



## **Section I**

# **CONSTITUTION** of the **GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR** of **WASHINGTON**

**2008**

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## **Section I**

# **CONSTITUTION of the GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR of WASHINGTON**

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the Knights Templar constituting the Grand Commandery of the State of Washington assembled in Stated Conclave, acknowledging allegiance to the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America and subject to the Constitution and Statutes thereof as well as the powers and authorities granted by Sections 57 through 86 to Commanderies created thereby, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the government of this Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies.

## **Article I NAME**

(01)This body shall be designated and known as the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Washington. The term "Grand Commandery" used hereinafter, shall mean said Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Washington. The term "Grand Encampment" used hereinafter, shall mean the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.

## **Article II DURATION**

The Grand Commandery of Washington, formed and holden to the Grand Encampment and subject thereto, shall have perpetual existence.

**Article III**  
**PURPOSE**

The purpose and mission of Knights Templar are to emulate the teachings of Freemasonry by example and individual actions. These teachings are not sacramental so far as they appear to enter into the domains of thought and truth in which every man is entirely free to reject and dissent so long as he shall weigh what is taught and give it fair hearing and unprejudiced judgment, keeping always in mind the dogma of the Holy Testaments of Christianity in the true sense of “doctrine and teachings” and to emulate the historic moral doctrine of the Knights Templar of the historic crusades. Our mission is to serve our Brothers, families, friends, neighbors, community and our Country in every way possible.

**Article IV**  
**JURISDICTION AND POWERS**

(06)The jurisdictional boundaries of this Grand Commandery are the physical boundaries of the State of Washington.

In addition to the powers and duties prescribed for Grand Commanderies by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, this Grand Commandery shall have such powers and assume such duties as are not presently or in the future reserved to itself by such Grand Encampment including, but not limited to the following:

- a. Adopt by-laws, codes, laws, statutes and regulations not contrary or inconsistent with this Constitution as it may deem necessary for the good of the Order;
- b. Create, establish and exercise jurisdiction, dominion and control over this Grand Commandery and its Constituent Commanderies;
- c. Examine the accounts of all such officers, committees, and trustees as may have charge of funds or property of this Grand Commandery of Washington;
- d. Subject to the written permission and approval of the Grand Master or of the Grand Encampment, create or establish an eleemosynary, philanthropic, endowment or charitable activity or project under the name, style, guise or designation of “Knights Templar.” This and any other Templar Body owing allegiance to the Grand Encampment that may form or organize any such organization or corporation, whether or not using the name, style, guise or designation of “Knight Templar” shall nevertheless provide in the Articles of Organization thereof that the principal officers shall be majority members of its Board of Control of the entity so formed.
- e. (07) The Grand Commandery of Washington may censure, suspend, revoke the charter of any Constituent Commandery in this jurisdiction and hold it amenable

for any violation or neglect of this Constitution, or the By-Laws, Codes, Statutes, Laws, Regulations, Orders or Summons of this Grand Commandery of Washington.

Except as provided by the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment all Constituent Commanderies shall have concurrent jurisdiction over petitioners for the Orders of Knighthood within the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery.

**Article V**  
**GRAND COMMANDERY OF WASHINGTON**

(02)In addition to the qualifications for membership of its members as prescribed for the Grand Commanderies by the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, members of the Grand Commandery of Washington shall be:

- a.) The Grand Commander,  
The Deputy Grand Commander,  
The Grand Generalissimo,  
The Grand Captain General,  
The Grand Senior Warden,  
The Grand Junior Warden,  
The Grand Prelate,  
The Grand Treasurer,  
The Grand Recorder,  
The Grand Standard Bearer,  
The Grand Sword Bearer,  
The Grand Warder,  
The Grand Sentinel,  
Eight Grand Deputy Instructors;
- b.) The Commander, the Generalissimo, and the Captain General of each Constituent Commandery and Commanderies Under Dispensation in this Grand Commandery
- c.) So long as they are members of a Constituent Commandery of this Grand Commandery:  
All Past Grand Commanders,  
All Past Grand Deputy Grand Commanders,  
All Past Grand Generalissimos,  
All Past Grand Captain Generals,
- d.) All Past Commanders of Constituent Commanderies and such Past Commanders of other Grand Jurisdictions who have demitted to and affiliated with and are now members of Constituent Commanderies in this jurisdiction. Any distinguished Knights Templar of another Grand Commandery beholden to the Grand Encampment

of the United States of America, who by vote of two thirds present, may be elected to an honorary non-voting membership in this Grand Commandery.

**Article VI**  
**OFFICERS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF WASHINGTON**

The officers of the Grand Commandery and their respective precedence of rank shall be:

Grand Commander  
Deputy Grand Commander  
Grand Generalissimo  
Grand Captain General  
Grand Senior Warden  
Grand Junior Warden  
Grand Prelate  
Grand Treasurer  
Grand Recorder  
Grand Standard Bearer  
Grand Sword Bearer  
Grand Warder  
Grand Sentinel  
Deputy Instructors

**Article VII**  
**MANAGEMENT OF GRAND COMMANDERY OF WASHINGTON**

The management of the Grand Commandery of Washington shall be vested in this Grand Commandery Conclave. Pursuant to Section 3f of the Constitutions and Statutes of the Grand Encampment a Board of Control consisting of the Grand Commander, the Deputy Grand Commander, the Grand Generalissimo, the Grand Recorder, the Grand Treasurer and not more than three appointed or elected trustees shall conduct the eleemosynary, philanthropic, charitable, fund activity business of this Grand Commandery at the direction of the Grand Commander. All matters coming before the members of the Board of Control shall be submitted to the Grand Conclave in accordance with existing Templar Law.

**Article VIII**  
**REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered office location and address for all official communications and transactions shall be at the residence of the Grand Recorder.

**Article IX**  
**AMENDMENTS**

052. This Constitution may be altered or amended as follows: The resolutions or amendments proposed shall be filed in duplicate with the Grand Recorder at least sixty (60) days before the date scheduled for the convening of the Grand Commandery on Resolution forms supplied by the Grand Recorder and must have a minimum of two (2) legible signatures, except those submitted by the Grand Commander which will have only the signature of the Grand Commander. The Grand Recorder to notify the Constituent Commanderies of such resolutions or amendments at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Grand Commandery, provided, that exception shall be made in case of emergency and by the majority consent of those present at the Annual Conclave. All resolutions and amendments shall be referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, who shall promptly report on the same as to form and whether it is in harmony and consistent with this Constitution, the By-Laws, Codes, Statutes, Rules and Regulations of this Grand Commandery and those of the Grand Encampment. After said report, the amendment may be presented to the Grand Commandery for consideration and vote and if it receives a three-fourths affirmative vote, it shall be declared adopted and effective at once. If, however, it receives less than a three-fourths vote, but a majority of the votes cast, the amendment shall then layover until the next Stated Conclave, when it shall again be voted upon and if it then receives a majority, it shall then be declared adopted and become effective.