



March 18, 2020

**EDICT FROM THE GRAND MASTER ON COVID-19**

Brethren,

Due to the increasing severity of restrictions against public gatherings by government agencies in their efforts to slow the community transmission of COVID-19, the following directives are to take immediate effect in this Jurisdiction:

- (1) All Lodge activities are hereby canceled through Friday, April 3rd, 2020. This includes, but is not limited to, Stated Communications, Special Communications, and special ceremonies of Minnesota Lodges.
- (2) In order to allow for the continuation of normal business, all usual and customary expenses of a Lodge may be paid with approval of the elected officers during this period. Phone and email are acceptable means of communication with one another to complete this specific work, and decisions shall be recorded by the Secretary.
- (3) This cancellation also applies to the Annual Communication previously set by edict for April 4th, 2020 at the Minneapolis Scottish Rite Temple, the announcement of which was made just two days ago. Members of the Corporate Board of Trustees, the Jurisprudence Committee, and the Technology Committee, have a draft proposal to do the annual work of this Grand Lodge by electronic ballot. Please keep watch for announcements in the very near future.

In this fluid time, please also know that these restrictions may change. Keep a watch for updates and revised guidance, especially at the start of the new Grand Lodge year on Saturday, April 4th, 2020.

As with so many of these COVID-19 directives being sent by Grand Lodges around the world, you'll note that "Lodge" activity and not "Masonic" activity is being canceled. Brotherly love, relief, and truth, the soul of Masonry, cannot be stopped by emergency. In fact, if ever they were to be ramped up in scope now is that time. Check on one another. Lean on one another. Engage with one another, so that through all this Masons will truly be men to whom distress may prefer its suit, and whose hearts are expanded by benevolence.



Attest:

*Keith W. Peterson*

Fraternal regards,

*Ethan A. Seaberg*  
Ethan A. Seaberg  
Grand Master