expedient, the Grand Commander, with the written consent of the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo, the Grand Captain General, or any two such officers, may change the place and/or time of holdings the next Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery.
- Sec. 14. SPECIAL CONCLAVES.** Special Conclaves may be called by the Grand Commander, and it shall be his duty, upon the request of a majority of the Commanderies to him directed in writing, to call a special conclave other than that specified in the notice of the conclave.
- Sec. 15. QUORUM.**
- a) A Quorum of the Grand Commandery consists of nine (9) members entitled to vote therein, including an officer authorized to convene the same, provided three or more commanderies are represented.
  - b) In the absence of a quorum, no business can be transacted; but a quorum being present, the vote of a less number is valid.
- Sec. 16. POWER AND DUTIES.** The Grand Commandery has the following powers and prerogatives, but the enumeration shall not be construed as a limitation thereof:

- (a) It shall review at its Annual Conclave all reports of its officers and may review the proceedings of its Constituent Commanderies.
- (b) It may adopt such Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations as are not inconsistent with the Laws of the Grand Encampment and as it may deem necessary for the good of the Order.
- (c) It shall within the jurisdiction, have exclusive power to form new commanderies and to fix the fee for the charter, which shall not be less than the amount approved by the Grand Commandery and to be paid in advance.
- (d) It may prescribe Regulations for the government of its constituent commanderies and may revoke any charter or dispensations.
- (e) It may require its several constituent commanderies to pay such portion as it may deem proper of the sums received by them for conferring the Orders and in addition such sum annually from each member of such commanderies as it may deem necessary for the support of the Grand Commandery.
- (f) It shall examine the accounts of its Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, supervise the state and condition of its finances and adopt such measure in relation thereto as it may deem necessary;
- (g) It may fix the territorial limits of its constituent commanderies and settle all controversies that may arise among them.
- (h) It shall on or before July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to pay to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment such an amount as may be prescribed by the Grand Encampment as dues for each member of its constituent commanderies as shown by the returns of such Grand Commandery at its annual conclave next before July et;
- (i) It may prescribe a uniform and change it from time to time. If it fails to so prescribe, the uniform shall be that prescribed by the Grand Encampment for the subordinate commanderies. The possession of a uniform by the members of constituent commanderies shall not be required, but shall be at the option of each member.
- (j) It shall consider and do all matters and things appertaining to the good, well-being and perpetuation of Templar Masonry.

**Sec. 17. MAJORITY OF VOTES TO DETERMINE.** At every conclave, unless otherwise expressly provided for by the constitution, laws and regulations of this Grand Commandery, all questions shall be determined by a majority vote of those present. Each member present in person or by proxy shall be entitled to one vote, except that the presiding officer shall vote only in case of a tie, when he shall decide the issue.

**Sec. 18. APPEALS.** During a Conclave, an appeal lies to the Grand Commandery from a decision of the Grand Commander save on points of order. At all other times the decisions of the Grand Commander shall have full force and effect, but they must be

reviewed by the Grand Commandery at its next annual conclave. If such decisions involve the construction of the laws of the Grand Encampment or of the laws of the Grand Commandery, an appeal lies to the Grand Commandery.

**Sec. 19. APPEAL TO THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT** An appeal may be taken to the Grand Encampment from any decision or action of a Grand Commandery on questions arising as to the construction or effect of the constitution, statutes or rituals of the Grand Encampment,

**Sec. 20. UNIFORMS.** The Officers of the Grand Commandery should be equipped in full Templar "Type A" uniform during the opening ceremonies of the Grand Commandery.

## **ARTICLE II THE GRAND OFFICERS**

**Sec. 21. Election of Officers.** Election of officers of the Grand Commandery shall be held at each Annual Conclave at an hour to be announced in the official notice. Nominations are allowed, in which case, when more than one name is in nomination, the election shall be by ballot; if only one name is in nomination, the election may be by acclamation. A majority of all votes is necessary to an election

**Sec. 22. Installation of Officers.** The elective or appointive officers of the Grand Commandery shall be installed at the Annual Conclave, except in the event that an officer cannot be present, in which instance, he shall be installed in the asylum of any Commandery of the direction of the Grand Commander.

**Sec. 23. Ceremony of Installation.** The officers of the Grand Commandery shall be installed according to the ceremony prescribed by the Grand Encampment. The Installing Officer shall be at least a Past Grand Commander. In cases of emergency, the officers shall be installed by taking the oath of office before a Past Grand Commander. It is not necessary for a re-elected Officer to be installed, as he holds over by virtue of his former election and installation until his successor is installed.

**Sec. 24. Installation by Commission.** Officers-Elect of the Grand Commandery, who cannot be present at the regular time for installation, may be installed in such Commandery as the Grand Commander may designate, and the Recorder of the Commandery in which such installation shall take place shall forthwith certify the fact to the Grand Recorder.

**Sec. 25. Tenure of Office.** The several Grand Officers shall hold their respective offices until their successor shall be duly elected (or appointed) and installed.

**Sec. 26. Resignation.** Any Officer of the Grand Commandery or of a Constituent Commandery may resign his office by filing a written resignation with the respective Grand Recorder or Recorder. The resignation of the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery shall be filed with the Grand Commander; and of the Recorder of a

Commandery with the Commander provided that the resignation of an officer of a Constituent Commandery shall not be effective until accepted by the Commandery.

**Sec. 27. The Grand Commander.** The Grand Commander shall have the following specific powers and duties but the enumeration shall not be deemed a limitations thereof:

- a) To maintain a watchful supervision over all the commanderies in this jurisdiction and to see that the constitution, statutes and rituals of the Grand Encampment, and the constitution, laws and regulations of the Grand Commandery are duly promptly observed;
- b) To appoint all committees and all officers not made effective, and to fill all vacancies, such appointees to serve during his pleasure or until their successors have been elected and installed;
- c) To grant, during any recess of the Grand Commandery, dispensation for the formation of new Commanderies. No dispensation shall be issued unless the following requirements are meet:
  - 1) A petition by nine or more duly qualified Knights Templar;
  - 2) The consent and recommendation of the nearest Commandery in that jurisdiction, provided that if the new Commandery is to be located in a city having more than one Commandery, then all the Commanderies therein stationed must recommend and consent. A dispensation when issued shall be enforce until the next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery.
- d) During any recess of the Grand Commandery, to arrest the charter or dispensation of a Commandery or to suspend from his office any officer of the Grand Commandery or of a Constituent Commandery, but in no case shall such suspension affect the standing in the Order of such officer or his membership in the Commandery. The Grand Commander shall report his action in full to the next Conclave of the Grand Commandery for its final action;
- e) To visit and preside in any Commandery within the jurisdiction and to give such instructions and directions as the good of the Order may require, always adhering to the constitution, statutes and rituals of the Grand Encampment and the constitution, laws and regulations of the Grand Commandery;
- f) To grant dispensation to constituent commanderies;
  - 1) To hold special conclaves for the conferring of the Orders at places within their jurisdictions other those name their charters, and
  - 2) To permit them to receive petitions and ballot thereon at the same stated conclave after such notice as he may deem proper: Attend all conclaves of the Grand Encampment and to see that the Grand Recorder promptly discharges the duties enjoined by the constitution, laws and regulations of the Grand Commandery. Appoint and commission representatives of the Grand Commandery near the other Grand Commanderies and accredit representative from such other Grand Commanderies, who must be permanent members of the Grand Commandery, When the representative of any Grand Commandery near the Grand Commandery of the Philippines fails for two successive years to attend the conclave of this Grand Commandery without giving a satisfactory explanation to the Grand Commander, shall notify the Grand Commander of the jurisdiction concerned; The decision of the Grand Commander are binding on his constituents; The decision of the Grand Commander which the Grand Commandery refuses to approve is of no binding force after such refusal; Have power to issue and enforce

all dispensations authorized by the law of the Grand Commandery, and generally to perform such duties as the nature of his station or any ceremonies and rituals of the institution may require; At each annual conclave present a written report of his official acts during the recess of the Grand Commandery, and of the condition of the Order within the jurisdiction, together with such recommendations as he may deem conducive to its prosperity and advancement; The Grand Commandery shall perform such other duties as the nature of his station may require, or the ceremonies of the Grand Commandery may impose; For defraying the incidental expenses of administering the affairs and duties of his office the Grand Commander shall receive an amount not to exceed the sum fixed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Commandery. The Grand Commander shall, on retiring from office, receive a Past Commander's jewel; The Grand Commander may for good cause shown or from his own personal knowledge, order and cause to be filed and tried in any Commandery having jurisdiction, charge against any individual Templar, under the laws and regulations of this Grand Commandery, and in the event of an acquittal or a decision not in accordance with the law and the evidence, in the opinion of the Grand Commander may appeal the case to the Grand Commandery for final decision.

**Sec. 28. The Deputy Grand Commander.**

- a) The Deputy Grand Commander in the event of the absence of the Grand Commander or his inability to perform the duties of his office, shall act as Grand Commander. In the event of death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery or permanent disability of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander shall succeed to the office and be regularly installed. At all other times he shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Commandery of the Grand Commander.
- b) It is his duty to attend all conclaves of the Grand Encampment.

**Sec. 29. The Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General.**

- a) In case of the temporary absence or disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General shall perform the duties of their respective superiors. In case of the advancement, death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction, or permanent disability of their respective superiors, the Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General shall severally succeed to the office of such superiors and be installed therein.
- b) It is their duty to attend all conclaves of the Grand Encampment.
- c) The Grand Captain General shall act as a committee on arrangements for the annual conclaves.

**Sec. 30. The Grand Treasurer.**

- a) The Grand Treasurer shall receive from the Grand Recorder all funds and securities of the Grand Commandery and deposit same in the name of the Grand Commandery in some bank or trust company to be approved by the Grand Commander. He shall attend the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery and when required, meet the Grand Officers and Committees with his books and all necessary documents relating to his office, make a full



report at the Annual Conclave; pay all warrants and at the commencement of his term of office, each year, execute and file with the Grand Commander, his official bond with some reliable company, as surety thereon, in the sum to be designated by the Grand Commander; to be renewed as to the amount of the surety, when required by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery; the cost of said bond to be paid by the Grand Commandery. Such bond to be conditioned that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office, account for all money or property of the Grand Commandery or Grand Commander of his successor in office the same, together with all books, papers, vouchers, securities, jewels, etc. belonging to the Grand Commandery. He shall take duplicate receipts for same, one of which shall be delivered to the Grand Recorder.

- b) All securities and bonds in which the funds of this Grand Commandery may be invested shall be deposited in a safety deposit vault selected by the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, access to which can be had by the Grand Treasurer, in the presence of another person to be designated by the Grand Commander.

### **Sec. 31. The Grand Recorder.**

- a) To communicate annually to the Grand Master, the Grand Recorder of the Grand Recorder of each of the other Grand Commanderies, the roll of officers of the Grand Commandery and such other matters as may give information on the condition of the Order in the jurisdiction or may conduce to the general good of the Order;
- b) To forward to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment on or before the first day of July of each year, the annual returns and dues of the Grand Commandery;
- c) To transmit annually to the Grand Master and the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment copies of all the printed proceedings and of the laws adopted by the Grand Commandery;
- d) To have charge of the seal of the Grand Commandery and attest all papers requiring the same;
- e) To send promptly to the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment two copies of announcement and notice of death of members of the Grand Encampment which may occur within his jurisdiction, giving the date of birth and of death, together with the character of his official and other service;
- f) Attend all Conclaves of the Grand Commandery, keep a true record of its proceedings proper to be written, and make annual publication and proper distribution thereof: Shall append a list of the living Past Grand Commanders in the Annual Proceedings following the list of installed officers. Receive all moneys due the Grand Commandery and pay the same over promptly to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore; At each Annual Conclave, submit a detailed report in writing of all moneys received by him on account of the Grand Commandery, and of all business appertaining to his office, together with such statistics and general information concerning the commanderies as may be proper for the information and action of the Grand Commandery;
- g) Annually execute an official bond with some reliable company as surety thereon, to the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the Philippines to be approved by the Grand Commander, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his duties, in the penalty of not less than the amount fixed by the Grand Commander; the premium of such bond to be paid by the Grand Commandery; Shall arrange annually on page by themselves, all amended by-laws, and new resolutions that are in force, and furnish the same each Commandery, Grand

and Past Grand Officers. Furnish each Commandery duplicate blanks for annual returns on forms to be supplied; one copy to be returned to the Grand Recorder and the duplicate to be retained by the Commandery; Deliver to his successor in office all books and other property of the Grand Commandery in his possession; Perform such other duties as may be assigned him by the Grand Commander, and such are traditionally appropriate to his station; He shall receive as compensation for his services the sum fixed by the Grand Commandery; Shall prepare a uniform receipt for dues which shall be used by all the Commanderies in the jurisdiction, to be not more than two and one-half inches by four inches, with stub, to contain the printed autograph of the Grand Recorder, and a facsimile of the seal of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the Philippines. Each receipt shall bear an impress of the seal of the Commandery. The receipt shall be furnished to the Commanderies at actual cost, including postage. The receipt shall be according to the form in the appendix.

**Sec. 32. The Remaining Officers.** The duties of the remaining officers, as well as those above specified, shall be such as are traditionally appropriate to their respective stations.

**Sec. 33. When a Past Grand Commander Assumes the Duties of Grand Commander.** In the event of the absence, death or disability of the Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo and Grand Captain General, the Junior Past Grand Commander present according to seniority of service (if not incapacitated), and if incapacitated the next ranking Past Grand Commander, shall assume the office and discharge the duties of the Grand Commander.

## **ARTICLE 111 COMMITTEES**

**Sec. 34. COMMITTEES.**

- a) The following Standing Committees, except the Triennial Committee, consisting of three members each, shall be appointed by the Grand Commander at each Annual Conclave, viz:
1. Credentials,
  2. Templar Jurisprudence,
  3. Finance
  4. Returns of Commanderies
  5. Report on Grand Commander's Address
  6. Hospitaler, and
  7. Triennial
  8. Others (Special Committees)

The Grand Commander shall, after his installation, appoint and announce the Chairman of each of said committees.

- b) By virtue of the fact that the term of office (three years) of the membership of the following committees are staggered, viz:

- 1) Credentials and (3) Finance and Accounts, each year the Grand Commander shall appoint one member who shall serve for a period of three years, and each year the Grand Commander shall designate the Chairman of each of said committees.
- c) Educational Foundation. To comply with the regulations of the Grand Encampment there shall be a committee of three to be known as the Educational Foundation Committee. The Grand Commander shall, the same time as the appointment of other standing committees, appoint one member for a term of one year, a second member for a term of two years, and a third member for a term of three years. At the expiration of the term of each member a successor shall be appointed by the Grand Commander for a term of three years. The Grand Commander shall designate the chairman of this committee.

**Sec. 35. Accountability for Funds.** Every committee or officer of the Grand Commandery charged with the expenditure of any funds appropriated by the Grand Commandery, shall make a full and complete report of the appropriation, and amount spent, and the (balance, if any, remaining in the hands of the officer or committee, shall be turned back to the Grand Recorder and by him lapsed into the General Fund. No appropriation shall be continued beyond the current year except by re-appropriation.

**Sec. 36. Duties of Standing Committees.**

- a) The Committee on Credentials, shall examine the credentials of the members of the Grand Commandery, and report a list of the officers, members and representatives present.
- b) The Committee on Report of Grand Commander's Address, the Chairman of which shall be a Past Commander, shall report a distribution of the address of the Grand Commander to the other committees, together with all the accompanying documents.
- c) The Committee on Templar Jurisprudence, shall consider the decisions made by the Grand Commander and all the questions of law referred to it, and report its findings for the action of the Grand Commandery. All proposed amendments or additions to the laws and regulations of the Grand Commandery shall be referred to this committee, and no changes or additions shall be made to the said laws and regulations until the same have been considered and reported upon by this committee.
- d) The Committee on Finance and Accounts, shall be authorized to examine the books, accounts and financial statements of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, and report upon the same. It shall also report upon all matters touching the finances of the Grand Commandery and no appropriation shall be made without having been considered and reported upon by this committee.
- e) The Committee on Returns of Commanderies, shall examine the returns made by the commanderies, and report such errors, omissions, or irregularities, if any, as they may discover, and make such recommendations as may be pertinent in the premises.
- f) The Hospitaler Committee, shall consist of Deputy Grand Commander, Grand Generalissimo, and Grand Captain General. They shall formulate such Christmas and Easter Observances as they shall be deemed best for the various commanderies. They shall also proposed and superintend such social services as are deemed proper and justified and are not incompatible with the teachings of Templary. The Committee shall also consider and suggest plans for the best interest of Templar membership, particularly the proper and legitimate increase of such and the reclamation of demitted and suspended members.
- g) The Triennial Committee, shall consist of two Past Grand Commanders and a Grand Officer who in due course will be eligible to attend the next triennial conclave as a representative of this Grand Commandery, to be appointed at the annual conclave following the triennial

conclave of the Grand Encampment of the United States and who shall serve for three years. The Committee shall charge of the registration fee for the Grand Commander at the Grand Encampment and shall submit an itemized report of receipt and expenditure.

**Sec. 37. Special Committees.** The Grand Commander shall appoint other committees necessary or authorized by the Grand Commandery for the transaction of its business.

**Sec. 38. Reports in Writing.** The reports of all committees shall be submitted either orally or in writing and signed and read to the Grand Commandery, unless the reading thereof be waived by unanimous consent.

**Sec. 39. Committees on Review.** The Grand Commander shall after installations, appoint one Knight as a Committee on Review, who shall make his report as soon as possible.

#### **ARTICLE IV REVENUE AND COMPENSATION**

**Sec. 40. Revenue of the Grand Commandery.** The revenue of the Grand Commandery shall be derived from the following sources:

- a) For each dispensation to form and open a new Commandery there shall be paid the sum of Php 5,000.00 which must accompany the petition.
- b) For each Charter there shall be paid the sum of Php 5,000.00.
- c) Each Commandery whether Chartered or Under Dispensation shall pay Php 1,500.00 for each Order of the Temple conferred.
- d) Each Chartered Commandery shall pay the sum of Php 650.00 for each name borne on its books on the thirty-first day of December of each year who has received the Order of the Temple.
- e) Each Chartered commandery shall pay \$ 1.00 for each name borne on the books on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year for the Knights Templar Foundation.
- f) Each Commandery shall pay the amount of Php 1,000.00 for every Petition for circularization.

#### **ARTICLE V NEW COMMANDERIES**

**Sec. 41. Commanderies must have a Dispensation or Charter.**

Every Commandery shall have a dispensation from the Grand Commander or a dispensation or charter from this Grand Commandery, and no Commandery shall be deemed legal without such dispensation or charter. But the Grand Commandery will, in no case, issue a charter direct, but may grant a dispensation to form a Commandery receiving a dispensation until the next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery. The application to the Grand Commandery to form a new Commandery and all accompanying papers shall be filed with the Grand Recorder at least 30 days prior to the annual conclave.

**Sec. 42. Petition for Dispensation.** A Dispensation to form a new Commandery shall not be granted except upon the petition of at least Nine (9) Knights Templar in good standing, and residing within the corporate limits of the city or town where such new Commandery is to be stationed.

**Sec. 43. Requisites for a New Commandery.** Before a Commandery can be formed or opened, there, are the following pre-requisites:

- 1) At least three Knights Templar hailing from at least three separate Commanderies: or
- 2) At least Nine (9) Knights Templar residing in the proposed territorial jurisdiction.
- 3) A lawful warrant, "which is: A dispensation from the Grand Commander, or a dispensation or charter from the Grand Commandery.

**Sec. 44. Dispensation, time limit.** A dispensation when issued shall be in force until the next annual conclave of the Grand Commandery. Should consent and recommendation be refused in any case a renewed request for dispensation shall not be made during the same Templar year. A consent and recommendation shall become null and void after six months from the date it is granted.

**Sec. 45. Must be Qualified.** No Dispensation shall be issued until the Grand Commander is satisfied that the proposed officers are skilled and well qualified to confer the Orders and that the interest of the Order will be sub-served by the formation of such new Commandery; but it shall not be set to work under such dispensation until all the officers are properly uniformed and the necessary paraphernalia is procured.

**Sec. 46. Petitioners.** A petition for a dispensation for a new Commandery may be signed by any Knight Templar residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the proposed Commandery. Petitioners who are members of a Commandery need not demit, but may secure from the Recorder of their respective Commanderies a Certificate of Good Standing under the seal of the Commandery showing that the member has paid his dues for the current year or beyond the date of the certificate. The Certificates of Good Standing of the petitioners or their demits shall be filed with the petition. After action upon the petition by the Grand Commander or Grand Commandery, the certificates and demits shall be filed with the Grand Recorder whether such action has been favourable or unfavourable. If the action is favourable, the Grand Recorder shall report the same to the Commandery issuing the Certificates of Good Standing. If the action is unfavourable, all Demits which accompanied the petition shall be returned to the Petitioners to whom they were issued, and all Certificates of Good Standing shall be cancelled and returned to the Commanderies which issued them.

**Sec. 47. Status of Petitioners.** After a dispensation to form a new Commandery is granted and if dual membership is not allowed, the membership of the petitioners in their own Commanderies remains in abeyance, they become active members of the Commandery under dispensation, and are not required to pay dues to their own Commanderies while members of the Commandery under dispensation. If a charter is refused, the petitioners resume membership in their former Commanderies.

**Sec. 48. Petitioners for Dispensation Status.** Any petitioner for a dispensation for a new Commandery at any time before a charter is granted by notice to the Grand Recorder, and the new Commandery, and his Certificate of Good Standing or Demit shall be returned and his former status resumed.

**Sec. 49. Dispensation, Revival of Petition.** When a petition for a new Commandery has been refused, the matter can be revived only by a new petition.

**Sec. 50. Signer May Withdraw.** Any Signer of a petition for dispensation, may dissolve his connection with such Commandery before a Charter has been granted.

**Sec. 51. Commanderies Notified.** When a dispensation issued for the formation of new Commandery. The Grand Record of the several commanderies a list of members who have signed the petition for the new Commandery. When not to be issued. No dispensation for the formation of a new Commandery shall be issued within three months next preceding the Annual Conclave.

**Sec. 52. Commandery U.D. Commence Work.** A Commandery under dispensation requires no formal proceedings in order to commence work. The members assemble and proceed as if regularly constituted Commandery.

**Sec. 53. Commandery U.D. Officers.** The Officers of Commandery under dispensation shall be filled by appointment by the Grand Commander. The Officers of a Commandery under dispensation shall hold office during the continuance of the dispensation, but the Grand Commander has the power to relieve an officer and appoint another.

**Sec. 54. Who May Resign.** Any officer of a Commandery under dispensation may resign with the consent of Grand Commander.

**Sec. 55. Status Tender Dispensation.** Knights created in a Commandery under dispensation are members thereof, and bear the same relation to that Commandery, and to other Templars, as is borne by those Knighted in chartered Commanderies.

**Sec. 56. Commanderies, Who are Members?** Those to whom a charter is issued, and those who receive the Orders in a Commandery, are ipso facto members thereof, whether such Commandery be chartered or under dispensation, except where the Orders have been conferred for any by request of another Commandery.

**Sec. 57. Charter Refused.** If the dispensation should be withdrawn, or a charter refused, the Knights who petitioned therefore assume their membership in their former Commanderies without petition or other ceremony. Those knighted will be entitled to receive certificates from the Grand Recorder,

**Sec. 58. Former Affiliation Terminated.** When a Charter is granted and the Commandery constituted, the Recorder of the new Commandery must certify the fact to each Commandery to which any of the charter members belonged, and this will terminate former affiliation, unless dual membership is allowed in consonance with Section 190 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.

**Sec. 59. Commandery U.D., Dues and Fees.** Commanderies under dispensation do not pay Commandery dues on their members, but pay fees on Orders conferred the same as chartered members.

**Sec. 60. Must Forward Returns, Etc.** Every Commandery under dispensation shall, thirty (30) days before the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery, forward to the Grand Recorder its letter of dispensation, books of records, its annual returns and copy of its proposed by-laws.

**Sec. 61. Charters Granted at Annual Conclave.** Charters shall be granted only by vote of the Grand Commandery at the annual conclave.

**Sec. 62. Officers not Named in Charter.** The officers of a new Commandery shall not be named in its charter. It cannot elect officers or have them installed until it has been constituted.

**Sec. 63. How constituted.** A Commandery shall be constituted by the Grand Commander or his duly appointed proxy, after it has been duly chartered; nine (9) members must be present.

**Sec. 64. Must Be Properly Provided.** No Commandery shall be constituted until it has a suitable and properly furnished asylum and paraphernalia.

**Sec. 65. Report to be Made When Constituted.** When constituted, a report thereof should be made to the Grand Commander by the officer constituting the same.

**Sec. 66. Rights and Powers.** A Commandery under dispensation has the same rights and powers as a chartered Commandery, except that it cannot be constituted, elect & install its officers, enact by-laws, or be represented in the Grand Commandery; but it may provide by resolution the time for holding regular conclaves, the amount of fees to be paid for the Orders, and such other rules and regulations as may be necessary for its government, not in conflict with the laws of this Grand Commandery.

## **ARTICLE VI CHARTERED COMMANDERIES**

**Sec. 67. Charter Members.** The petitioners for dispensation become charter members when a charter is warranted unless they have severed their connection with the Commandery Under Dispensation as herein before provided, or their names are omitted from the Charter by action of the Grand Commandery: Provided, however, that no such petitioner shall be a Charter member unless he shall have paid all of his dues to the Commandery to which he last belonged.

**Sec. 68. Must Have Charter.** A Commandery cannot be constituted without a duly executed charter.

**Sec. 69. Of Whom Composed.** A Commandery consist of the following officers:

- Commander
- Generalissimo
- Captain General
- Treasurer

Recorder  
Prelate  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Standard Bearer  
Sword Bearer  
Warder  
Sentinel and Three (3) Guards

And such Knights Templar as may be members thereof. Any Commandery may prescribe in its By-Laws for the appointment of all officers below the station of Captain General, with the exception of Treasurer and Recorder.

**Sec. 70. Titles.**

- a) The honorary title of the Commander is "Eminent" and the official title is "Commander".
- b) The honorary title of all officers and individual member of the Order is "Sir Knight."
- c) The honorary title shall be used in addressing or referring to an officer, and when so used shall immediately precede the official title, e. g.: "Eminent Commander, Sir Knight Captain General, Sir Knight Warder," etc.
- d) The title of each and every Knight Templar, when addressed or referred to by either or both his Christian and surnames is "Sir Knight" without any prefix thereto, and "Sir Knights" is the title to be applied to any assemblage of Knights Templar.
- e) The Commander of a Commandery under dispensation does not become a Past Commander when such Commandery is Chartered.

**Sec. 71. By-Laws.** Every Commandery chartered by this Grand Commandery shall adopt a by-laws for its government, which shall conform to the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Encampment and the Laws of the Grand Commandery. Each Commandery shall, in its by-laws, fix the time of its stated conclaves, fees for the Orders, the annual dues of members, the time for the election of officers, and such other provisions as may be deemed necessary for its government, and must be approved.

**Sec. 72. May Alter or Amend.** A Commandery has the right to alter or amend its by-laws in the manner provided in its by-laws.

**Sec. 73. Must be Approved.** By-laws and amendments thereto must be provided by the Grand Commandery. The Grand Commander may approve by-laws or amendments thereto during the recess, subject to the approval by the Grand Commandery.

**Sec. 74. Elections and Installation.** Election of officers shall be at a stated Conclave in the month of December (except newly chartered Commanderies who shall elect officers immediately after receiving their charter). A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. Installation of the elected officers shall not exceed ninety (90) days after its election or January to March of the ensuing year.



**Sec. 75. Failure to Elect.** In case of failure to elect the officers at the time specified in the by-laws, the Commander shall fix the date for the election of officers and notify the resident members of such election.

**Sec. 76. Nominations.** Nominations are allowed. If more than one name is in nomination, the election shall be by ballot, if only one name is in nomination, the election may be by acclamation.

**Sec. 77. Elective and Appointive.** The Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General, Treasurer, and Recorder shall be elected by ballot. The remaining officers shall be elected or appointed by the Commander, as may be provided by the by-laws.

**Sec. 78. Tenure of Office.** All officers are appointed annually and shall hold and discharge the duties of their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed and installed.

**Sec. 79. Succession in Office.** In the event of the absence, death or disability of the first three (3) officers of a Commandery, the ranking Past Commander present shall resume the office and discharge the duties of a Commander.

**Sec. 80. Charter must be Present.** The dispensation or charter of a Commandery must always be present at the opening and throughout the conclave. If the charter of a Commandery shall be lost, mutilated or destroyed, the Grand Commander upon satisfactory proof, shall direct the Grand Recorder to issue an attested copy thereof, under seal, for which a fee of P 2,000.00 shall be paid.

**Sec. 81. Seal.** Every chartered Commandery must have a seal and all official papers issued by the Commandery must be attested by the impression of the same.

**Sec. 82. Conclaves.** The conclaves of Commanderies shall be:

- a) Stated, which shall be held at least quarterly at such place as may be specified in the dispensation or charter or otherwise provided, and at such time as may be designated in its by-laws.
- b) Special, which may be called by the Commander or set by action of the Commandery. They shall be held for the conferring of Orders or for such business as may be prescribed by law, and at the place for stated conclaves, provided that the Grand Commander may authorize the holding of such conclaves (for the conferring of the Orders) at a place other than that specified in the charter of dispensation. The notice or summons for all special conclaves shall specify the business to be transacted, and none other shall be considered at such conclave.

**Sec. 83. Quorum.** A quorum of a Commandery consists of nine (9) members entitled to vote therein, including an Officer authorized to open the same.

**Sec. 84. Sunday.** No conclave shall be held on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, for any purpose other than for the burial of the Knightly dead, performing escort to a Lodge engaged in funeral services or to attend religious services.

**Sec. 85. Not to Appear in Public.** Commanderies shall not appear in public without a dispensation except on funeral occasions or to attend religious services.

**Sec. 86. Fees and Uniform.** No Commandery may confer the orders for a less than Php 1,000.00 which may not be remitted or abated, directly or indirectly. No Commandery shall on any pretext whatever refund or remit, in any way whatsoever, directly or indirectly, any portion of the fees paid. Provided, that in cities and towns where there are two or more Commanderies, no one of them shall be permitted to change its fees to a sum less than the lowest fixed by any of the Commanderies in said city or town; and, provided furthermore, that a new Commandery established in a city or town where there are two or more Commanderies, shall not fix its fees sum than the lowest already fixed in such jurisdiction. The uniform of a Knight Templar is that which may be fixed from time to time by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the Philippines, subject only to the limitations fixed by the Grand Encampment. The purchase of such uniform shall be optional with the novitiate, but required of all officers.

**Sec. 87. No Exemption.** Exemption shall not be made from the payment of fees and dues, in favour of any person, business or profession; and this law shall not be evaded under any circumstances by the return of all or any part of said sums as donations, loans or otherwise.

**Sec. 88. Incorporation.** No Commandery in this jurisdiction shall become incorporated.

**Sec. 89. Appeals from Commander's Decision.** No appeal shall lie to the Commandery from a decision of the Commander. When the decision involves the construction or effect the Constitution, Statutes or Rituals of the Grand Encampment, or the Laws of the Grand Commandery, or by-laws of the Commandery, an appeal maybe taken to the Grand Commandery by a constituent Commandery, but pending the decision of the appeal, such ruling of the commander shall be in full force and effect.

**Sec. 90. Proper Occasion, How Determined.** The determination of a proper occasion for the public appearance of a Commandery belongs to the Grand Commander.

**Sec. 91. Place of Meeting.** A Commandery may hold its conclave only in the place designated in its dispensation or charter, subject to provisions of Sec. 83 hereof.

**Sec. 92. Removals, How Effected.** A Commandery may remove its Asylum from one location to another in the same city or town by a vote of a majority of its members present at a stated conclave, and after due notice of the proposed change. The Asylum shall have first been inspected and approved by someone specially deputed by the Grand Commander.

**Sec. 93. Removals. Temporary.** If the regular Asylum of Commandery from any cause is unsuited, unfit, or an improper place for holding the conclave, the Grand Commander may authorize them to be held elsewhere in the same town, city, province or district.

**Sec. 94. Removal to Another City.** A Commandery desiring to remove from one town or city to another must first determine to do so by majority vote after notice as provided in Section 93 and

must obtain the consent of all Commanderies whose territory may be encroached upon by such removal, and in addition thereto the permission of the Grand Commander.

**Sec. 95. Consolidation.** Two or more Commanderies in the vicinity of each other may be consolidated into one (1) Commandery; Provided that a proposition for such consolidation shall be presented at a stated conclave of each Commandery interested respectively, which proposition shall not be acted upon until a subsequent stated conclave, of which written notice shall be made to all members at least ten days prior to such conclave when such consolidation may be effected, unless nine or more members of either Commandery vote against the proposition. Two or more commanderies having thus decided to consolidate, may united under the charter of one of the said commanderies, retaining the dispensation. The charter surrendered must be deposited with the Grand Recorder.

The title to all the property and effects of consolidated shall upon such consolidation vest in the consolidated Commandery, and the consolidated Commandery shall be liable for all of the indebtedness of the several Commanderies thus consolidated.

All members of their Commanderies consolidated shall immediately upon consolidation, become members of the consolidated Commandery.

**Sec. 96. Active in but one Commandery.** A Knight Templar cannot be an active of two (2) Commanderies at the same time unless dual membership is allowed in conformity with provisions, of Section 190 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment.

**Sec. 97. Honorary Membership.** A Commandery may elect as an Honorary Member a member of another Commandery, providing the election to honorary membership shall be by unanimous ballot, after due reference to a committee, and ballot to be had at some subsequent stated conclave. Honorary membership does not confer the right to vote, grant any rank or standing in the Commandery, or create any liability for dues. It is merely complimentary.

**Sec. 98. Surrender of Charter.** Any proposition to surrender the charter of a Commandery shall be made at a stated conclave, and consideration of the same shall lie over until the next stated conclave, all resident members shall be duly notified of the proposed action, but, if nine (9) members of the Commandery who desire and are able to work under the charter cast negative votes, the Charter shall not be surrendered.

**Sec. 99. Status of Members of Extinct Commanderies.** When the charter of a Commandery shall have been surrendered or arrested, the members thereof in good standing shall, upon payment of their dues to the Grand Commandery, be entitled to a certificate of good standing from the Grand Recorder which shall have the effect of a demit.

**Sec. 100. Charter Restored.** A charter surrendered or arrested cannot be used to form a new Commandery, but may be restored to not less than nine (9) of the former members in good standing who are proper to constitute the Commandery.

**Sec. 101. Eject Commandery - Dues.** A member of a Commandery that has ceased to exist, from any cause other than having been consolidated with another Commandery, is not liable for dues to

such Commandery after the same has ceased to exist. The Grand Commandery has the right to collect from the members of such extinct Commandery, all dues chargeable against them at the time it became extinct, and to discipline those who refuse or neglect to pay the same.

**Sec. 102. Not Affected by Surrender of Charter.** The forfeiture or surrender of the charter of a Commandery does not, of itself, affect the good standing of the members.

**Sec. 103. Members of Extinct Commandery.** When a Commandery has ceased to exist any member thereof may join another Commandery upon petition and certificate from the Grand Recorder that his standing therein was good when said Commandery ceased to exist, and that all dues or other liabilities have been paid.

**Sec. 104. Funds of extinct Commandery.** The funds and property of an extinct Commandery become the property of the Grand Commandery, which may make such disposition thereof as it may deem proper.

**Sec. 105. Knights of Other Jurisdictions.**

- a) A Knight Templar created in another jurisdiction must be a Master Mason and Royal Arch Mason in good standing, and the Order of the Red Cross conferred or communication before he can be admitted to the asylum.
- b) In case a Knight Templar created in a jurisdiction which does not recognized the Order of the Red Cross as a necessary pre- requisite for the Order of the Temple applies for permission to visit any Commandery under the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment, such Knight Templar cannot be allowed to visit until the Order of the Red Cross has been communicated to him. Such Order may be communicated by the Commander or a Past Commander of the Commandery proposed to be visited.

**Sec. 106. Illegal Commanderies.** All Commanderies or pretended commanderies are spurious unless held under a dispensation or charter as prescribed by the laws of the Grand Encampment or those of a recognized Grand Commandery, and all communication.