

# Ohio Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

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September 15, 2021

*"In everything give Thanks; for that is the Will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" – Thes 5:18*

To: All Elected and Appointed Grand Commandery Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Eminent Commanders, Generalissimos, Captain Generals, and all Sir Knights.

**RE: In-Person Meetings**

## **Directive JWW 2021-002 (Addendum)**

Greetings Sir Knights,

In an ongoing effort to continue to preserve the personal health and safety of every Sir Knight across the State of Ohio by providing you all with the most up-to-date information concerning the Covid-19 Pandemic and our Magnanimous Order, after consulting with the Grand Commandery Medical Team, I update my previous Directive JWW 2021-002 by adding the following Addendum:

Based on the latest fatality numbers and infection rates of the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic over the last 90 days, effective immediately, each Commandery will be provided the opportunity to return to meeting virtually. The option to meet in-person is still allowed but, it is extremely risky indeed. If for any reason you do not feel 100% comfortable with conducting or attending an in-person meeting, please, stay home and meet virtually.

As your Right Eminent Grand Commander, it is my personal duty and responsibility to this Grand Commandery, the Sir Knights who compose the current membership body (and it's future), their families and the communities they live, work and serve in, to give

this unilateral decision to you all. Again, if you do not feel comfortable meeting in person, **DO NOT** do so. To provide some personal context, the company I retired from several years ago, has initiated a Pandemic relief package to help retirees with health costs and burial expenses associated with and/or caused by this virus. I do not want any of you to become a victim. I want to reiterate that I am responsible for all of you, your personal welfare and owe an equally important obligation to your families as well.

Many of us have lost loved ones and many will continue to lose them, until, God says "ENOUGH!" Additionally, flu season will soon be upon us and we need to take every precaution and safeguard we can to protect ourselves. I sincerely care about each and every one of you Sir Knights and your families.

Therefore I am recommending that all Commandries, who desire to meet via Zoom or virtually for the rest of 2021, do so. At the conclusion of 2021, we will determine if the threat has subsided and govern ourselves accordingly. If you still want to conduct in-person meetings, I seriously urge you to do so based on CDC Guidelines and that you adhere to the safety protocols and get tested before and after your meeting(s) to mitigate your risk and the risk of others. I also recommend and encourage you to adjust procedures when opening and closing the Asylum. Remember to wear your mask, maintain social distancing as much as possible and wash your hands and sanitize surfaces, furniture, door handles and anything else receiving constant contact.

If you are meeting via Zoom, please fill out the enclosed Dispensation Form and send to the Eminent Grand Recorder SK Terry Grooms at: [mastermasonpha107@outlook.com](mailto:mastermasonpha107@outlook.com).

**Note:** There is **NO COST** associated with this Dispensation.

This Directive, JWW 2021-002 Addendum, is to be read at all Stated Conclaves in September, October, November and December.

May God continue to protect us and keep us all safe.

Yours in Knightly Courtesy,

*SK John W. Watters*

SK John Watters, #27, KYCH

**Right Eminent Grand Commander**

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