

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
AND THE APPENDANT ORDERS OF
MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND**

Sir Knight James Ian Ogilvie
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Sir Knight Donald S. Stevens
Eminent Grand Recorder

October 28, 2023

*To all constituent Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of, and holding allegiance
to, the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of
Massachusetts and Rhode Island:*

GENERAL ORDER, NO. 4

Local Joint York Rite Body Meetings

Greetings Sir Knights,

In joint consultation with the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts and the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts, in order to allow the constituent Chapters, Councils and Commanderies, which are currently meeting in joint sessions, to perform their respective ritualistic openings, Degrees and Orders, it is hereby ordered that in these Commanderies will open using Commandery ritual at every Stated Conclave held during the course of the Templar year. It is no longer acceptable to simply declare the Commandery open without performing, at the very least, the approved Grand Encampment short form ritualistic opening ceremony. All non-Sir Knights must be excused from the Asylum during the opening, and can be readmitted once the opening is completed.

The local Chapters and Councils meeting jointly will take their direction for their opening ceremonies from the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts and the Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons of Massachusetts. The heads of these local bodies will plan a schedule at the beginning of the Masonic year which will afford each body the opportunity to perform three months of their respective work on candidates.

This format is to be used only for those Commanderies that are meeting jointly with their local Chapters and Councils and must adhere to the remainder of Section 65 (c) of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, not relating to the opening process.

“Section 65 (c) A Commandery may, at Stated or Special Conclaves held for the transaction of business only, consider and transact business jointly with Chapters and Councils domiciled at the same location. At such Conclaves, members of Chapters and councils who are not Knights Templar may be admitted; provided, that in the event of an objection by a Knight Templar to

balloting on petitions for the Orders by all present, such petitions shall be considered only by members of the Commandery. At such Conclaves, following prayer, the Commander may declare the Commandery open for the transaction of business. (1970, p. 349-356 & 456)”

This General Order will expire and is then null and void at the end of the 2023 – 2024 Grand Commandery Templar Year. However, this General Order is made jointly with the Grand Commander and the Deputy Grand Commander, and it is expected that the presumptive next Grand Commander will continue this program.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, at Boston, Massachusetts, on this, the 28th day of October 2023, A.O. 905.

James Ian Ogilvie



GRAND COMMANDER

ATTEST:



Donald S. Stevens
GRAND RECORDER

