

**BY-LAWS  
of  
PHILOSOPHIC LODGE  
of RESEARCH  
A.F. & A.M.**



**BY-LAWS REVISED  
September 24, 2021**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Lodge Name and Purpose**

**Section 1.** This lodge shall be known as Philosophic Lodge of Research.

**Section 2.** This lodge operates under a charter granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of Connecticut dated February 5, 1942.

**Section 3.** The purposes of this lodge shall be to encourage and conduct Masonic research and study by its members, hold discussions, gather and preserve Masonic information, maintain a library, supply papers or speakers at the request of other Lodges when convenient, and conduct a program of general service to the Craft in the field of Masonic education and information, subject to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut and Masonic law and procedure as established by such Grand Lodge, with exceptions as noted in section 3700 of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut.

**Section 4.** Philosophic Lodge of Research shall have no power to confer degrees.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Membership**

#### **Section 1. General**

- a) Membership shall be limited to Master Masons in good standing in a lodge in this jurisdiction or any other jurisdiction recognized by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut, and shall cease if a member loses such status. Membership may also be voluntarily severed at any time by demit; suspension for non-payment of dues in a Lodge of Research shall not affect the membership of such suspended member in any other lodge.
- b) The membership of this lodge shall be composed of Research Members, Research Members Emeriti, and Associate Members.

**Section 2.** Research Members shall be the voting members and elected officers of the lodge and shall pay such fees, dues, and/or assessments as may be voted by the lodge.

#### **Section 3. Research Members Emeriti**

- a) Any Research Member may be elected to the status of Research Member Emeritus upon recommendation of the membership committee and affirmative vote of the lodge. To be recommended, a Research Member must have presented three or more research papers.
- b) Research Members Emeriti shall be exempt from all fees, dues, and/or assessments, but shall be voting members of the lodge.

#### **Section 4. Associate Membership**

- a) Any member of the lodge may propose any member of a recognized lodge in good standing for Associate Membership. This proposed Associate Member shall be referred to the membership committee for interview, in accordance with Grand Lodge Rules & Regulations Section 4300 – Affiliation .

- b) Following a report of the membership committee, a secret ballot shall be taken on a proposed Associate Member at any stated communication subsequent to the communication at which the proposed member's name was presented.
- c) An Associate Member shall be liable for any fees, dues, and/or assessments as may be voted by the lodge. He shall have the privilege of attending program meetings, hearing the reading of papers, participating in the discussion of said papers, and, with the approval of the program committee, offering papers and presentations of his own composition at meetings.
- d) An Associate Member, having presented one or more original papers or approved audio-visual presentations before the lodge, may be elected to Research membership on recommendation of the program committee, favorable report of the membership committee, and affirmative vote of the lodge.
- e) An Associate Member may, based on special circumstances, be elected to Research membership on recommendation of the Executive Committee and affirmative vote of the lodge.

#### **Section 5. Corresponding Circle**

- a) Any Master Mason in good standing in a Grand Lodge recognized by this Grand Jurisdiction, may, upon written request, and in consideration of a fee as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by a vote of the lodge, become a subscriber of the Corresponding Circle of Philosophic Lodge of Research.
- b) Such subscription does not entitle said Master Mason to any of the rights and privileges pertaining to membership in Philosophic Lodge of Research except that of receiving the lodge Trestleboard and those research papers and articles that are in compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of Connecticut.

### **ARTICLE III Communications**

**Section 1.** The stated communications of the Philosophic Lodge of Research shall be held on the fourth Friday of February, April, September, October, and December at 7:30 P.M., unless otherwise specified by due notice to brethren 14 days in advance pursuant to a vote of the lodge. By vote of the lodge, stated communications may be omitted upon legal and religious holidays, and upon the week of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

**Section 2.** All stated communications shall be held in Hartford, Middlesex, or New Haven Counties and members shall receive written notice of the place where stated and special communications are to be held.

**Section 3.** Special communications may be held at any time pursuant to the call of the Worshipful Master.

**Section 4.** The annual meeting of the lodge shall be held at a stated communication in the month of December.

### **ARTICLE IV Officers and Elections**

**Section 1.** The officers of this lodge shall be Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Chaplain, Marshal, Organist, Tiler, Historian, Librarian, and Almoner.

**Section 2.** The Worshipful Master, Wardens, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting of the lodge. All other officers shall be appointed by the Master-elect with the exception of the Junior Deacon, who shall be appointed by the Senior Warden-elect.

**Section 3.** The officers of the lodge shall be installed no later than the first stated communications of the new year.

**Section 4.** The duties of the several officers shall be those prescribed by the Ancient Constitutions, Charges and Usages of the Order, and by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

**Section 5.** In accordance with Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations, when the Master-elect or Warden-elect or a Senior Deacon appointed is not a Past Master of a Connecticut lodge, before he can be installed he must produce a certificate from the District Deputy of the district in which the Research Lodge is situated certifying to his proficiency in the opening and closing ceremonies.

**Section 6.** In the event that any elected office cannot or will not serve the term for which he has been elected, the Worshipful Master may fill the station by appointment. An associate member may be appointed to fill the vacancy, ad hoc.

**Section 7.** No officer of this lodge, elective or appointive, shall be entitled to or paid any compensation or remuneration for services rendered, however, any such officer shall not be precluded from receiving a gratuity from the lodge, provided such gratuity is authorized by a majority vote at the annual or any regular stated communication.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Committees**

**Section 1.** The officers of the lodge and the committee chairmen shall constitute the Executive Committee. The duty of this committee shall be to concern itself with the general welfare of the lodge, making such recommendations to the Worshipful Master or the lodge as it shall deem advisable. It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to cause this committee to meet at least twice annually.

**Section 2.** The Worshipful Master, shall appoint a program committee, which shall consist of the Junior Warden who shall serve as chairman, and two other members of the lodge. This committee shall arrange for the presentation of papers for each stated communication, stimulate members to produce papers, and review papers submitted by prospective members.

**Section 3.** The Worshipful Master shall appoint a committee of three upon the application of every candidate, whose duty it shall be to interview the prospective member, and report thereon at the next stated communication.

**Section 4.** The Worshipful Master shall appoint a committee on finance consisting of three, whose duty it shall be to examine the books and accounts of the lodge in the custody of the Treasurer, Secretary, and committees. The Treasurer, Secretary, and committee chairmen shall promptly deliver to the committee on finance all financial records in their custody for the purpose of an annual audit covering all financial transactions of the lodge for the immediately ended fiscal year. The committee shall provide a written report to the lodge at the next annual meeting, and as often as may be required by the lodge.

**Section 5.** Special committees may be appointed by the Worshipful Master upon any matter, and consist of as many members as the lodge may direct, or as the Worshipful Master may determine in the absence of such direction by the lodge.

**Section 6.** The Worshipful Master shall serve as the *ex officio* chairman of all committees.

**Section 7.** The reports of the finance and interviewing committees shall be in writing. Other committee reports may be written or verbal as directed by the Worshipful Master or requested by the lodge.

## **ARTICLE VI Fees**

**Section 1.** The fee for affiliation shall be the amount set by the Executive Committee, with approval of the lodge, payable in advance.

## **ARTICLE VII Dues**

**Section 1.** Each Research Member and Associate Member shall pay annual dues, payable on January 1 of each calendar year. Research Member's dues that have 50 years or more of service are payable strictly at their own discretion. The amount will be established annually by the Executive Committee, with the approval of the lodge, not later than the October stated communication. Expenditures approved by the lodge may also be met by assessments levied against the members. The Worshipful Master, after consultation with the Executive Committee, may, for cause, abate all or part of the dues and/or assessments owed by any member.

**Section 2.** At the September stated communication of each year, the Worshipful Master shall cause to be read a list of all members who have not paid their dues and assessments for the current year, and if any such dues shall remain unpaid after the October stated communication, the Secretary shall then issue a notice to the delinquent members according to Grand Lodge Regulations, and cause the same to be served by November 1st, unless the lodge by vote shall have remitted the dues or granted further time for payment. Unless lodge dues and/or assessments shall be paid in full to the Secretary on or before December 31 of that year, the name of each member then delinquent shall be struck from the roll for non-payment of dues and/or assessments and so recorded in the records of the lodge.

**Section 3.** Nothing in Section 2 of this article shall prevent the lodge by a majority vote from remitting the lodge dues and/or assessments of any member.

**Section 4.** A member stricken from the rolls may regain membership upon his written application and payment of the amount in arrears, together with the dues and assessments for the current year, by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a stated communication, notice of intention to take such a vote having been given at a previous stated communication.

**Section 5.** The payment of all indebtedness to the lodge shall be a condition preceding the granting of a dimit.

**Section 6.** Philosophic Lodge of Research shall be exempt from any contributions that may be levied against lodges by the Grand Lodge, and its members shall be exempt from Grand Lodge dues and assessments.

## **ARTICLE VIII Miscellaneous**

**Section 1.** Philosophic Lodge of Research shall not be liable for the relief of a member, his wife, widow, or orphan.

**Section 2.** Philosophic Lodge of Research shall not publish, distribute or circulate to persons other than its own members, or the members of another Lodge of Research in this Grand Jurisdiction, any addresses or research papers, research materials, or other articles, except on approval of the Grand Master or a committee appointed by him by including in any such address or printing on any such paper, article, etc., the following statement: "THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PAPER ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR AND DO NOT EXPRESS OR IMPLY THE OFFICIAL OPINIONS OR POSITIONS OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT. Permission to republish this paper in part or in whole, beyond those granted in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107 of the US Copyright Law, is expressly denied unless consented to by the author or approved of by the Worshipful Master of Philosophic Lodge of Research and provided that this disclaimer should appear on or near the title page in printed works, and on an early screen in electronic works. General disclaimers printed in any publication are not acceptable as a substitute for this requirement."

**Section 3.** Any member presenting a Philosophic Lodge of Research paper shall report this to the Junior Warden in writing on or before the next stated communication. E-mail will suffice to effect such notification.

**Section 4.** The fiscal year of the lodge shall be December 1 through November 30.

**Section 5.** All accounts and other assets owned by the lodge or held for the benefit of a committee shall be titled in the name of the Philosophic Lodge of Research. Except as provided for in Grand Lodge Rules and Regulation, no funds, accounts, or assets of the lodge may be transferred to a member of the lodge.

**Section 6.** The lodge may communicate its notices, minutes, and other correspondence to all members of the lodge by electronic means. If a brother cannot receive communications in this manner, a written copy will be mailed upon request of the brother.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Amendments**

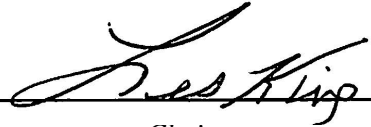
**Section 1.** These by-laws may be amended or repealed at any stated communication of the lodge by a two-thirds vote of the Research Members present, notice of such proposed amendment or repeal having been given and entered upon the minutes of a preceding stated communication, and due notice thereof having been given in writing to each member of the lodge at least two weeks in advance.

**Section 2.** Such amended by-laws shall not take effect until approved by Grand Lodge as per Section 3003 of the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations.

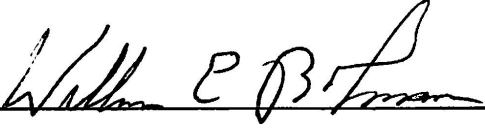
Approved by the Philosophic Lodge of Research (date) September 24, 2021

Attest , (date) September 24, 2021  
*Worshipful Master*

**Certified by Grand Lodge Committee on Legal Matters**

By , (date) 9-25-21  
*Chairman*

**Approved by Grand Lodge,**

By , (date) 9/25/21  
*Grand Master (or his designee)*