

**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of
Texas and Jurisdiction**

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Organized August 20, 1875

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December 9, 2014

To: All Brothers Beholding to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Its Jurisdiction

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”

Subject: Full Mutual Fraternal Recognition and Inter-visitation Extended

I pray that this communication finds you enjoying the bountiful blessings of the Grand Architect of the Universe, Our Heavenly Father. This is a great step for Freemasonry in the State of Texas and Freemasonry where ever disbursed around the globe. I commend all the brothers that played a part in making this positive step in Texas Freemasonry.

By now, I am sure that you are aware that on November 8, 2014 The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas approved the amended changes to the Compact of April 23, 2007, between the MWPHGL of Texas and the Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M.. I am pleased to inform you that on December 6, 2014, The Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M. approved the amended changes. In order for the amended agreement to go into effect, the Compact must be signed by both Grand Masters and attested by the Grand Secretaries. The date for the signing has not been set but you will be notified in writing when this occurs.

The most important change of this agreement is that now the brothers of both Grand Lodges may greet, meet and have Masonic intercourse with each other as regular brother Masons. There is no reason why this has to wait until the agreement has been signed.

A change that will take place after the Compact has been signed, protocol has been established and agreed upon by both Grand Lodges is the extension of the Fourteenth Landmark to brothers of both Grand Lodges:

“THE RIGHT OF EVERY MASON TO VISIT and sit in every regular Lodge is an unquestionable Landmark of the Order." This is called "the right of visitation." This right of visitation has always been recognized as an inherent right, which inures to every Mason as he travels through the world. And this is because Lodges are justly considered as only divisions for convenience of the universal Masonic family. This right may, of course be impaired or forfeited on special occasions by various circumstances; but when admission is refused to a Mason in good standing, who knocks at the door of a Lodge as a visitor, it is to be expected that some good and sufficient reason shall be furnished for this violation, of what is in general a Masonic right, founded on the Landmarks of the Order.”

It is important that the authority of the Worshipful Master of each Lodge is not infringed upon at the same time preventing any misunderstanding or hard feelings by visiting brothers. We are aware and will be mindful of this as we move forward. There will be written guidelines in the form of a Grand Master Directive coming out to every subordinate Lodge. It will be acted upon by the craft of each Lodge before there can be inter-visitiation for that Lodge.

Unfortunately there will be a few that are not readily susceptible to this change and it will take time for them to accept it. I understand this and I can only ask one to remember the principles of Freemasonry and search one’s heart and know the true meaning of brotherhood.

As I always say, you can’t “legislate” brotherly love; like joy from heaven, it comes from within your heart.

Remember:

- Brothers of the two Grand Lodges may meet and greet each other as regular Master Masons.
- Inter-visitiation between Lodges will not start until the Compact is signed and the craft of the Lodge adhere to the visitation protocol directive of the Grand Master.

If you have any questions please contact Grand Secretary Office via email pha@flash.net.

Take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

Fraternally yours,

Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas

