



The Most Worshipful

*PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF OHIO*

.....Free and Accepted Masons.....

**Chester C. Christie # 7**  
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Office of  
**M.W. Grand Master**

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## “Building on The Firm Foundation of Our Historic Legacy”

To: Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Past Masters, MWP Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren of all Subordinate Lodges of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio, Free and Accepted Masons.

The following Directive is issued and immediately in full force until otherwise revoked.

### Directive CCC 2020-5

In response to the “shelter in place” mandates and other social distancing protocols established by Governor Michael DeWine and State and Local Health Agencies, Masonic Funerals have been suspended since March 2020. There have been numerous inquiries made from various Districts regarding when and under what circumstances Masonic Funeral Services would resume.

The COVID -19 Coronavirus is still pervasive and significant precautions must be taken to ensure that the health and welfare of our membership is given paramount consideration in every decision made regarding affording a deceased Brother a Masonic service.

If a request is made by the family of a deceased Brother, and if the Church or Funeral Home where the homegoing services are to be held for the Brother will permit a Masonic service, the service may be conducted provided all the following requirements are met:

1. Only the WM, SW, JW, Chaplain and Secretary will Assemble around the casket
2. Each will wear a face covering and will maintain at least 6 feet of space apart.
3. Any other Brothers who elect to attend the service will remain in the sanctuary of the church or the seating area of the Funeral Home wearing a face covering and maintaining appropriate social distancing.



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4. Any of the Church's or the Funeral Home's requirements for admission to the building must be complied with.
5. Members who elect to participate in a Masonic Service under the guidelines of this directive do so at their own risk. The MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio will be absolved of any liability for illness, injury or other claims or damages resulting from a member's participation.

Paying the last tribute of our affection to a departed Brother is one of the most solemn and sacred rites we observe as Master Masons. However, Brothers are urged to proceed with an abundance of caution when deciding whether to participate. We have an equal obligation to safeguard each other's health and well-being.

Take due and timely notice of the foregoing and govern yourselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and the private seal of the Grand Master at Columbus, Ohio this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, AD 2020, AL 6020. I remain.

Respectfully and Fraternaly yours,

***Chester C. Christie***

Chester C. Christie, P M #7  
Most Worshipful Grand Master

