GRAND COUNCIL
CRYPTIC MASONSON
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

OPENING OF A CONSTITUENT COUNCIL
IN AMPLE FORM
BY THE
GRAND MASTER ONLY

Property of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons
Of the State of New York

Revised June 2003
THE OPENING OF A CONSTITUENT COUNCIL

M.I.G.M.: COMPANION CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, ARE ALL PRESENT SELECT MASTERS?

Companion Captain of the Guard: Most Illustrious Grand Master all present are Select Masters.

M.I.G.M.: IS OUR NUMBER COMPLETE?

Companion Captain of the Guard: I find our number three times three.

M.I.G.M.: *** SEE THAT THE COMPANIONS ARE IN ORDER AS SELECT MASTERS.

Companion Captain of the Guard: Companions, be in order as Select Masters. Most Illustrious Grand Master the Companions are in order.

M.I.G.M.: * COMPANION CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, YOU WILL SEE THAT THE SECRET VAULT IS SECURELY GUARDED.

Companion Captain of the Guard: Companion Steward, see that the Secret Vault is securely guarded and inform the Sentinel that the Most Illustrious Grand Master is about to open __________ Council No. ____ of Select Masters. Direct him to take due notice thereof and guard accordingly.
Companion Steward:
(Opens door without alarm) Companion Sentinel, The Most Illustrious Grand Master is about to open ______________ Council No. ______ of Select Masters. Take due notice thereof and guard accordingly. (Closes door and raps *** *** *** and the Sentinel answers *** *** ***)

Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel is at his post and the Secret Vault is secure.

Companion Captain of the Guard:
Most Illustrious Grand Master the Secret Vault is secure.


(The Chaplain Recites the Following Prayer:)

PRAYER

Companion Chaplain:

Companions Respond: So Mote It Be.

Companion Conductor of the Council:
(Without response, Conductor of the Council proceeds to the Altar, opens the Bible to the 31st Chapter of Deuteronomy, places the Square, Compasses and Trowel on the page beginning the chapter. The Trowel should be in the center of the Square and Compasses. He then resumes his station.)


Companion Marshal:
(Without response, he proceeds for the Flag in the West, hand salutes, and then marches West of the Altar with the Flag and remains there for the Pledge of Allegiance and one verse of our National Anthem.)

M.I.G.M.: COMPANIONS, YOU WILL JOIN ME IN PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY, FOLLOWED BY SINGING ONE VERSE OF OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM. (Singing Optional)

Companion Marshal:
(At the conclusion of the National Anthem, if sung, the Marshal proceeds to post the Flag at its proper station in the East, hand salutes, and then resumes his Station.)
Grand Council  
Cryptic Masons  
Of The State Of New York

M.I.G.M.: I NOW DECLARE ______COUNCIL No. ______  
OF SELECT MASTERS OPEN IN AMPLE FORM.

M.I.G.M.: COMPANION CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, SEE  
THAT THE SENTINEL IS INFORMED.

Companion Captain of the Guard:  
Companion Steward inform the Sentinel.

Companion Steward:  
(Without response he goes to the entrance  
of the Secret Vault knocks *** *** *** which  
is answered by the Sentinel *** *** ***; The  
Steward opens the door and says:)

Companion Sentinel the Council is open in  
Ample Form. (The Steward closes the door,  
and he resumes his station and reports.)

Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel  
is informed.

Companion Captain of the Guard:  
Most Illustrious Grand Master your order has  
been obeyed.

M.I.G.M.: *(Seats the Companions and continues with  
the Business of the Evening.)*
THE CLOSING OF A CONSTITUTENT COUNCIL

M.I.G.M.: ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER IF IT IS YOUR WISH, I WILL CLOSE THE COUNCIL FOR YOU THIS EVENING, HOWEVER, THE MINUTES OF THIS ASSEMBLY MUST BE READ AND APPROVED AT YOUR NEXT STATED ASSEMBLY.

M.I.G.M.: ***COMPANIONS GIVE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE CHAPLAIN. COMPANION CHAPLAIN YOU WILL LEAD US IN OUR DEVOTIONS.

(Chaplain Recites the Following Prayer.)

PRAYER

Companion Chaplain:

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, WE THANK THEE FOR THIS HOUR OF FRATERNAL COMPANIONSHIP AND AS WE ARE ABOUT TO DEPART FROM THIS SECRET RETREAT, WE PRAY THY BENEDICTION UPON THE PROCEEDINGS OF OUR ASSEMBLIES. AS WE FACE THE VICISSITUDES OF LIFE WITH OUR FELLOWMAN, MAY THEY SEE IN OUR EVERY MOTIVE THE BEAUTY OF THEE, WHICH SO INSPIRED THE FOUNDERS OF OUR GREAT FRATERNITY, CONTINUE TO INCITE OUR HEARTS TO DUTY AND GIVE US AN EARNST DESIRE FOR DIVINE WISDOM. ENABLE US BY THY GRACE TO EXERCISE CHARITY, CHERISH HOPE AND TO WALK WITH THEE BY FAITH. AND MAY THAT MORAL PRINCIPAL WHICH IS THE MYSTIC CEMENT OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS EVER REMAIN WITH US AND PROSPER OUR COUNCILS. IN THY GREAT AND SACRED NAME WE PRAY. AMEN.

Companions Respond: So Mote It Be.

Companion Conductor of the Council:
(Without response he proceeds to the Altar and closes the Great Light and resumes his station.)


M.I.G.M.: COMPANION CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD INFORM THE SENTINEL.

Companion Captain of the Guard:
Companion Steward inform the Sentinel.

Companion Steward:
(Without response he proceeds to the entrance of the Secret Vault and opens the door without knocks and says:)

Companion Sentinel, the Council is closed. (The Steward leaves the door open and he resumes his station and reports.)

Companion Steward:
Companion Captain of the Guard, the Sentinel is informed.

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Companion Captain of the Guard:
Most Illustrious Grand Master your order has been obeyed.

M.I.G.M.: COMPANIONS GOOD NIGHT AND GOD SPEED.

* (Dismisses the Companions.)

(NOTE: * Symbol Denotes raps of the Gavel or Knocks at the door.)