



Grand Lodge A.F. & A. M. of South Dakota

PROCLAMATION ON ONE-DAY CONFERRALS

The experience of becoming a Mason is one of deep solemnity, and a highly personal experience. It is not something one should enter into lightly; neither is it a process to be rushed through as quickly as possible. A man needs time to absorb, reflect and think about what he has experienced, especially after receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree.

Too often, there is the temptation for a Lodge to give short shrift to the Petitioning process, to get a potential Candidate approved so he can attend a one-day. This may allow a man who has only a passing interest in Masonry, or who may not fully understand what Masonry is, to become a Brother, and may lead to a revolving door where many men may be Raised, but a year or two later the same men are suspended for non-payment of dues, often having never paid dues beyond the first year, and never having set foot in the Lodge again. Slow down the process and utilize the six steps to ensure both the Candidate and the Lodge understand the expectations before he becomes a Mason.

The Ceremonies a man goes through during his Initiation are critical to his understanding of the Craft and are too important to be glossed over or to simply watch from the sidelines.

Therefore, in general, I will not grant a Dispensation request to confer all three Degrees of Masonry in one day. I will entertain requests to confer the three Degrees in one day under extenuating circumstances. If you believe your Lodge has a viable reason all three Degrees need be conferred in one day, please contact me to discuss options.

I will allow "chance to advance" conferrals, in which a Candidate may receive the Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees in the same day, after previously receiving his Entered Apprentice Degree. Again, because the Ritualistic Degree process is critical to understanding, specific requirements must be met for Dispensation for a "chance to advance" conferral to be given. Please see separate proclamation on "chance to advance" Degrees for details on requirements.

This decision is not made lightly. It is the duty of the Grand Master to protect the Craft; to assure the quality of men becoming Masons, and to assure that the men who are allowed to join fully understand what is expected of them. By requiring at least the Entered Apprentice Degree in a Candidate's home Lodge, he has a chance to bond with his Brethren, be assigned a mentor, and to start to establish those Fraternal ties which will cause him to become a Mason for life.

Fraternally,

Harold D. Ireland
Grand Master of Masons

"We're the Masons"

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