



REGULATIONS OF A COMMANDERY AND GRAND PRIORY OF THE HOLY ORTHODOX ORDER OF SAINT GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR

The Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr is an international, religious, pan-Orthodox, order of Christian chivalry.

The Order was founded with the purpose of caring for Orthodox Christians who find themselves in need, want, or under persecution for their faith. Thus, the Order takes very seriously its desire to see full dignity, human rights, and freedom for all Orthodox Christians, regardless of where they live.

For this reason, the Order has as its goals and objectives to organize, promote, aid, and engage in charitable, humanitarian, educational, medical, and chivalric activities, particularly by: (a) aiding the poor, the sick, the needy, the aged, the infirm, the maimed, the mentally ill, the imprisoned, and the socially disadvantaged; (b) assisting in the maintenance of holy places including, but not limited to, buildings, monasteries, seminaries, shrines, churches, and cathedrals of the Orthodox Faith; and (c) establishing and promoting the works of hospitals, medical centers, orphanages, schools, and other bona fide Orthodox institutions and/or organizations.

To this end, the Order authorizes the establishment of local Commanderies and Grand Priories for the purpose of extending these objectives into local communities around the globe. The purpose and use of this document are to provide necessary guidance and direction to such entities of the Order.

Article One – The Establishment of a local Commandery or Grand Priory

- 1.1 After careful review and with the deliberative vote of the Sovereign Council, the Grand Knight may proceed to establish through Sovereign Decree a local Commandery or Grand Priory of the Order.
- 1.2 Local Commanderies are to be established with a minimum of five people. All members of the Commandery must be Orthodox Christians, members of the Order, and an active

member of a local Orthodox parish in the region to which the Commandery is to be established.

- 1.3 Local Commanderies of the Order are subject to the authority of a Grand Priory. All Grand Priories are subject to the authority of the Grand Magistr, which is governed by the Sovereign Council, with the Grand Knight as the head of the Order as a whole.
- 1.4 The establishment of a local Commandery or Grand Priory is to be communicated by the Grand Knight to the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

Article Two – Dissolution of a local Commandery or Grand Priory

- 2.1 With good cause and with the deliberative vote of the Sovereign Council, the Grand Knight may dissolve through Sovereign Decree a local Commandery or Grand Priory if it fails to comply with the high standards and regulations of the Order.
- 2.2 Appeals of any revocations may be heard by the Sovereign Council directly. The Sovereign Council will consider the appeal, investigate the circumstances, and deliver its recommendation to the Grand Knight. The Grand Knight will review and make a final determination within sixty calendar days. No further appeals from the same party are to be accepted thereafter.
- 2.3 If a local Commandery is dissolved, any property or monies belonging to them shall revert to the Grand Priory.
- 2.4 If a Grand Priory is dissolved, any property or monies belonging to them shall revert to the Grand Magistr of the Order.
- 2.5 The dissolution of a local Commandery or Grand Priory is to be communicated by the Grand Knight to the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

Article Three – Legal Establishment, Approval of Statutes, and Name

- 3.1 Each local Commandery and Grand Priory is to establish a legally constituted not-for-profit organization according to the laws of the country in which they exist.
- 3.2 A local Commandery and Grand Priory is to have its own statutes and/or bylaws for proper governance. Such regulations need to be approved by the Grand Knight in consultation with the Sovereign Council.
- 3.3 All statutes adopted must be consistent with the Constitution of the Order or any Sovereign Decrees issued by the Grand Knight.
- 3.4 The name of the Order is to be translated into the native language of the local people. A Grand Priory would use the following as an example in their legal name:
Canadian Grand Priory of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.
- 3.5 A local Commandery would use the following as an example in their legal name:
Commandery of Ottawa, the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.

Article Four – Headship of a local Commandery

4.1 Each established local Commandery will operate with several locally elected officers. These officers are:

- Commandery Officer (*Chairperson*)
- Chaplain
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Protocol Officer

4.2 The Commandery officers must be in good standing with their local Orthodox parishes and in residence in the region or geographic area where the Commandery is located.

4.3 Officers are elected every 3 years unless an officer is unable to complete his or her term. Replacement officers will fill the remaining term and may be elected at any regular meeting of the Commandery.

4.4 The general election for local Commandery officers are to take place on the first Friday of May except by permission of the Prior and/or the Grand Knight due to special circumstances.

4.5 Local Commanderies are to have a clergy representative, preferably a Priest, but if not, a Deacon who functions as Chaplain to the Commandery and swears in the Commandery Officers.

4.6 The oath of the Commandery Officers is:

“In the presence of the Holy Gospel of Christ, and before His Precious Cross I, (baptismal name), do solemnly promise and declare before Almighty God that I will respect and observe the Constitution, mission, Bylaws, regulations and customs of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr. That I will administer the affairs of my office conscientiously in my service to the Church of Christ and to His people. So help me God.”

4.7 Local Commanderies are expected to do their absolute best to assist all local canonical Orthodox missions, parishes, and monasteries in the region they operate **regardless of jurisdiction**. Assistance can be financial, material, or donated time.

Article Five – Regular Meetings

Each Commandery of the Order must meet regularly, once per-month, or as often as may be necessary to carry out Commandery business. The Commandery Officer will lead and moderate all regular meetings. Meetings are to be opened with the Lord’s Prayer and Nicene Creed and closed with the Hymn to the Most Holy Theotokos and Troparion to the Holy and Life-Giving Cross.

Article Six – Rules for Meetings

The local Commanderies will utilize the following rules of procedure to govern the conduct of their meetings:

- A. Call to order
- B. Opening prayers
- C. Roll call of members present
- D. Reading of minutes of the last meeting
- E. Commandery Officer's reports
- F. Treasurers report
- G. Committee reports
- H. Important business –business previously designated for consideration at this meeting
- I. Unfinished business
- J. New business
- K. Announcements
- L. Closing prayers
- M. Adjournment

The method used by Commandery members to express themselves is in the form of moving motions. A motion is a proposal on which the members take a stand. Individual members can:

- A. Make motions
- B. Second motions
- C. Debate motions
- D. Vote on motions

The four Basic Types of Motions

Main Motions: The purpose of a main motion is to introduce items to the membership for their consideration. They cannot be made when any other motion is on the floor, and yield to privileged, subsidiary, and incidental motions.

Subsidiary Motions: Their purpose is to change or affect how a main motion is handled and is voted on before a main motion.

Privileged Motions: Their purpose is to bring up items that are urgent about special or important matters unrelated to pending business.

Incidental Motions: Their purpose is to provide a means of questioning procedure concerning other motions and must be considered before the other motion.

Presentation of Motions

- Obtaining the floor
- Wait until the last speaker has finished
- Rise and address the Commandery Officer
- Wait until the Commandery Officer recognizes you

Make Your Motion

- Speak in a clear and concise manner.
- Always state a motion affirmatively. Say, "I move that we ..." rather than, "I move that we do not ..."
- Avoid personalities and stay on your subject.

Once a member makes a motion, they are to wait for someone to second the motion. If another member has not seconded your motion, the Commandery Officer will call for a second motion. If there is no second to your motion, it is lost. When the Commandery Officer states your motion, the following occurs:

- I. The Commandery Officer will say, "it has been moved and seconded that we ..." Thus, placing your motion before the membership for consideration and action.
- II. The membership then either debates your motion or may move directly to a vote.
- III. Once your motion is presented to the membership by the Commandery Officer it becomes "assembly property" and cannot be changed by you without the consent of all the members present.

Expanding on Your Motion

- I. The time for you to speak in favor of your motion is at this point in time, rather than at the time you present it.
- II. The mover is always allowed to speak first.
- III. All comments and debate must be directed to the Commandery Officer.
- IV. Keep to the time limit for speaking that has been established.
- V. The mover may speak again only after other speakers are finished, unless called upon by the Commandery Officer.

Putting the Question to the Membership

- I. The Commandery Officer asks, "Are you ready to vote on the question?"
- II. If there is no more discussion, a vote is taken.
- III. The membership can decide to vote by secret ballot if privacy is desired. Most importantly, be courteous. The conduct of all business is controlled by the general will of the whole membership - the right of the deliberate majority to decide.

Complementary is the right of at least a strong minority to require the majority to be deliberate - to act according to its considered judgment after a full and fair "working through" of the issues involved. These rules provide for constructive and democratic meetings, to help, not hinder, the business of the assembled councils. Under no circumstances should "undue strictness" be allowed to intimidate members or limit full participation. The fundamental right of deliberative assemblies requires all questions to be thoroughly discussed before taking action. If you are silent, it implies consent. The assembly has the final say on everything having to do with Commandery business, within the boundaries of the Order's Constitution.

Article Seven – Purpose and Activities of a local Commandery

- 7.1 The local Commanderies are expected to engage in a variety of activities appropriate to the operation of the Commandery and to focus on their local geographic areas. The purpose of the Commandery is primarily to support local Orthodox needs in the name of the Order and secondarily to support the Order itself.
- 7.2 A local Commandery of the Order is to allocate 20% of its annual administrative expenditure to its local Grand Priory. A Grand Priory in turn would remit 20% of its annual administrative expenditure to the Grand Magistracy of the Order; for an example:
 - If a local Commandery grossed \$100,000.00 in annual revenue, 80% (\$80,000.00) is to be retained for the works and purposes of the Order at the local immediate level, while the other 20% (\$20,000.00) is to cover administrative expenses. Of the \$20,000.00, 20% (\$4,000.00) is to be given up to its local Grand Priory towards its administrative expenses.
 - If a Grand Priory grossed \$2,000,000.00 in annual revenue, 80% (\$1,600,000.00) is to be retained for the works and purposes of the Order at the local National level, while the other 20% (\$400,000.00) is to cover administrative expenses. Of the (\$400,000), 20% (\$80,000.00) is to be given up to the Grand Magistracy of the Order towards its administrative expenses.
- 7.3 The kinds and types of fundraising events are to be determined by the local Commandery and must remain within the guidelines of proper decorum and appropriateness within the dignity of the Orthodox Church and the Order.
- 7.4 Beyond donations to the Order itself, the local Commandery is to look for opportunities to support local Orthodox churches, missions, charities, and causes. Likewise, the local Commandery must not spend more than 20% of its gross annual revenue to support itself (including rent, advertising, administration, etc.). All paid philanthropy must be directed towards Orthodox Christian causes, individuals, or organizations.
- 7.5 Examples of opportunities a local Commandery could support:

- Scholarships for local Orthodox High School Seniors wanting to attend an accredited college or university;
- Scholarships for local Orthodox Christians wanting to attend an accredited Orthodox Seminary;
- Helping to pay the medical bills for an Orthodox Christian who is sick or who has a life-threatening illness;
- Helping to cover the bills of an Orthodox Christian in financial difficulty or hardship;
- Helping to cover the groceries or medicine for an elderly Orthodox Christian or widow in the community;
- Helping to raise money for Mission Priests;
- Regular donations to support local Orthodox churches, missions, monasteries, and seminaries *regardless of jurisdiction*;
- Helping to pay for the travel expenses of a Priest who serves the local prison community;
- Helping to bring people to church services;
- Helping to bring aging bishops, priests, monastics, and Orthodox Christians to Doctor appointments; or
- Helping to cover the funeral expenses for an Orthodox family in need.

7.6 The local Commandery is to vote on its philanthropic causes and expenditures and record each donation it makes, to whom the payment was remitted, and its purpose. These records are to be maintained in the recorded minutes of the Commandery and may be randomly reviewed and audited by the Grand Priory or by the Grand Magistracy of the Order.

7.7 In addition to paid philanthropy, the Order encourages local Commanderies to engage in assisting in a broad variety of ongoing voluntary efforts to aid and support the greater non-Orthodox local communities they might exist in. Examples include making sandwiches or food for the homeless, clothing drives, working at the local soup kitchen, packing groceries at the local food bank, visiting with the elderly in a rest home, cleaning a right of way along a local road, cleaning local cemeteries of garbage, disaster response, and so on.

Article Eight – Prohibited Causes

No funds or any form of support should go to a local clinic, medical center or hospital which performs or advocates for the murder of the unborn. Roman Catholic, Protestant, and other non-Orthodox church events, causes, and fundraisers must also be avoided. Donations to political campaigns are inappropriate. ***It is important to remember that the Order only gives financial assistance to canonical Orthodox Christians and canonical Orthodox Organizations.***

Article Nine – Headship of a Grand Priory

Each Grand Priory is to be headed by a Prior directly appointed by the Grand Knight. The Prior serves as the personal representative of the Grand Knight within the Grand Priory and due to the honor of the office, is its most senior figure. All Grand Priors serve at the explicit pleasure of the Grand Knight.

Article Ten – Responsibilities of a Prior

Through his example, the Prior should motivate the practice of Christian virtues and fidelity towards the obligations characteristic of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr. In addition, the Prior must:

- Ensure that all matters and activities of the Grand Priory are properly performed in full accordance with the Constitution of the Order;
- Make known the Sovereign Decrees of the Grand Knight and ensure their observance;
- Submit an annual report of the administration, finances and membership of the Grand Priory to the Grand Knight and to the Sovereign Council;
- Visit personally or by delegate the local Commanderies and institutions dependent upon by the Grand Priory;
- Recommend to the Grand Knight for his consideration the promotion of members to higher ranks and honors within the Order;
- Lead in the investiture ceremony of all new members within the Grand Priory; and,
- Disciplinary action.

Article Eleven – The Governance of the Grand Priory

- 11.1 The Grand Prior is the paramount official within the Grand Priory and is assisted by a limited council of advisors and officials who together form the Chapter General of the Grand Priory.
- 11.2 The purpose of the Chapter General is to assist the Prior in their governance of the Grand Priory. It also works toward the development and prosperity of the Orthodox Church within the territory of its jurisdiction.
- 11.3 The following constitute the members of the Chapter General:
 - The Prior
 - The Prelate (Bishop or Archimandrite)
 - The Chancellor
 - The Protocol Officer
 - The Treasurer

- The Auditor General
 - The Secretary
 - And one member of each rank of the Order
- 11.4 The Prelate is the spiritual advisor to the Grand Prior and functions as the head Chaplain of the Grand Priory. The Prelate needs to be a member of the Order and is appointed by the Prior with the consultation and consent of the Grand Knight and the Supreme Spiritual Advisor of the Order.
- 11.5 The Chancellor is appointed by the Prior from amongst the Order's membership within the Grand Priory. Any candidate selected for appointment as Chancellor needs to be approved by the Grand Knight. The Chancellor assists the Prior in his governance over the Grand Priory and is his most senior aid and advisor. Under the authority of the Prior, the Chancellor presides over the internal administration of the Grand Priory. The Chancellor is responsible for overseeing all local Commanderies within the Grand Priory.
- 11.6 The Protocol Officer is responsible for ensuring that the protocol of the Order is enforced and followed by all members of the Grand Priory.
- 11.7 The Treasurer is appointed by the Prior and is responsible for the management of the financial resources of the Grand Priory and its moveable and real estate assets.
- 11.8 The Auditor General is appointed by the Prior and is responsible for overseeing and auditing the income, expenditures, and all financial and physical property assets of the Grand Priory. In addition, the Auditor General is to randomly audit the financial records, accounts and assets of a local Commandery, ensuring that financial contributions and donations are not being used in an unethical or inappropriate manner. All of this being done to ensure the integrity and transparency of the Order at all levels.
- 11.9 The Secretary is appointed by the Prior and is responsible for: keeping the minutes of the Chapter General; informs in a timely fashion the membership of the Grand Priory of any regular or extraordinary meetings; and, monitors all the administrative systems which enable the whole Grand Priory to function properly.

Article Twelve – Finances

All Grand Priories and local Commanderies are independently responsible for the procurement of monies for their own financial needs, notwithstanding Article 7, clause 7.2 of this document. Each Grand Priory and local Commandery are to develop a calendar of events and programs to assist the Grand Magistracy in raising funds for its annual philanthropic mission.

Article Thirteen – International Cooperation of the Grand Priories

In view of the responsibility of the Order as it relates to advocating for Orthodox Christians in need or under religious persecution, the international cooperation of the Grand Priories is of particular importance so that the works of the Order may be

advanced toward the betterment of all Orthodox Christians. All Grand Priories are obliged to work together toward this goal within their capacities.

Article Fourteen – Charitable Activities of the Grand Priories

- 14.1 It is the obligation of a Grand Priory to set up charitable works and social events in the territory in which they exist so that the members of the Order can personally fulfill the mission to which they have committed themselves.
- 14.2 Social events can include White Tie galas, Black Tie galas, cocktail parties, dinners, and picnics. It is suggested that a Grand Priory hold at least one White Tie gala and one Black Tie Gala annually.
- 14.3 Social events of the Order cannot be held during any regular fasting days (the Eve of Theophany, the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, the Elevation of the Holy Cross, or on Wednesdays and Fridays except for Fast-Free Weeks), or during periods of extended fasting (Great Lent, Holy Week, the Nativity Fast, the Apostles Fast, or the Dormition Fast).