

**Most Illustrious Charles F. Williams
Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters
Jurisdiction of Tennessee
Prince Hall Affiliate**

P O Box 280251 Nashville TN 37228



**From the Office of Most Illustrious Grand Thrice Illustrious Master
Rev. Kenneth E. Brown MDiv.**

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January 16, 2017

Greetings,
Illustrious Companions,
I would like to take this time to acknowledge the spirit of growth in the formation of new councils throughout the jurisdiction of Tennessee over the past three (3) years. Keeping with that spirit, I would like to share the guidelines for starting a new council.

The thought here is to promote growth of new councils and not to relocate members from their current membership. The leadership considering a new council should be willing to take on the time and efforts to impact the community, support other bodies of the masonic family and intentional about nurturing growth through education of the council. Likewise, geographic economics should be respected by those considering new councils and the zeal for chartering conclusive masonic knowledge by lodges and chapters. I would like to acknowledge the support of REGC Melvin Callahan for expanding in 2016 the requirement of Royal and Select Master before becoming a Knights Templar to all new Sir Knights.

Since the Chartering of the Most Illustrious Charles F. Williams Grand Council on April 3, 1998, we began with nine (9) councils. To our acclaim, we have been able to help establish grand councils in the jurisdictions of Washington State, Mississippi and recently Texas and wish to encourage the excitement of growth within the corridors of the Tennessee jurisdiction. Subsequently, the grand council is actively encouraging growth throughout its jurisdictions to actively promote a conduit which Royal and Select degrees wherever Royal Arch and Knights Templar exist. Thus the allegorical symbolism of the Royal and Select master's degree, gives the unveiling answers between Deity and the moral character of masonry revealed in the Cryptic degrees.

The following are the requirements as stated in the constitution:

In accordance to Article IX Section -1, Nine (9) or more Royal Arch Masons in good and regular standing from a Chapter recognize by this Jurisdiction may petition to organize a new if they can furnish proof of a suitable

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meeting place and qualified material for Officers. In accordance to Article IX the Dispensation for to form a new Council fee is ten dollars (\$10.00), which a “Warrant Under Dispensation” will be issued. The amount for chartering councils is Fifty-dollars (\$50.00) and must accompany the final recommendation before issuing a Charter. This petition must be signed by the nearest Council that will verify that the said Companions have reasonable morale character and Masonic responsibility to be awarded a charter or dispensation.

Likewise according to Chapter II, Article I, Section – 1, Each Subordinate Council shall be composed of no less than nine (9) members, of whom shall consist a Thrice Illustrious Master, Deputy Master, Principal Conductor of The Works, Treasurer, Recorder, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Council, Steward and Sentinel.

The steps to forming a new council:

1. A letter of petition from at least nine (9) Illustrious companions
 - a. Verification of good standing status
2. A letter of petition from at least nine (9) Royal Arch companions
 - a. Verification of good standing status
 - b. Combination of Royal Arch and Illustrious companions
 - c. Letter to include nearby subordinate council for support
 - d. Letter to include District Deputy’s name
3. Submission of a dispensation from Grand Council or Grand Illustrious Thrice Master
 - a. Dispensation should include date, time and place
 - b. List all members and office to be held
4. Once the Warrant U D has been awarded to the new council, work and degree can begin and will be shadowed by the nearest council and district deputy for all the requirements becoming a Chartered subordinate council.
 - a. Business of a establishing a checking account and minuets of meetings
 - b. Regular meeting according to Chapter II, Article I, Section 1
 - c. Regular attendance by members with regalia and paraphernalia requirements
 - d. U D Council Knowledge requirements before Chartering
 - e. Regalia by at least 90% of members
 - f. Community Activity
 - g. Ritualistic Opening of Council
 - h. Royal Master Degree—Knowledge of the function and degree work requirement for investiture.
 - i. Candidate attire, name whom represented,
 - j. Select Master Degree—Knowledge of the function and degree work requirement for investiture.
 - k. Candidate attire, name whom represented
 - l. Requirements for Certification
 - m. Password of Royal Master
 - n. Sign of Recognition
 - o. Examinee Sign off and recommendation
5. After all the requirements are met and a favorable report of the district deputy and the nearest council, the Charter and Dispensation committee will make their recommendation before the Grand Council for a vote, or favorable approval by the MIGTIM.
6. After a favorable vote by the Grand Council for a Warrant of Constitution, a consecration of dedication will be performed at meeting of the new council.



For more information contact one of the following District Deputies for assistance:

Deputy at Large	James E. Kelley III	jkelly9@comcast.net
Middle TN Deputy	Ray Chase	ray0506@att.net
West TN Deputy	Albert Boyd	aebold_photos@yahoo.com
Southeast TN Deputy	William Gibbs	wgibbs6589@epbfi.com
Northeast TN Deputy	Eugene Mitchell	inked.out.tees@gmail.com
Memphis District Deputy	Tony E. Yates	tyatesmemphis@yahoo.com

Illustrious Companions, now is the time for us to behold our potential to serve God, Family, Grand Council and the community with historical markers of how we make a great cause, unlimited!

Audi, Vide, Tace, si vis vivere in pace!
Hear, see, be silent, if you would live in peace!

The 4th MIGTIM

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ATTEST:
Michael Lovings
RIG Recorder Michael Lovings

