

PUBLIC REDEDICATION CEREMONY OF NON-MASONIC BUILDINGS

Grand Marshal:

By authority of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of Connecticut, and in obedience to his order, I now command and require all persons here assembled to preserve silence during these ceremonies.

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden, it has been the custom among the Fraternity of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, from time immemorial, on invitation, to assemble the Craft and with appropriate ceremonies, rededicate public buildings and edifices. In obedience to that custom, and having accepted the invitation of _____ to rededicate in due and ancient Masonic form, the _____ building, I am here today with the Officers of the Grand Lodge to perform that duty in the presence of the Craft assembled and our visitors.

It is therefore my order, and you will proclaim it to the Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden and he to the Craft and others present, that they, having due and timely notice, may govern themselves accordingly.

Grand Senior Warden:

Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden, it is the order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of Connecticut, that the rededication of this building be now carried out in appropriate Masonic form. This you will proclaim to the Craft and all present that the proceedings of this occasion may be observed with due and becoming solemnity.

Grand Junior Warden:

Brethren of the Masonic Fraternity and all visitors present, take notice that the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of Connecticut will now dedicate the _____ building in appropriate Masonic form. You will therefore observe that order and decorum which becomes the dignity and solemnity of the occasion.

(The Craft and visitors are called up by three knocks.)

Grand Chaplain:

Let us pray: Almighty Eternal God, Creator and Upholder of the Universe, Who in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; as children of Thy creation we too, create and make, plan and build; and we Thy servants, by Thy kind providence, are assembled here today to rededicate this building.

Thou, O God, knowest our needs in this our present work. In Thee is our strength, inspiration and accomplishment. Vouchsafe to us, we implore Thee, grace, wisdom and understanding, that we may discharge the solemn duties of this hour to Thine honor and glory.

We fervently implore Thy blessings on all who shall labor within this building, and to Thy name shall we give all praise and glory, both now and forever. Amen.

Response by Craft: SO MOTE IT BE.

(The Craft and visitors are seated by one knock.)

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, what is the proper Jewel of your Office?

Deputy Grand Master:

The Square, Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Grand Master:

Have you applied the Square to the parts of the building which should be square?

Deputy Grand Master:

I have Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the builders have performed their duty.

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden, what is the proper Jewel of your Office?

Grand Senior Warden:

The Level, Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Grand Master:

Have you applied the Level to the parts of this building which should be level?

Grand Senior Warden:

I have, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the builders have performed their duty.

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden, what is the proper Jewel of your Office?

Grand Junior Warden:

The Plumb, Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Grand Master:

Have you applied the Plumb to the parts of this building that should be plumb?

Grand Junior Warden:

I have, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the builders have performed their duty.

(The Grand Marshal collects the Jewels from the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and the Grand Junior Warden, placing them on the table and returns to his place.)

Grand Master:

My Brothers and friends, the skill and fidelity displayed in the execution of the trust reposed in the architect; the builders and their craftsmen, sincerely pray that this building may continue a lasting monument of their virtue before the world and as a fitting tribute to the quality, spirit and liberality of its providers.

Deputy Grand Master:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, the building in which we are assembled, and the plan upon which it was originally constructed, should now be rededicated, according to ancient form and usage.

Grand Master:

So Be It.

(The Craft and visitors are called up by three knocks.)

Grand Chaplain:

Let us pray: Almighty, ever glorious and gracious Lord, eternal God, creator of all things and governor of everything that Thou has made, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of a house made with hands, mercifully look upon Thy servants now assembled in Thy name and presence, and bless and prosper all our works begun, continued and ended in Thee, that whatsoever we do may be well pleasing in Thy sight.

Graciously bestow upon us wisdom in all our doings, strength and support in all difficulties and temptations, and beauty of harmony and holiness in all our work and communications.

Be pleased by the offering which we make this day, the rededication of this building to the honor and glory of Thy Name. May all who shall come and dwell herein, and all who shall labor here, be under Thy special care, protection and guidance and faithfully observe and fulfill all their obligations to Thee, O Lord. May all who come within these consecrated walls be filled with brotherly love. May all the proper work which will be performed in this house be such that Thy wisdom shall approve and Thy goodness prosper.

And finally, O gracious Father, bless we pray Thee, make those who are assembled true and faithful to Thee, to their neighbors and to themselves. And when the time of our labor shall draw to its end, and from our nerveless grasp shall drop forever the working tools of life, give us confidence to pass through the valley of the shades of death, supported by Thy rod and Thy staff to the mansions in the sky, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen.

Response by the Craft: SO MOTE IT BE.

(The Craft and visitors are seated by one knock.)

(The Deputy Grand Master presents the vessel of corn to the Grand Master saying):

Deputy Grand Master:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, in the rededication of Masonic Lodges or buildings, it has been an ancient custom to pour corn upon the structure, as an emblem of nourishment. I therefore present you with this vessel of corn, to be employed by you according to ancient usage.

Grand Master:

In the name of the great Jehovah, to whom be all honor and glory, I do solemnly rededicate symbolically the _____ building, as I pour upon this building, the corn of nourishment to strengthen and sustain it.

(The Grand Senior Warden presents the vessel of wine to the Grand Master, saying):

Grand Senior Warden:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, wine, the emblem of refreshment, has been used by our ancient brethren in the rededication and consecration of lodges and buildings. I present you with this vessel of wine, to be used on this present occasion, according to ancient Masonic form.

Grand Master:

In the name of the Holy Saints John, I do solemnly rededicate the _____ building to the practice of every humanitarian attribute in empathy and with compassion.

(The Grand Junior Warden presents the vessel of oil to the Grand Master, saying):

Grand Junior Warden:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, I present to you, to be used according to ancient custom, this vessel of oil, an emblem of that joy which should animate every Mason in the Grand Jurisdiction of Connecticut on the completion of this important undertaking.

Grand Master:

In the name of the whole Masonic Fraternity in Connecticut, I do solemnly rededicate the _____ building to the practice of universal benevolence.

(The Grand Chaplain the makes the INVOCATION):

(The craft and visitors are called up by three knocks.)

Grand Chaplain:

Let us pray: May the Lord, the giver of every good and perfect gift, bless those here assembled in all their lawful undertakings, and grant to each of them in needful supply, the Corn of Nourishment, the Wine of Refreshment and the Oil of Joy. Amen.

Response by the Craft: SO MOTE IT BE.

(The craft and visitors are seated by one knock.)

Grand Master:

Right Worshipful Grand Marshal, make your proclamation.

Grand Marshal:

I am ordered by the Most worshipful Grand Master to proclaim, and I do proclaim, that the _____ building has been solemnly rededicated in due form.

(The Grand Master may give the ceremonial address (optional) as follows):

Brethren and guests, the ceremony of rededication which we have just performed is not without meaning, but it is of solemn and instructive importance. Allow me to point out to you the ennobling sentiments that this ceremony is designed to convey.

This building, designed and built by wisdom, supported by strength and adorned in beauty is consecrated in the name of the great Jehovah, the Grand Architect of the Universe; which teaches us that in all our works, begun, continued and finished, that we should acknowledge praise and adore Him.

Following our ancient constitutions, we rededicated this building. In its prosperity, we find joy; and in paying it honor, we honor ourselves. But its worth rises above our high regards, and its glory will outlive our praise.

Brethren, it is with pride that we have our names on the record of Freemasonry. Let it be our high ambition that our names give forth a luster on the everlasting pages of Freemasonry.

We also rededicate this building to virtue. This worthy characteristic will always be duly regarded, while the moral duties which our lectures inculcate, are cherished in our hearts and

illustrated in our lives. As Freemasonry aims to enliven the spirit of helping mankind, and to promote the cause of charity, so we rededicated this building to universal benevolence; in the assurance that each of its members will rededicate his affections and abilities to the same purposes.

This, then, is the significant meaning of the ceremony we have just performed.

Grand Master:

_____, your building has been rededicated in due form and we offer our best congratulations. May this building be protected from all harm and long remain a monument of prosperity and pride.

Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M

Custodians of the Work Committee

Approved May 1, 1997