

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

KEITH W. NEWTON
GRAND MASTER



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EDICT 2020-1

WHEREAS, Ohio's Grand Lodge Code, Section 27.02(a), stipulates a candidate for the Fellow Craft or Master Mason degrees must be examined in open lodge as to his proficiency in the preceding degree and his examination approved by a majority vote of the lodge prior to the his advancement, and;

WHEREAS, Ohio's Masonic Code does not specify the nature of that examination beyond establishing a minimum, and;

WHEREAS, the traditional full form examination tests a candidate's knowledge of the ceremonies of a degree and the short form tests his knowledge of the modes of recognition of a degree, and;

WHEREAS, an alternative proficiency has been developed to test the candidate's understanding and internalization of the Masonic principles taught in a degree, and;

WHEREAS, the candidate's ability to articulate an understanding of such Masonic principles is also confirmation of his proficiency in a degree;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEITH W, NEWTON, Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, hereby decree that:

The Principles Proficiency program is of sufficient validity to exceed the minimum proficiency requirements outlined in the Code of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and therefore;

1. Masonic lodges will offer the Principles Proficiency program as an option to each candidate and allow him to decide which method of proficiency he desires in order to verify his readiness for advancement to subsequent degrees.
2. The Principles Proficiency program, when comprehensively undertaken by the candidate to the Lodge's satisfaction, constitutes equivalency to the proficiency requirements outlined in Ohio's Masonic Code Section 27.02(a).
3. The Principles Proficiency will further serve as a valid examination of proficiency for the Master Mason Degree, subject to the time constraints outlined in Ohio's Masonic Code Section 27.02(c).
4. No additional proficiency requirements shall be imposed upon a candidate once it has been determined that the Principles Proficiency program will be utilized to test the candidate's proficiency in a degree.

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Most Worshipful Brother Keith W. Newton

I FURTHER DIRECT this Edict is required to be read and entered upon the minutes at the next Stated Meeting of each Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, and all Lodges should govern themselves accordingly. This Edict is to be in effect from this date until midnight on October 24, 2020.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Master of Masons in Ohio in the city of Springfield, Ohio, this seventh day of November, A.D. 2019 A.L. 6019.



Keith W. Newton

Grand Master

