GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Jeffrey N. Nelson, *Most Eminent Grand Master* 3112 Tyler Parkway Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Lawrence Eugene Tucker, *Right Eminent Grand Recorder* 5909 West Loop South, Suite 495 Bellaire, Texas 77401

GENERAL ORDER NO. 11

POSTPONEMENT OF THE STATED CONCLAVE OF A GRAND, SUBORDINATE, OR CONSTITUENT COMMANDERY

March 10, 2020

To all Grand Commanderies and Subordinate Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of, and holding Allegiance to, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

GREETINGS:

The numbers of persons infected with the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, are increasing in the United States and throughout the world, posing a danger to vulnerable populations, especially the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions, many of whom are our Fratres. In the face of the crisis, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urge persons to "avoid all nonessential travel" and take other appropriate measures to prevent community transmission of the virus, for example, avoiding large public gatherings and working from home.

Accordingly, I, the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America, by the authority in me vested by Section 23 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, do hereby waive the requirement of Section 36 (a) of the Constitution and authorize the Grand Commander of each Grand Commandery within the Grand Encampment, with the prior approval of the cognizant Department Commander, to postpone its Stated Conclave for a period not to exceed six (6) months. In the event of such postponement, the revised date for the Stated Conclave shall not conflict with the date of the Stated Conclave of another Grand Commandery within the Department. Any postponement for a longer term shall require my approval.

In the alternative, I authorize the Grand Commander or his designee to convene the Stated Conclave by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Grand Commandery and the Stated Conclave be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 37 through 39 of the Constitution.

In addition, I do hereby waive the requirement of Section 65 (a) of the Constitution, and authorize the Commander of a Constituent Commandery within each Grand Commandery, with the prior approval of the Grand Commander, to postpone or cancel a quarterly Stated Conclave or, alternatively, to convene the same by means of teleconference or webcast, provided that the necessary facilities are widely available to the members of the Constituent Commandery and the Stated Conclave be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Sections 65 and 66 of the Constitution. Commanders of Subordinate Commanderies enjoy the same discretion, subject to prior approval of the cognizant Department Commander.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America at Bismarck, North Dakota, this tenth day of March 2020, A.O. 902.

TO KNOWN

Courteously,

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Grand Master

Attest:

Grand Recorder

Laurence & Jacken