

# Patuxent Lodge No. 218

A.F. & A.M. Grand Lodge Of Maryland

## Communications

**Stated:** Monthly - 1st Saturday 10 AM (\*See exceptions below)

- Nov. 3rd: 10:00 AM - Stated Communication

*THC Meeting to follow*

- Nov 19th: Funeral/Memorial Service (@ 174, 7pm)

*Bro. William (Bill) Harry Thomas*

**December**

- Dec. 1st: 10:00 AM - Stated Communication

*Elections for 2015*

*Centennial Lodge Temple # 174.  
6110 Croom Station Rd.  
Upper Marlboro, 20772.*



**Mailing:** P.O. Box 1507, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732-3202

**Web:** [www.PatuxentLodge218.org](http://www.PatuxentLodge218.org)

**Email:** [PatuxentLodge218@gmail.com](mailto:PatuxentLodge218@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** Patuxent Lodge No. 218 A.F. & A.M.

**Twitter:** Patuxent218

### So Good & Great A Man

"Who me?," Yes my dear brother, you...What a wonderful fraternity we all share and what an outstanding year I feel we have had. A few things I take away from this year is that everyone has a face inside they hold deep within, and whether good or bad, troubled or happy, The practice of freemasonry teaches us to govern or correct those faces reflected to us in the mirror, and so magnificently expands and encourages those faces within us we love to see...I couldn't care less if one can recite the words of our ritual as if read from paper, if those same words are NOT burned to heart! What's more important is that we live by them, letting them be our guide to fight the darkness in life. Let's continue to strive to be men who practice what we preach and remember in-which we seek...

Fiat Lux!

## We're on the Web!

Please Visit Us Online At:  
[www.patuxentlodge218.com](http://www.patuxentlodge218.com)



Master's Pin: [www.patuxent218.info](http://www.patuxent218.info)

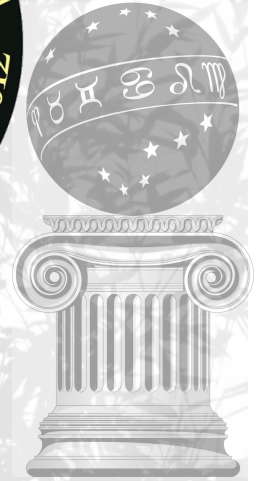
See us on Facebook and Twitter!

FIAT LUX!  
LET THERE BE LIGHT

# Patuxent Lodge No. 218

A.F. & A.M. Grand Lodge Of Maryland

*Nov. - Dec. 2012*



# CLEAR THINKING

CHIVALRY. LOVE. EDIFICATION. AND RESPECT.



*Chartered May 10, 1927*

2 B 1 A S K 1

# From the EAST

*Harmony--oneness of mind, effort, ideas and ideals--is one of the foundations of Freemasonry.*



Distinguished gentlemen, as we enter into the final phases of this celebratory period of the year, I reflect back to how quickly some were to point out to all new Worshipful Masters going to the East that a primary concern must be, "To Maintain Harmony in the Lodge. Harmony is best defined as balance. In nature, a healthy ecosystem is one in which the plants and animals maintain a proper balance and live in harmony. Too many animals and the system can't sustain enough food. The animals become weak and sickly, certain plants are completely wiped out and the entire ecosystem is threatened. Nature, in its infinite wisdom finds ways to maintain this harmony, which may at times seem cruel, but are necessary for the long term health and well being of the entire ecosystem. Well, after this year, it was my intent to not misinterpret Harmony as Happiness. I truly believe that if our goal is to try to make everyone happy... we might as well hang it up and go be Lions or Elks (no disrespect to those of my brothers who are Lions and Elks ;) )! We have expanded our reach through reverence in ritual, technology, personal communications and visits, but have learned that even within the sacred breast of our wonderful craft, there will be those who spit venom on a wound vs. heal the heart, and search for fault in everything we do. Thus is life. This can be disheartening, especially when the goal is to make your brethren better, smarter, healthier and happy....well, happiness is in heart of the beholder, and we simply can't make everyone happy. Should it be a goal?...Yes, thus....we concentrate on harmony. Harmony in a Masonic Lodge must be tied to a strict adherence to the letter and "intent" behind the laws, rules, and regulations that have been developed over the last few centuries. We all came to Masonry with the intent of becoming better men, to align ourselves with other like-minded men who share a similar goal and help each other, as brothers, to achieve it. So when a brother conducts himself in a way, which is clearly un-Masonic, saying and doing nothing to correct that brother with the intent of maintaining harmony in the lodge, is anything BUT harmonious. It tells young Masons that we really only pay lip service to the obligations taken at our sacred altar. "Do as we say and not as we do" has done more to harm our ancient and honorable institution than any frontal attack by liars, quacks and conspiracy theorists outside the fraternity. My Brothers, harmony is something that must be mutually agreed upon and equally shared. And if any of our number decides the laws, rules, and regulations don't apply to them, making no attempt to correct that brother absolutely damages the harmony of our lodge, threatens the health of our institution, and absolutely sends the wrong message to our brother Masons. I know it's tough, but if we are who we claim to be, if we stand for the charge of our ancestors, we will right the wrongs of the past and present to ensure nobility for the young masons of the future! Brethren, Let us harmoniously meet upon the plumb, act upon the level and part upon the square for harmony, being the strength and support of all institutions, more especially, this of ours...Fiat Lux!

Rev. Gerald F. Poe Jr., W.M. Patuxent Lodge No. 218

FIAT LUX!

LET THERE BE LIGHT

## Short Talks

*Invoking thought For Powerful Men and Freemasons*

***More ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle***

When we consider the messages delivered by these Orders and the Lambskin Apron - one speaking the language of class distinction, special privilege and the divine right of kings; the other telling the story of exact justice, equality of opportunity, and the brotherhood of man - it is not a stilted phrase and an exaggeration of speech to say that the badge of a Mason is more honorable than the Star and Garter. As a badge of honor, the Lambskin Apron spells out honesty of purpose, integrity, uprightness of character, and soundness of moral principle. The apron is the oldest badge of honorary antiquity, So my brothers wear it with pleasure to yourself and honor to the fraternity. SMIB!

### **A true way of life**

Brothers, freemasonry is kindness in the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, fairness in work, pity and concern for the unfortunate, resistance toward evil, help for the weak, forgiveness for the penitent, love for one another, and above all reverence and love for God. Freemasonry is many things, but, most of all:

**FREEMASONRY IS NOT JUST WORDS, BUT... A WAY OF LIFE**

**(Fraternal thanks to the brethren of No.174 for sharing such a fine Temple.  
Special thanks to our DGI and DGL for your dedicated support this year!)**

### *Prayers for Masons, Families & Friends*

#### ***Prayers for our Brethren***

Father, Bless & yield favor for all those in need of help, health & wellness!

Great Architect of the Universe, We thank you for such a fruitful and accomplished year. We thank you for bringing to us our new brethren, who are so excited and energized about freemasonry. We thank you for many activities of the CHiP, that took our lodge out into the community. For the ability to assist our brethren in their time of need, through good counsel, prayer and monetarily when needed. We thank you for your intervention and protection over us as a family of brethren. We thank you for the mercy and graces you have shown us through the healing of our sick, and/or the quick and painless end of their journey in this world into the next. We ask that you continue to bless us, lead us and direct us in the next year, that many accomplishments in your will may be done. That we continue to be an institution of good, loving brethren, in and out of the lodge and bring that light to all of your children. For we ask in your Holy name, Amen.

*Rev. Dan Brewer, PM, Chaplain*



## COMMITTEES FOR 2012

### Communication Committee (telephone/web/mail)

Marlon K. Curtis, SW - Chairman  
Rev. Dan Brewer, PM - Chap; Darryl Duty; Frank Wilburn, PM

### Sickness and Distress

Terry L. Royce, PM, PWGP, JW- Chairman

### Brother-to-Brother Program

Marlon K. Curtis, SW - Chairman – Assisted by all officers

### Maryland Chip Program

Rudy McCumber, PM-Chair; Terry Royce, PM, PWGP

### By Laws Committee

Ill. William D. Hines, PM - Chairman

Marlon K. Curtis, SW; Rudy McCumber, PM, JD

Ill. Melvin E. Harrison, PM, Sec.; James W. Cloud, Jr., PM

### Audit/Budget Committee

Gerald F. Poe, Jr., WM; Marlon K. Curtis, SW;

Terry L. Royce, PM, PWGP; William D. Hines, PM;

Ill. Melvin E. Harrison, PM; Dan Brewer, PM

### Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Norman Lynch - Chairman

### Widows' Program

Ill. William D. Hines, PM - Chairman

### Rehearsal/Catechism/Education Committee

Terry L. Royce, PM, PWGP-Chairman; Darryl Duty; Marlon Curtis, SW

### Lodge Trustees

Terry L. Royce, PM, PWGP - 2013

Rudy McCumber, PM - 2012

Ill. David E. Amstutz - 2014

### Temple Holding Corporation

Ill. David E. Amstutz, President

Terry L. Royce, PM, PWGP, Vice President

Ill. William D. Hines, PM, Secretary/Treasurer

### Team Challenge

Chairman Gerald F. Poe, Jr., WM and All Officers

## Honorary Members of Patuxent Lodge

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, MWGM of Maryland,

Ron Block, PM, DGL, PGI, PGM

Sam Sullivan, Maurice Rackey; Hilmer Krebs, James Seawell,

Ralph W. Moore, PM, PGI, Jesse Villarreal, MWPGM of DC, Bayani Casanova, PGI

## Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Visitation

December/2 - 8/2012

### Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Team Leads

Norman Lynch - Chairman

Terry Royce

**BE SURE TO SIGN IN AT THE VOLUNTEER DESK!!!**

## Past Masters

### Distinguished Gentlemen

1926 -27 U.D. J. L. Hofferbert \*

1927 E. F. Roberson\*

1928 E. F. Roberson\*

1929 Thurston G. Brown\*

1930 Floyd F. Martin\*

1931 H. Raymond Wilburn\*

1932 F. L. Wight, Jr.\*

1933 H. W. Hotchkiss\*

1934 Joseph E. Rawlings\*

1935 Readus M. Frye\*

1936 Carl E. Price\*

1937 Edwin J. Staats\*

1938 E. G. Gentle\*

1939 F. R. Colmus\*

1940 Edward H. Schmidt\*

1941 L. N. Sylvester\*

1942 Elza Job \*

1943 Preston Tate\*

1944 Edwin M. Fisher\*

1945 Vernon Keafauber\*

1946 C. H. E. Hoofring\*

1947 Jules DuBost\*

1948 Aubrey E. Amos\*

1949 Charles M. Wilson\*

1950 August A. Duchene\*

1951 Norris C. Robinson\*

1952 William T. Alvey\*

1953 C. S. Hubbard~ \*

1953 John E. Ball \*#

1954 F. L. Freeman\*

1955 G. Chester Towers\*

1956 James W. Patterson

1957 Charles T. Glidden\*

1958 S. Flory Diehl\* PSGW

1959 Hector D. Gellerson\*

1960 George W. Allen, Jr.

1961 Lloyd B. Bertholf\*

1962 George J. McCullogh\*

1963 Gordon W. Pearson~\*

1964 Reidar Haug \*

1965 Jesse J Ross\*

1966 Joseph M. Harris \*

1967 C. William McPherson\*

1968 John E. Pierce, Jr.

1969 Boris Tenner\* PGI

1970 Peter Cleland\*

1971 Kenneth C. Hardesty

1972 Norman E. Abney~\*

1973 Harry M. Cotton

1974 James K. Arnold\*

1975 John E. Pierce, Jr. PM

1976 James H. Hollis\*

1977 Chilton T. Walker~\*

1978 James A. Davis\*

1979 Raymond A. Williams, Jr.\*

1980 William D. Hines PGI

1981 Richard T. Price~

1982 Wilburn H. Jones PGI\*

1983 Gerald R. Rapson\*

1984 Rudy McCumber

1985 Urban T. Peters

1986 Terry L. Royce

1987 Charlie J. Smith, Jr.~

1988 Richard H. Gould\*

1989 John F. Sullivan~

1990 Brooks C. Dodson, Jr.

1991 David N. Hamrick \$

1992 Boris Tenner\*PM PGI PSGS

1992 William H. Thomas+

1993 Melvin E. Harrison PGI PWGT

1994 Oswald L. Lockard+PM\*

1995 Oswald L. Lockard+PM\*

1996 Urban T. Peters PM PGI

1997 Oswald L. Lockard+PM\*

1998 John R. Gluth PM+\*

1999 John R. Gluth PM+\*

2000-03 Oswald L. Lockard+PM\*

2001 R. Frank Wilburn +

2003 Glynn H. Owens #

2004 R. Frank Wilburn PM

2005 Oswald L. Lockard+PM\*

2006-08 Urban T. Peters PM PGI

2008 James W. Cloud, Jr. +

2009 Rev. Grover D. Brewer

2010-11 Terry L. Royce PM, PWGP

*\* Deceased ~ Demitted +Affiliated # Honorary \$ Dropped*



# 218 Corner

## SEEKING MORE LIGHT IN MASONRY

**What does it mean to seek more light in Masonry?** A question that every Master Mason is faced with when he is asked to take an obligation before God and man. The answer is simple - he is to be a person of good character, defend the weak and protect the poor, and always seek the TRUTH no matter what the outcome. Truth, honor, pride, family, country, and God are not words without meaning in Freemasonry. As men of good moral character we have promised to help those who need help and fight to provide relief without restraint, live our life as good citizens, study to show ourselves approved thus searching for more light to improve ourselves at all times. Fiat Lux!

### **Can Freemasonry actually prepare me for greatness?**

No organization can guarantee to make anyone great, but the powerful values and important truths that are taught as part of the Masonic tradition has proven to inspire, challenge, and develop leadership in men. Benjamin Franklin may have said it best, describing the Fraternity as a place to "prepare himself." Perhaps one of the things that has kept Masonry a strong and vital organization for so long is the fact that the Fraternity proposed only to "make good men better," not to make bad men good. This distinction is critical, in that from its early days, the Fraternity took itself out of the "rehabilitation" game -- which became the purvey of both religion and the criminal justice system. Today, men are preparing themselves for greatness in Lodges the world over. If you are reading this and still questioning if there's greatness in you, then...A good man you must have been thus far to have come, Brother, Greatness IS in you! ;)

### **Come on...Aren't we really a secret society?**

No. It is sometimes said that Freemasonry is a "Society with secrets, not a secret society." Following the practice of the ancient stonemason guilds, Freemasons use special handshakes, words, and symbols, not only to identify each other, but to help, as William Preston said in 1772, "imprint upon the memory wise and serious truths." Although every new Freemason takes an oath -- and vows to keep secret the metaphors of Masonry -- the metaphors are only used to help Masons become better men; Like the building of any great structure, the powerful metaphors and symbols of Masonry build character - and sometimes greatness -- one stone at a time. Besides, the real secret of freemasonry is in you. Learn it, Love it, Live it! TDNTAGYA, SMIB! ;)

### **Powerful Men and Dedicated Freemasons**

**Illustrious Bill Hines**, simply thank you for your leadership and mentorship Sir!  
**Laurence Ben, JS**, In your fighting for wellness you STILL Stood Tall and completed your FC and MM catechism in one day! AND are still looking to complete this year in your station as JS...Simply....POWERFUL! Thank you Brother! **Harold Saintelien, SS**, Brother Harold...You have been on more investigating committees this year than most, performed your duties as SS with confidence and Pride! And you have been an model for commitment for our lodge! Thank you brother! By the way, to you both, THE FOOD WAS GREAT!;)

LINE OFFICERS 2012 - 2013

**WM:** Rev. Gerald F. Poe Jr.(Toni)  
[Skpoe32@gmail.com](mailto:Skpoe32@gmail.com)  
[3015314472](tel:3015314472) M  
240767GPOE (4763) H

**SW:** Marlon K. Curtis  
[Bromarloncurtis@aol.com](mailto:Bromarloncurtis@aol.com)  
[2027025634](tel:2027025634) M

**JW:** Terry L. Royce, PM, PWGP (Nancy)  
[Rolls88@aol.com](mailto:Rolls88@aol.com)  
[3014258540](tel:3014258540) M  
[3018557933](tel:3018557933) H

**SD:** Alton Butler ( May you Rest in Peace our Dear Brother) We made History!

**JD:** Rudy McCumber, PM  
[Rudedog09@hotmail.com](mailto:Rudedog09@hotmail.com)  
[4102574562](tel:4102574562)

**SS:** Harold Saintelien  
[hsaintelien@gmail.com](mailto:hsaintelien@gmail.com)  
[3016139650](tel:3016139650)

**JS:** Laurence Ben (Robyn)  
[laben5435@msn.com](mailto:laben5435@msn.com)  
[4108043673](tel:4108043673)

**Sec:** Melvin E. Harrison, PM (Earlene)  
[melepingit@verizon.net](mailto:melepingit@verizon.net) [3018120202](tel:3018120202)

**Tres:** William D. Hines, PM (Janet)  
[wdhines@comcast.net](mailto:wdhines@comcast.net) [3018555589](tel:3018555589)

**Chap:** Rev. Dan Brewer, PM  
[sgt3421@aol.com](mailto:sgt3421@aol.com)  
[3017368959](tel:3017368959)

**Marshal:** Tim Murphy  
[timothymurph@yahoo.com](mailto:timothymurph@yahoo.com)  
[2406386736](tel:2406386736)

**Tyler:** Maurice H. Rackey (Joan)  
[3018432607](tel:3018432607)

### **Grand Line Officers (Powerful Men)**

Mike Banagan, PM, DGI  
[Mike\\_Banagan@msn.com](mailto:Mike_Banagan@msn.com)

Ron Block, PM, DGL  
[blockNTackle@comcast.net](mailto:blockNTackle@comcast.net) [4106261624](tel:4106261624)

## Communications

### **Grand Lodge Church Service**

Grand Lodge church service will be held at the Masonic Homes Chapel at Grand Lodge on Nov 11th @ 8:30am.

### **Grand Lodge Annual Communication**

Grand Master's banquet is Friday, November 16th. Reception is 6:00pm with dinner at 7:00pm. Cost is \$50 per person. Appropriate dress is formal. (Call for reservations) **The Annual Communication** will begin November 17 at 10:00am. **Luncheon** will be held at noon in the Grand Lodge ballroom. Cost is \$17 per person. (Call for reservations) **Annual Communication** will reconvene at 1:00p.m. **Dinner** will be held in the Grand Lodge ballroom at 5:30p.m. followed by the open installation of officers at 7:00p.m. Dinner cost is \$25. (Call for reservations)

### **Special Thanks and congratulations:**

**Rev. Dan Brewer, PM** - Thank you for praying for this lodge & those in need every day this year! AND Earnestly Praying for me for strength and guidance as well as the behind the scene support this year.

**Darryl Duty** - I have received many outstanding compliments on our website! Thank you again for all you do! We should all be extremely proud of your work for us!

**Frank Wilburn, PM** - Communications out to our brethren have been outstanding! Thank you for your patience, mentoring conversations and support!

**Kenyatta Galbreth** - Congratulations on completing all three catechisms within 3 months, thus obtaining your blue card, becoming a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and Being Knighted in the York Rite, all within 1 year! Powerful! Fiat Lux!

**Terry Royce, PM** - Thank you for a year full of support for the Lodge to include: Catechism instruction, CHIP programs, Furniture design/acquisition and outstanding ritual support. Thank you PM and congratulations on a well-deserved retirement from Metro!

**Marlon Curtis, SW** - Brother SW, we talked just about every day. I appreciate the strong support from the West, the masonic field trips you took our young brethren on AND the many mentoring sessions you provided to them. I look forward in seeing you in the East!





*Nov. - Dec. 2012*

**Nov. 3rd @ 10:00am. 218 Stated Communication**

- GL Annual communication discussion
- Mike Taylor Catechism (EA and FC)
- Read Petition
- Lecture: Life, Death and Insurance...why?!

*\* Presentations & Photos*

*THC Meeting!! illustrious David Amsted(President)*

*\*\*Join us for Breakfast @ 8am with the OES Chapter #61!*

*Menu: Fried eggs, scrambled eggs and pancakes with all of the trimmings. Cost: Donations(Ways and Means)*

**Nov. 3rd @ 4pm (Funeral Service) Lee Funeral Home**

Lois Moore (Wife of Ralph Moore, PM) Viewing: 2pm  
6633 Old Alexandria Ferry Rd. Clinton, MD 20735

**Nov 5th @ 7:30pm** (Warden's Night at Thomas J. Shryock Lodge, Hollywood, MD)

**Nov 17th @ 10am:** Grand Lodge Annual Communication

Installation of GL officers @ 7pm  
(Call for res. for lunch \$17 & dinner \$25)

**Nov. 19th @ 7pm (Funeral/Memorial Service)@174 Temple**

Bro. William (Bill) Thomas - 59 year mason

**Dec. 1st @ 10:00am. 218 Stated Communication**

- Vote on petition of Mr. Tim Chandler
- Election for 2013 officers
- Catechisms
- Lecture: What a year

*\* Photos and Light refreshments and fellowship afterwards*



# Continued Education

*The ALL-SEEING EYE!*

**ALL-SEEING EYE.** An important symbol of the Supreme Being, borrowed by the Freemasons from the nations of antiquity. Both the Hebrews and the Egyptians appear to have derived its use from the natural inclination of figurative minds to select an organ as the symbol of the function which it is intended peculiarly to discharge. Thus, the foot was often adopted as the symbol of swiftness, the arm of strength, and the hand of fidelity. On the same principle, the open eye was selected as the symbol of watchfulness, and the eye of God as the symbol of Divine watchfulness and care of the universe. The All-Seeing Eye may then be considered as a symbol of God manifested in his omnipresence. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. It is a symbol of the Omnipresent Deity.

## *From our* **Worshipful Master**

*Your Cable-Tow, something you should know!!*

The cable-tow, is the outward and visible symbol of a vow in which a man has pledged his life to an action, or has pledged himself to save another life at the risk of his own. Its length and strength are measured by the ability of the man to fulfill his obligation and his sense of the moral sanctity of his obligation—a test, that is, both of his capacity and of his character. If a Lodge is a symbol of the world, and initiation is our birth into the world of Masonry, the cable-tow is not unlike the cord which unites a child to its mother at birth; and so it is usually interpreted. Just as the physical cord, when cut, is replaced by a tie of love and obligation between mother and child, so, in one of the most impressive moments of initiation, the cable-tow is removed, because the brother, by his oath at the Altar of Obligation, is bound by a tie stronger than any physical cable. What before was an outward physical restraint has become an inward moral constraint. That is to say, force is replaced by love—outer authority by inner obligation—and that is the secret of security and the only basis of brotherhood. Such is the Divine cable-tow by which the world is held in its moral orbit. To discover that cord running through our own lives—your life and mine—uniting us with all the seekers after truth, all lovers of right, all servants of God and man, is the mission and blessing of Masonry. But, let us remember that a Cable-tow has two ends. If it binds a Mason to the Fraternity, by the same fact it binds the Fraternity to each man in it. What is the length of our cable-tow? Who knows what it teaches...only YOU, will truly know how far your cable-tow reaches! I look forward in seeing you at our next communication...IF, within the length of your cable-tow! Fiat Lux!

(in part: Small Talks 1928)

*Rev. Gerald F. Poe Jr., W.M. Patuxent Lodge No. 218*



There is a profound irony to the relationship between Freemasonry and the Middle East. No world organization owes more to the region in the way of its motifs, its symbols, and its rituals. But no organization in the course of its presence in the Middle East has encountered more criticism, more disapproval, and more outright government persecution. I felt it important for the continued education of the Blue Lodge mason to bring this bit of literary to bare for further understanding of why we remain persecuted in these sectors of the world.

The following is an excerpt from a paper delivered in September 2007 to Walter F Meier Lodge of Research #281 in Seattle, WA and published in the 2007 Transactions of that lodge. It is important to understand why there exists so much antipathy toward Masonry in the Middle East. Below is the dogma delivered as fact to all followers of Islam in the Middle East. Islam and Freemasonry, Clearly, the lot of the Craft in Islamic countries in general, and Arab countries in particular, has not been a happy one. The question is why? Most Masons will be aware of various Papal Bulls issued, historically, by the Roman Catholic Church against Freemasonry, as it understood (or more correctly, misunderstood) it. ***In reviewing Islamic attitudes towards Masonry, it must be first observed that this religion has no personage analogous to the Pope. However, most Islamic countries do have an official legal/religious consultant.*** A number of articles have been written on the subject, dating back as far as the mid-nineteenth century. Possibly the most influential body in promulgating and interpreting Islamic Law is the Islamic Jurisdictional College (IJC). At its meeting on 15 July 1978, it issued an opinion concerning 'The Freemasons Organization'.[iii] The SAJS declared:[iv] After complete research concerning this organization, based on written accounts from many sources, we have determined:

1. Freemasonry is a clandestine organization, which conceals or reveals its system, depending on the circumstances. Its actual principles are hidden from members, except for chosen members of its higher degrees
2. The members of the organization, worldwide, are drawn from men without preference for their religion, faith or sect.
3. The organization attracts members on the basis of providing personal benefits. It traps men into being politically active, and its aims are unjust.
4. New members participate in ceremonies of different names and symbols, and who are frightened from disobeying its regulations and orders.
5. Preferred members are free to practice their religion, but only members who are atheist are promoted to its higher degrees, based on how much they are willing to serve its dangerous principles and plans.
6. It is a political organization. It has served all revolutions, military and politically transformations, and in all dangerous changes a relation to this organization appears either exposed or veiled.
7. It is a Jewish Organization in its roots. Its secret higher international administrative board are Jews and it promotes Zionist activities.
8. Its primary objectives are the distraction of all religions and it distracts Muslims from Islam.
9. It tries to recruit influential financial, political, social, or scientific people to utilize them. It does not consider applicants it cannot utilize. It recruits kings, prime ministers, high government officials and similar individuals.
10. It has branches under different names as a camouflage so people cannot trace its activities, especially if the name of 'Freemasonry' has opposition. These hidden branches are known as Lions, Rotary and others. They have wicked principles that completely contradict the rules of Islam.

Given that Freemasonry involves itself in dangerous activities, it is a great hazard, with wicked objectives, the Jurisdictional Synod determines that Freemasonry is a dangerous, destructive organization. Any Muslim who affiliates with it, knowing the truth of its objectives, is an infidel to Islam. ***After seeing what is said and taught of Free Masonry in the Middle East it's no wonder we are reviled among many who follow Islam. Such disinformation has only been fueled by web conspiracies, Hollywood fiction, and our own inability to make our principles known to the greater public.*** None of this requires divulging any of our esoteric work or true secrets. The principles of Free Masonry are synonymous with the guiding principles upon which our country was founded and we break no obligation by making that point often and loudly among any who care to know.

### Statement on Freemasonry and Religion

Basic Principles. Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. It requires of its members a belief in God as part of the obligation of every responsible adult, but advocates no sectarian faith or practice. Freemasonry is open to men of any faith, but religion may not be discussed at Masonic meetings.

**The Supreme Being.** Masons believe that there is one God and that people employ many different ways to seek, and to express what they know of God. Masonry primarily uses the appellation, "Grand Architect of the Universe," and other non-sectarian titles, to address the Deity. In this way, persons of different faiths may join together in prayer, concentrating on God, rather than differences among themselves. Masonry believes in religious freedom and that the relationship between the individual and God is personal, private, and sacred.

**Volume of the Sacred Law.** An open volume of the Sacred Law, "the rule and guide of life," is an essential part of every Masonic meeting. The Volume of the Sacred Law in the Judeo/Christian tradition is the Bible; to Freemasons of other faiths, it is the book held Holy by them.

**The Oath of Freemasonry.** The obligations taken by Freemasons are sworn on the Volume of the Sacred Law. They are undertakings to follow the principles of Freemasonry and to keep confidential a Freemason's means of recognition. The much discussed "penalties," judicial remnants from an earlier era, are symbolic, not literal. They refer only to the pain any honest man should feel at the thought of violating his word.

**Freemasonry Compared with Religion.** Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of religion: (a) It has no dogma or theology, no wish or means to enforce religious orthodoxy. (b) It offers no sacraments. (c) It does not claim to lead to salvation by works, by secret knowledge, or by any other means. The secrets of Freemasonry are concerned with modes of recognition, not with the means of salvation.

**Freemasonry Supports Religion.** Freemasonry is far from indifferent toward religion. Without interfering in religious practice, it expects each member to follow his own faith and to place his Duty to God above all other duties. Its moral teachings are acceptable to all religions.