



Stanton T. Brown, II
Grand Master 2019-20

Jeffrey S. Pennington
Grand Secretary
grandsecretary@momason.org

ANNOUNCEMENT

March 25, 2020

TO: All Missouri Lodges, Lodge Officers and Grand Lodge Officers

Subsequent to my issuance of an Edict dated March 11, 2020 there has been a significant increase in instances of the transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus throughout the State of Missouri as well as throughout the country. There have been multiple directives issued by various masonic bodies as well as many governmental organizations in an attempt to control and limit the spread of this deadly virus.

When I issued my first Edict, I felt that it was broad enough to allow local lodges to determine their own risks and exposure and act accordingly and responsibly and in compliance with local directives. Even so, there have been many questions presented about what lodges should and should not be doing or in what they should be participating. In order to make it clear and to be consistent for the whole jurisdiction, I am issuing the attached Edict suspending all masonic meetings and events until April 24, 2020.

I am doing this in an effort to make sure masons throughout the state comply with social distancing recommendations by the CDC and many local governmental directives. To set an example, the Grand Lodge office will not be fully staffed so as to conform with the directive sent out by the City of Columbia, however, it will be conducting Grand Lodge business remotely. All essential functions will be performed. By issuance of this edict, I am not suspending our duty to each other and to our neighbors. Please take care of each other and care for one another.

As the situation becomes clearer and we get more verifiable medically based information on the severity and scope of this outbreak, we will resume Grand lodge activities.

I thank you for your understanding.

Fraternally

Stanton T. Brown, II
Grand Master



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EDICT
MARCH 25, 2020

TO: All Missouri Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri

WHEREAS, a highly contagious and potentially deadly coronavirus is spreading throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, cases of the virus have been confirmed within the jurisdiction of this and neighboring Grand Lodges; and

WHEREAS, multiple governmental bodies have issued “stay at home” orders for all non-essential business activities throughout our jurisdiction making compliance inconsistent within our body statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE, notwithstanding my previous EDICT, the same of which is still in full force and effect and under the authority of Section 2.010(k) of the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri as Grand Master, I hereby issue the following additional Edict, effective immediately:

A. All lodges in this jurisdiction shall immediately suspend all lodge meetings, masonic community events and degree work as long as this edict remains in full force and effect. This is to include any DDGM official visits, DDGL and RGL meetings, C2A's or any other masonic gathering that are planned during this time period. DDGM's must fulfill the official visit requirements in person if at all possible, however should the visits not be completed, the official visits may be completed by exchange of information via digital media and personal phone calls with the lodge officials.

B. All masonic ceremonies are also suspended with the EXCEPTION of masonic funerals when they are requested, so long as they are in compliance with local directives and there is stringent adherence to CDC suggested good practices and appropriate caution is exercised regarding social distancing.

C. No notice to the Grand Lodge or request for dispensation shall be required during this time.

D. All lodges shall be exempted and relieved from the provisions of Section 7.060 of the Grand Lodge By-Laws requiring subordinate lodges to meet at least once in each calendar month in ten calendar months during the year.

E. This Edict will expire on April 24, 2020 unless otherwise modified by further Order of the Grand Master.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stanton T. Brown, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stanton T. Brown, II
Grand Master