

**District Grand Lodge of Ghana**  
Scottish Constitution

**SCOTTISH PRACTICE**  
IN THE MASONIC DISTRICT OF GHANA

Effective 8<sup>th</sup> April 1989

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**1. DRESS**

Dress for Regular Meetings should be dinner or mess jacket (black or white) or dark suit (black or dark blue) with white gloves. The shirt should be plain white and the tie black. With a dinner or mess jacket, a black bow tie must be worn. A prescribed Lodge tie, approved by the District Grand Master, may also be worn. Lodges are free to prescribe morning coat with black flying tie, or tails with white bow tie, for certain Office-bearers for any particular occasion.

The dress for a Funeral Lodge (otherwise called a Lodge of Sorrow) or Divine Service should be dark suit (black or dark blue). The shirt should be plain white and the tie black. A Lodge tie may also be worn.

The nature of the Craft is such that sobriety in dress is an essential requirement.

**2. REGALIA**

Except when circumstances demand otherwise, a Scottish Mason attending a Scottish Lodge should wear Scottish regalia.

Aprons should be worn under the jacket except where the jacket is doubled-breasted. The sash should be worn over the right shoulder and under the left arm, a collar or chain being worn over it.

Two collars may not be worn at the same time. A Brother about to be invested should first remove the collar he is wearing.

### **3. VISTING LODGES**

A Brother's admission into another Lodge is the sole prerogative of the Master of that Lodge, except in a case of an official visitation from Grand Lodge or District Grand Lodge. A visitor should not be offended if he is requested to submit to a test before admission. A Brother who is not in good standing in his own Lodge may attend its duties but should not visit another Lodge.

Visiting Brethren should sit on the floor of the Lodge until they are invited to the East. The Director of Ceremonies should arrive at a meeting in time so that he can direct visitors to their seats.

### **4. PROCESSIONS**

When the Master's procession enters the Lodge room and the Master takes his place, the Director of Ceremonies should simply ask the Office-bearers in the procession to take their places.

When the Lodge is closed the Director of Ceremonies should ask the Office-bearers to form up in procession.

The Sword-bearer should take his place immediately before the Master as he is meant to be his body-guard. Where there is no office of Sword-bearer the Inner Guard may take his place, carrying his instrument sheathed. In Grand Lodge the Sword-bearer immediately precedes the Grand Master Mason.

### **5. SEATING IN THE EAST**

Whenever the Master vacates his Chair temporarily, it should be left vacant. It is in order for a Master who is not working the Degree at a meeting to surrender his gavel to the Brother who is going to work it, in which case the Master vacates his Chair and resumes it after the Degree has been worked.

The Immediate Past Master should always sit on the right side of the Master.

Only Installed Mark Masters may sit in the East when a Mark Lodge is opened.

### **6. BRETHREN ARRIVING LATE**

If a Brother arrives late, the Tyler gives the appropriate knocks on the door. If it is then not convenient for him to be admitted, the Inner Guard should not scratch the door with his sword. The Brother in waiting should be patient until he is admitted. A practical solution is to have an electric lamp holder outside, above the door, with a red bulb, which the Inner Guard may switch on to indicate that it is inconvenient to have the Brother admitted at that time.

## **7. RECEPTION OF DISTRICT GRAND MASTER OR REPRESENTATIVE**

At any meeting of a Daughter Lodge the District Grand Master or his representative is entitled to instruct the arrangement for his reception.

An ornate Chair should be placed in the first row, on the right of the Master, for him. This will enable the District Grand Master to sit with his visiting colleagues and his own Senior Office-bearers, instead of being isolated from them. It will also let him not displace the Immediate Past Master.

## **8. VISITATIONS**

An official deputation from Grand Lodge or District Grand Lodge should be received in the Third Degree, unless the head of deputation wishes to be received in a lower Degree. If the deputation is so received, an entry to that effect should be made in the minutes.

## **9. V.S.L.**

When the Lodge is opened in the First Degree, the V.S.L. should be opened at Psalm 133; in the Second Degree, at Amos 7; in the Third Degree, at Ecclesiastes 12; in the Mark Degree, at II Chronicles 2; for the Consecration of a Lodge, at Psalm 33; and for the consecration of a Temple, at 1 Kings 8,12.

Lodges are advised to procure markers for the V.S.L. some other Brother but the closing words should be said by the Master.

## **10. ALTER AND PEDESTAL LAMPS**

The Lamp-holders at the Alter should be placed as follows: -

The Alter Lamps, the Master's Pedestal Lamp, the Senior Warden's Pedestal Lamp and the Junior Warden's Pedestal Lamp.

They should be extinguished, on the closing of the Lodge, in the following order: -

The Alter Lamps, the Junior Warden's Pedestal Lamps, the Senior Warden's Pedestal Lamp and the Master's Pedestal Lamp.

The Alter Lamps are lit before or as soon as the V.S.L. is opened in the First Degree. The intermediate extinguishing and re-lighting of the Wardens' lamps occur immediately after the Tyler's knocks.

## **11. TRACING BOARDS**

It is convenient to place all the Tracing Boards in front of the Master's pedestal as, from that position, they are more easily opened and closed and are visible to all Brethren entering the Lodge. The Bible-bearer or Director of Ceremonies should attend to the V.S.L. while the Assistant Director of Ceremonies or other Brother attends to the Tracing Boards. The Junior Deacon should not attend to the Tracing Boards.

In explaining the Tracing Board, it is convenient if the Board is placed on an easel.

## **12. CROSSING OF WANDS**

In some Lodges, wands are often crossed for the Master; for example, when he goes to the Alter to vote. It is up to individual Lodges to decide how often the wands should be crossed for the Master, but Lodges should be happy with doing this only when the Master enters and leaves the Lodges room.

When crossing wands, the Deacons should turn and face each other and hold their wands in the left hand, securing them under the left arm. This enables them to observe the S. of F.

## **13. OUTER GUARD OR TYLER**

There must be an Outer Guard or Tyler at every meeting.

**14. INNER GUARD**

The Inner Guard, when making reports, need only stand in front of the door.

**15. ADMISSION OF BRETHREN INTO THE LODGE ROOM**

When a number of Brethren are being admitted or re-admitted, the inner Guard should mention the name (or office) of at least one of them – (Brother Mensah, or the Director of Ceremonies, and others).

**16. MUSIC AND MOVEMENT**

If, for example, the Master is going to the West to present the Candidate after a Degree Working, he should walk normally and not be marched. The same applies to the Senior Warden going to collect the apron from the Master, and to a Brother going to collect the Master-Elect in order to present him for Installation.

For the perambulations, a march is required. This is also required when the Installing Director of Ceremonies conducts Brethren to give addresses at an Installation Meeting. The music need not be too slow.

**17. ODES**

Scottish ceremonies are fairly long, and while the singing of Odes adds to their beauty, it need not be overdone.

**18. SIGNS OF THE VARIOUS DEGREES**

The signs of the various Degrees will be demonstrated to Brethren at various meetings rather than described in writing. Brethren should observe the S. of F. when speaking to the Master, saluting him before and afterwards.

**19. RETURNING SALUTES**

A Master may return a salute or acknowledge it with a court bow.

**20. GREETINGS**

When a visiting Brother wishes to convey to the Master the greeting of his Lodge he should rise, salute, stand at the S. of F., convey the greetings, salute again, and resume his seat. If there are present other Brethren of the same Lodge he should, immediately after saluting, ask them to rise. They should do so and stand at the S. of F., saluting when the Brother conveying the greetings salutes the second time. Greetings only should be conveyed. Comments on the ceremony should be avoided. Invitations to meetings should be channeled through the Secretary of the Lodge before the meeting commences.

## **21. ADVANCING AND REDUCING THE LODGE**

The Lodge may be advanced or reduced by the short method prescribed in the Standard Ritual or the Modern Ritual or by the following shorter method:-

R.W.M: Brethren, be upstanding and assist me to open (or resume) the Lodge in the Second Degree.

Brother Inner Guard (or W. Installing Inner Guard) (you will) prove the Lodge (properly) tyled. (After the reply)

Brethren, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested, I declared the Lodge duly closed in the First Degree (gives First Degree knocks, which are repeated) and opened (or passed) (or resumed) in the Second Degree (gives Second Degree knocks).

(V.S.L. and Tracing Boards are adjusted, then the sign is given).

A similar method should be used for raising the Lodge and for reducing it.

An Installing Master has power to reduce the Lodge from the Third to the First Degree or for advancing it from the First to the Third Degree using the formula given above.

## **22. MINUTES**

Acceptance of the minutes may be described as confirmation or approval.

## **23. RESOLUTIONS**

When upon motion made and seconded, the minutes or a report is approved, there really is no necessity for the Senior Deacon to rise and say: ‘Carried’ or ‘Unanimous’. The Master should be left to announce the result.

#### **24. PROMPTING**

When the Master is in the Chair, prompting him should be left to the Immediate Past Master. When he is on the floor of the Lodge, it should be left to the Director of Ceremonies who should also prompt all other Brethren.

#### **25. BALLOTING, AFFILIATION AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

If the ballot proves clear, the announcement should be “Clear in the South (for West or East)”. If it is not clear, the announcement should be “Not clear, etc”. phrases like “All Clear” and “Dark Clouds” are unnecessary. The ballot is either clear or not clear.

#### **26. INITIATION CEREMONY**

When the Candidate has been obligated it is better to place him in the North West, facing South, from which point he can see the pedestals of the three Rulers of the Lodge without twisting his neck.

The portions of the Ritual beginning with “Let me also point out” and “By your meek and candid behaviour” do not form part of the secrets. If the secrets are assigned to another Brother, the Master may say those portions. The secrets commence with the words “You have taken the great and solemn obligation”.

The Senior Warden should not slap one corner of the apron when he says the words “to disgrace that badge”, nor should the Brethren slap their thighs.

It is important that the First Degree Tracing Board should be explained in every Lodge at least once a year. It is not usually explained at the Initiation Ceremony.

#### **27. ADDRESSING CANDIDATES**

As often as possible, a Candidate should be addressed by his name. When there are two or more Candidates, the plural form of addressing them should be employed, whenever applicable, for example: -

“Poor Candidates in a state of darkness”

## **28. WARDENS’ DIALOGUE WITH CANDIDATES**

For this, the Wardens should descend from their pedestal to the floor of the Lodge. This is convenient especially when there are two or more Candidates.

## **29. RAISING CEREMONY**

When advancing to the Alter, the last four steps should be bold or marching steps.

It is neat if the Brethren chosen to form the circle are told beforehand and take their places noiselessly, preferably during the singing of the solo. It is nice if the signs given during the perambulations, all clockwise, are synchronized.

The Traditional history should be delivered in the West, with the Candidate facing the East.

The five points of fellowship are essentially given and received and must therefore not be given simultaneously.

There is no objection to the word of a Master Mason being spoken aloud both by the Junior Warden and Senior Warden, as that word may be said aloud in open Lodge.

## **30. UNDRRESS (OR WORKING) MASTER MASON’S APRON**

Every Lodge should have undress (or working) Master Mason’s aprons for the Investiture of Candidates for the Third Degree. It is preferable that when Candidates restore themselves to their personal comfort they should return to the Lodge room clothed in the undress aprons with which they were Invested. They may wear their own Master Mason’s aprons at subsequent meetings.

## **31. INSTALLATION MEETING**

If the District Grand Master is to be the Installing Master he should, out of deference to his high office, be addressed throughout the ceremony as “Right Worshipful District Grand Master”.

If the outgoing Master’s Report contains an obituary, he should not ask for a minute’s silence. If the death is “fresh” the silence should be observed right at the commencement of the meeting, before the deputation from District Grand Lodge is received.

Lodges which chant as the Master-Elect advances to the Alter must chant properly, which a rehearsal will enable them to do.

When the Lodge does not sing the Patriarchal Blessing or a paraphrase of it, the Installing Master may say the words of that blessing while the Master-Elect advances is saluting the V.S.L.

If the District Office-bearer obligating and investing the Office-bearers of the Lodge is himself Master for the ensuing year (other than the Immediate Past Master), he should himself be obligated and invested by another District Grand Office-bearer, in which case he may recite the obligation. Saying the words of the obligation for others to repeat them in no way constitutes taking that obligation.

The Installation Meeting precedes the Festival of the Lodge (which is observed at Harmony), and it is better if, in the Installation Brochure, the Installation is stated before the Festival on the cover or title page. As they are two separate events, some Lodges, quite properly, have two different brochures printed, in which case the question of precedence does not arise.

## **32. COMMUNICATION OF SECRETS**

In communicating the secrets of a Degree, the Brother doing so says “It is in this position that the secrets of this Degree are communicated”. It is therefore important that he himself should take the necessary step.

## **33. GRAND OR ROYAL SIGN**

When a Brother visits an English Lodge and it is opened in the Third Degree, he may give the Grand or Royal Sign in the Scottish manner, but only once, as English Masons do.

**34. KNOCKS ON CLOSING THE LODGE**

On closing the Lodge in each Degree, including the Mark, the Master, Wardens, Inner Guard and Tyler should give the knocks of the Degree in which the Lodge is being closed.

**35. BEFORE CLOSING THE LODGE**

A formula for this is given in the 1966 Grand Lodge Year Book and it is recommended that Lodges should follow it. It is as follows: -

R.W.M.: Worshipful Junior Warden, have you any further business in the South?

W.J.W.: No further business in the South, RWM. (If he has, such as an announcement regarding the banquet, he should state that first).

R.W.M.: Worshipful Senior Warden, have you any further business in the West?

W.S.W.: No further business in the West, RWM.

R.W.M.: Any further business on the floor of the Lodge (waits and may receive Reports, Greetings; etc.)

R.W.M.: There being no further business, be upstanding, Brethren, and assist me to close the Lodge.

When the Senior Warden say "On the Level" all Brethren should come to the floor of the Lodge before the Master asks the next question.

**36. NATIONAL ANTHEM**

For the singing of the National Anthem, the S. of F. should be dropped and Brethren should stand to attention.

**37. HARMONY BOARD (OR HARMONY)**

For the Loyal and Other Toasts, Brethren should take a sip and not merely repeat the words of the toast.

The Toasts of Grand Lodge, District Grand Lodge and Property of the Lodge are corporate toasts and should be honoured by all Brethren present at Harmony, while the Toast of Office-bearers is not.

If the Harmony is informal and the Loyal Toast is not going to be proposed, smoking is permissible at any time.

The S. of F. should not be observed for prayer at Harmony.

### **38. COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY**

In addition to the Candidate, the Committee of Enquiry should also interview the proposer and seconder.

### **39. INSTRUCTION CLASSES**

Under the Scottish Constitution, Brethren learn the working of the Degrees at an Instruction Class and not at a Lodge of Instruction.

### **40. FUNERAL OBSERVANCES**

In the Bedside Ceremony, the Master should stand at the head of the bed, with his Wardens on either side of the foot of the bed.

All the three perambulations should be carried out clockwise.

In the Graveside Ceremony, the Master and his Wardens again stand in the same positions as in the Bedside Ceremony.

Public Grand Honours, which are sometimes given in the Graveside Ceremony, are not recognized under Scottish practice and should not be given.

## **OBSERVATIONS ON SOME ASPECTS OF OUR RITUALS AND CEREMONIALS**

MW GM, MW PGMS, DGM, Past and Present AGMs, my ProvGM, colleague RWs, Brethren All. Good evening. In our Akan dialect, we have this adage which says, “sɛ wopɛ asɛm bi aka kyere Nyame a, ɛna woka kyere mframa”. Literally translated, “if you want to tell God something, you tell or say it to the wind”. My presentation this evening is primarily meant for GL. Olympus Lodge is blessed with the epitome and the hierarchy of our GL. Hopefully, raising these observations here and subsequent discussion will get to the GM who is unavoidably absent this evening.

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025, my Mother Lodge, Lodge of Research had a mock initiation in this very Temple. When the WM closed the lodge and had asked Bro. SW “how should Freemasons meet,” I proceeded to descend to the floor of the Lodge after Bro. SW’s response when the WM stopped me. Though a BrotherSon, (a biological son and Masonic brother) I had to obey. I asked for the reason. He replied that a more senior Brother had attended one of our previous meetings and insisted that brethren in the East, JW and SW should descend to the floor of the Lodge only when the WM says, “so let us meet, act and part”. I saw some sense in that too but then since I joined Freemasonry almost twenty-five years ago, I only know about the first scenario. I have in my hand here this pamphlet titled “District Grand Lodge of Ghana, Scottish Constitution. Scottish Practice in the Masonic District of Ghana, effective 8<sup>th</sup> April 1989. Published under the Authority of the District Grand Lodge”. On page 12 of this pamphlet, it is stated clearly that “when the SW says, “on the Level” all Brethren should come to the floor of the Lodge before the Master asks the next question.” We need some uniformity here, especially brethren using the Standard Scottish Rituals. I have made a soft copy out of this pamphlet. I will send it to the GM to see if he would deem it fit to be amended and revised to be used as a Monitor for our GL
2. I have observed with dismay, and sometimes I correct the brethren, that the Regular Steps especially in Lodges working the Standard Scottish Rituals in all the three degrees are gradually being eliminated. If they are no longer necessary, then we need to delete them from the rituals all together.
3. At the point during our installation when prayer is being said for the ME using the GL Ceremonial, installed Masters are made to use the posture of the Scottish method instead of that prescribed by our GL Ceremonial. Very confusing at times.
4. I believe Penalties are, in whatever forms, exacted once. However, it is becoming a norm in our Installations to salute the newly installed WM with both the prescribed GL penal sign and that of the Scottish as well. I first observed this when the late GM was an Installing Master. Let us please stick to the requisite penal sign when using whatever Installation Ceremonial. Let us avoid mixing the various ceremonials. It creates a lot of confusion. We need GL’s direction on this.

5. This I find it beautiful. Very beautiful. I observed it at the installation of Integrity Lodge No.109 on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2025. The Installing Master was our own RW Bro. Raymond Stephen Dapaah-Addo. I don't know whether it was aforesought or he did it on the spur of the moment. At the point where he, as the IM, his duties thus completed and was handing over the emblem of authority, the gavel, to the newly Installed Master, he invited two of the most senior officers present to assist him. I immediately put spiritual connotation to it. The Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit giving a charge to a mere mortal, i.e. newly Installed WM. This is also outside any of our ceremonials. This finally brings me to the main thrust of this presentation.

Is it time to craft our own rituals for the three degrees, revise and refresh our Installation Ceremonial and the ritual for Lodge of Sorrow? Our Junior Brothers, Grand Lodge of Nigeria, have for once stolen a clean start. They have come up with their own rituals and installation ceremonials. Unfortunately, I have not had the opportunity to go through them. I strongly suggest that we give a serious thought to these. Ghana is blessed with a diverse rich culture. We are also fortunate to have some imminent chiefs in our GL and the English Constitution as well. Can we engage them in some aspects of our royalty which can be infused into our rituals or installation ceremonials without compromising the “ancient customs and landmarks of the craft”? I am pretty sure our Grand Patron, HRM Otumfuor Osei Tutu II and the other chiefs amongst us will be more than happy to assist in this regard. Can the newly obligated WM be placed in the chair of KS in the manner similar to that of a chief being placed on the stool at his installation? Can the ritual of Lodge of Sorrow be crafted to reflect the way we mourn here in Ghana? Shall we have a strip of kente lining at the edges of our aprons, especially those of the GL and ProvGL Officers?

We have a few of our eminent and astute Masons at the twilight of their lives. Can we engage them so they can impart their masonic knowledge and experiences to assist in crafting our rituals before the unfortunate happens? We have MW Bro. Stanley-Pierre PGM, MW Bro. Nana Auguste Mould, RW Bro. C. C. Adomakoh, RW Bro. Isaac Amoh, RW Bro. James Erskine Graham, RW Bro. Abraham Gyesei etc. We have already lost RW Bro. K. E. O. Lindsay, a colossus in Freemasonry.

The pertinent question that arises now is: do we jettison the various rituals and ceremonials in use now in favour of one GL ritual and Ceremonial? Of course, variety is the spice of life. We can, however, merge the existing rituals and ceremonials, infusing them with our rich cultural background to craft a very unique ritual and ceremonial peculiar to our jurisdiction. A short survey that I conducted brought up the following:

Number of subordinate Lodges-41

Lodges working Irish rituals including installation-15

Lodges working Standard Scottish Ritual including installation-12

Lodges working Standard Scottish Ritual but GL installation ceremonial-14

Is it possible to merge all the various rituals and ceremonials? I am not oblivious of the onerous task that GM has and is embarking on to “spruce up” our GL. Adding this

herculean task will be more daunting for him. But that is why he is the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Thank you, Brethren, for your attention. I shall now resume my seat. The floor is opened for an interactive discussion on the issues for the next 10 or so minutes so we can join our ladies for banquet. We are Freemasons. We are gentlemen. We don't have to keep our ladies waiting.

Presented by RW Bro. Kofi Nti Ofori,  
Worshipful Master, Olympus Lodge  
Date:19<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Achimota Masonic Temple