



THE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE HOLY ORTHODOX ORDER OF  
SAINT GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR

HARTFORD, CT, USA

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## PROMULGATION

~ PREAMBLE ~

The Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr is an international, independent, confraternal, religious, lay, pan-Orthodox order of Christian chivalry. Its mission is to help peacefully defend, sustain, and preserve the continued existence and wellbeing of the Orthodox Christian Faith within the Holy Land, the Middle East, and wherever the Orthodox Church and her faithful are either persecuted or in need.

~ TITLE I ~

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NAME, NATURE, AND SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE OF THE ORDER

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In the name of the Holy, Consubstantial, and Indivisible Trinity:

Article One – Name of the Order

- 1.1 The official legal name of the Order is: *“The Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr, INC.”*
- 1.2 The official name for general formal usage is: *“The Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.”*
- 1.3 The official shortened name of the Order is: *“The Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.”*

Article Two – Nature of the Order

- 2.1 The Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr gains its legitimacy as a confraternal chivalric order of knighthood through the blessing and protection it received from the First Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.
- 2.2 With a voting membership of canonical Orthodox Christians, the Order considers itself to be part of the One, Holy, Orthodox, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, in no way separate from that Church, and not a para-church organization. The Order will not compromise its stance on any Orthodox doctrines, beliefs, or articles of faith. Accordingly, the Order fully rejects both, directly and indirectly, any connection to or association with Freemasonry and/or similar societies and fraternal organizations.
- 2.3 The religious nature of the Order does not take away from its independence as a legal entity nor does it endanger the autonomy of its governing body except in the areas of religious instruction and compliance.
- 2.4 True to the divine precepts and the admonitions of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, and guided by the teachings of the Church, the Order affirms that it is one of mercy and peace, dedicated to the peaceful defense and support of the Orthodox Christian Faith, its beliefs, customs, traditions, principles, and presence throughout the Holy Land, the Middle East, and the world. The Order of Saint George the Great Martyr is ever mindful of the words of Saint Paul to the Christians in Corinth: *“...and if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”*
- 2.5 The Order takes very seriously its desire to see full dignity, human rights, and freedom for all Orthodox Christians regardless of where they live. For this reason, the Order affirms that it is its responsibility to advocate for those Orthodox Christians who are not free.

### Article Three – Goals and objectives of the Order

- 3.1 In addition to what is stated in the preamble of this Constitution, The Order of Saint George the Great Martyr hereby establishes its goals and objectives: to organize, promote, aid, and engage in charitable, humanitarian, educational, medical, and chivalric activities, particularly by:
- (a.) aiding the poor, the sick, the dying, the needy, the aged, the infirm, the maimed, the mentally ill, the imprisoned, and the socially disadvantaged;
  - (b.) assisting in the maintenance of holy places including, but not limited to, buildings, monasteries, seminaries, shrines, churches, and cathedrals of the Orthodox Faith; and,
  - (c.) establishing and promoting the works of hospitals, medical centers, orphanages, schools, and other bona fide Orthodox institutions and/or organizations.
- 3.2 It is the intention of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr to seek formal status and association with international institutions to be a strong advocate for Orthodox Christians, especially for those who face persecution and need. Regarding these institutions, the Order will only support those aspects of their founding documents that agree with the teachings and beliefs of the Orthodox Faith.

### Article Four – Religion

- 4.1 All members of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr must be practicing Orthodox Christians in good standing, upholding with their lives, fortunes, and honor the principles and beliefs of the Orthodox Faith.
- 4.2 Those who do not belong to the canonical Orthodox Church may be associated with the Order as non-voting companion members through the Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit (see Title IV of this Constitution).

### Article Five – Spiritual Guidance

- 5.1 The Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr shall place itself under the spiritual care, guidance, and protection of the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR).
- 5.2 The First Hierarch of ROCOR is the Spiritual Head of the Order and serves as the Supreme Spiritual Advisor to the Grand Knight. In this function, he will advise the Order on all issues relating to and regarding the Orthodox Christian Faith.
- 5.3 The First Hierarch shall appoint as his Clerical Representative a cleric who shall represent him and provide spiritual support and guidance to the Order on his behalf as needed.

## Article Six – The Clerical Representative

It is the responsibility of the Clerical Representative to advise the government of the Order on behalf of the First Hierarch on all matters, assuring conformity to the doctrine, dogma, spirituality, and practice of the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith. The Clerical Representative serves as chaplain to the Grand Magistracy of the Order.

~ TITLE II ~

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SYMBOLS, MOTTO, LANGUAGE, AND INVOCATION OF THE ORDER

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Article Seven – The Banner of the Order

The Banner or flag of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr is as follows: *Argent* field, with the full coat of arms of the Order superimposed in the center.

Article Eight – The Order’s Coat of Arms

- 8.1 The coat of arms of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr is as follows: an escutcheon *Argent*, a cross sanguine—in the first quarter, the letters **IC** *sanguine*; in the second quarter, the letters **XC** *sanguine*; in the third quarter, the letters **NI** *sanguine*; and, in the fourth quarter, the letters **KA** *sanguine*. In the center of the coat of arms is an escutcheon *or* with a pomegranate natural.
- 8.2 The coat of arms represents the whole Order and is its chief heraldic symbol. The white shield represents the purity and light of Christ that shines throughout the whole of creation; the crimson cross is the cross of Saint George the Great Martyr; the crimson color represents the innocent shed blood of Christ and those of His Holy Martyrs. The Greek characters IC, XC, NI, KA stand for “Jesus Christ Conquers” (the motto of the Order). In the center of the shield, is a smaller golden shield representing the light of heaven. In the center of the smaller shield is a pomegranate natural, the pomegranate being a symbol of God's divine grace. Crowning the shield is the Bishop’s Crown representing that the Order is fully under the spiritual guidance and protection of the Orthodox Church. And surrounding the whole shield is the Grand Collar of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.

Article Nine – The Motto

The motto of the Order is: “*Jesus Christ Conquers.*” In Koine Greek: “*Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς νικᾷ*”.

Article Ten – Language

- 10.1 The official international and administrative language of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr is English.
- 10.2 The secondary languages of the Order are Russian, Greek, Serbian, Georgian, and Arabic.
- 10.3 Any other language used to express the Orthodox faith is welcomed by the Order.
- 10.4 Should a dispute arise regarding the interpretation of any article or text of the Order, the English version shall prevail.

Article Eleven – Invocation

All official acts of the Order shall be preceded by the invocation of the Holy Trinity: “*In the name of the Holy, Consubstantial, and Indivisible Trinity.*”

~ TITLE III ~

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MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORDER OF SAINT GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR

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Article Twelve – Membership

- 12.1 To carry out its goals and objectives, The Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr will admit those Orthodox Christians who apply for membership and are accepted by the Council of Admissions.
- 12.2 The Order has three categories of membership. The first consists of those who belong to the Orthodox laity, the second consists of those who belong to the ranks of the Orthodox clergy, and the third consist of those who belong to the Order as auxiliary members through the Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit (see TITLE IV of this constitution).

Article Thirteen – Membership Requirements

- 13.1 Any person lay or clerical, may apply for membership into the Order so long as such an individual meets the following criteria:
  - (a.) is baptized and/or chrismated into the Orthodox Christian Faith;
  - (b.) is ***NOT*** a member of a Masonic fraternity and/or organization;
  - (c.) is living according to Orthodox Christian principles;
  - (d.) is a member in good standing of a local canonical Orthodox parish;
  - (e.) is of sound mind and judgment;
  - (f.) is known to live honorably;
  - (g.) is prepared to observe the rules and regulations of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr;
  - (h.) is willing to make a solemn pledge to support the Order and its mission at a formal ceremony of investiture; and,
  - (i.) is no less than 18 years of age upon applying for membership.
- 13.2 Application packets for membership will be available for download on the Order’s website ([www.orderofsaintgeorge.org](http://www.orderofsaintgeorge.org)) or by contacting a local Commandery of the Order.
- 13.3 Once an application is completed, it is submitted to the Order’s local Commandery. The local Commandery will then examine the application for completeness and submit it to the Council of Admissions for a final decision. Once the Council gives its approval, it will then contact the local Commandery of the Order. It will be the responsibility of the local Commandery to inform the individual. When approved, the individual will receive an official document (*brevet*) signed and sealed by the Grand Knight, indicating the applicant’s reception into the Order with the formal rank of “Cadet” unless the applicant wishes to be received in with a higher rank as indicated in their application.
- 13.4 Those received into the Order are received in accordance with their personal state and may choose the nature of their commitment in the activities of the Order. All new

Orthodox members of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr shall be invested at an authorized ceremony of investiture as soon as practically possible after their acceptance.

- 13.5 Those members of the Order belonging to the clergy, remain subject to the rules and regulations of their respective hierarchs and Orthodox jurisdictions.

#### Article Fourteen – Passage Fee and Yearly Dues

- 14.1 The Grand Knight, in consultation with the Sovereign Council, establishes the amount of passage fees and annual membership dues.
- 14.2 The Order will permit passage fees and annual membership dues to be paid either in full or in two installments. Additional financial arrangements are to be given to those who join at the rank of Knight Companion/Dame Companion or higher.
- 14.3 It is expected by the Order that those wishing to join at a rank higher than Knight/Dame will commit more effort, time, and money to the greater advancement of the Order than those of a lower rank.
- 14.4 One year following admission into the Order, lay members are required to pay an annual membership due. Membership dues are assessed according to the rank of the individual.
- 14.5 If a member is promoted to a higher rank within the Order, that member can continue to pay the original annual membership due assessed at the time of their entrance into the Order or opt to pay the new fee that corresponds to their new rank. Equally, members promoted to a higher rank within the Order do not pay for any additional passage fee, but only for the medals attached to the new rank.
- 14.6 Clergy and lay members need to participate in all charitable fundraising activities of the Grand Magistracy of the Order, their Grand Priory, and of their local Commandery.
- 14.7 All clergy and those of monastic rank are exempt from having to pay both the passage fee and annual membership due. Clergy and monastics are responsible for the purchase of their own medals.
- 14.8 A person is considered a member for life unless expelled from the Order due to Article Nineteen of this Constitution.

#### Article Fifteen – Ranks

The Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr has six grades of ranks separate from that of the Grand Knight. These five grades of ranks are:

##### **Men**

Grand Knight

##### **Women**

Grand Dame

*The rank of Grand Dame is the official title for the wife and consort of the Grand Knight.*

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1. Cadet

Cadet

2. Knight	Dame
3. Knight Companion	Dame Companion
4. Knight Commander	Dame Commander
5. Knight Grand Cross	Dame Grand Cross
6. Knight Grand Collar	Dame Grand Collar

### **Clergy**

1. Chaplain
2. Ecclesiastical Chaplain
3. Ecclesiastical Companion
4. Ecclesiastical Commander
5. Ecclesiastical Grand Cross
6. Ecclesiastical Grand Collar

### Article Sixteen – Assignment of Ranks

The Grand Knight is the sole authority for awarding the various ranks of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr. The ranks of the Order can be granted by the Grand Knight at any time regardless of position. Ranks are not awarded freely but are rather earned through hard meritorious work and dedication to the Holy Orthodox Church and to the goals and objectives of the Order.

### Article Seventeen – Commitment of Members

- 16.1 All members of the Order shall be committed to leading their lives in an exemplary manner in full accordance with the teachings and beliefs of the Holy, Orthodox, Catholic, and Apostolic Church and to devote themselves to the charitable activities of the Order.
- 16.2 In addition, one of the major responsibilities of each member is to promote the goals and objectives of the Order and to actively and purposely encourage other Orthodox Christians to join in membership.
- 16.3 At the investiture ceremony each lay Orthodox member must make the following oath before the Gospel of Christ:

*“I, (baptismal name), do solemnly promise and declare before Almighty God that I will bear true allegiance and witness to the Holy, Orthodox, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith. That I, in my capacity as (an cadet, knight, or dame), will be of service to the Church of Christ and to His people. I furthermore condemn and reject all movements that plot against the Orthodox Church and seek to undermine its apostolic mission and apostolic authority.*

*I promise to serve the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr loyally and faithfully, to respect and observe its constitution, mission, bylaws, regulations, and customs; that I shall conduct my whole life in accordance with Orthodox Christian moral and religious principles, that I may always be worthy of the honor that is to be bestowed upon me and of the dignity with which I shall be vested; that I shall never engage in any actions that could disparage the image and dignity of Orthodox Church or of the Order in which I am to become a lifetime member; and, that I shall respond to the initiatives and needs of the Order by assisting in its charitable works towards the greater benefit of Christ's Holy Church.*

*Should I, in the future, ever break and/or seriously violate the preceding promises that I have solemnly made, I understand that I will be subject to the rules and/ or policy concerning dismissal from the Order, this in accordance with its legitimately constituted authority.”*

#### Article Eighteen – Official Style and Forms of Address

The Grand Knight and his spouse are the only individuals given an official style and form of address within the Order.

#### Article Nineteen – Expulsion, Removal, and Right of Appeal

- 19.1 The Grand Knight may, with or without out the advice of the Sovereign Council, expel any member of the Order regardless of office, or rank who transgresses the aims, obligations or standards of behavior or integrity of the Order.
- 19.2 Any person expelled from the Order (excluding clause 19.5 of this Article) shall have the right of appeal. All appeals must be made to the Constitutional Council for a vote. The Constitutional Council has sixty days to reach a decision. Once the decision is made it is final and irrevocable.
- 19.3 In case of an expulsion, no reimbursement or compensation for any monies, gifts or services rendered to the Order will be given or returned.
- 19.4 Any office, rank or honor awarded may be removed by Sovereign Decree of the Grand Knight. In such a case the decision of the Grand Knight is final and irrevocable.
- 19.5 Those members of the Order found to be part of a Masonic fraternity will be expelled from the Order, striped of all honors, and barred from future membership with no right to appeal.

~ TITLE IV ~

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MEMBERSHIP IN THE MOST MERITORIOUS ORDER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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Article Twenty – Auxiliary Relationship with the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr

- 20.1 The Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit confers a companion auxiliary membership to the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.
- 20.2 Both Orders share the same administrative hierarchy and Grand Magistracy without separation.

Article Twenty-One – Auxiliary Membership

- 21.1 The Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit is open to Orthodox and non-Orthodox, Trinitarian Christians who profess the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed of 381 AD and who support the works and activities of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr. Auxiliary membership is either by application or by bestowal of the Grand Knight.
- 21.2 Non-Orthodox Christians who apply for auxiliary membership in the Order of the Holy Spirit form a distinct class, and become non-voting, companion members of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr and may partake in the full social life and activities of the Order without restriction. Applications for auxiliary membership do not require consultation with the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.
- 21.3 The Grand Knight, as the temporal fount of honor within the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr, and by virtue of his position as temporal head, has the exclusive right of conferring the Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit as a Decoration of Merit. This honor is reserved to express the Grand Knight's appreciation of a person's extraordinary service to the Orthodox Church and to the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr. This means that an individual has assumed a responsibility or displayed an ability considerably greater than might have been expected of him or her; that an individual had performed activities in an excellent manner which have been of great benefit to the greater Orthodox Christian World.
- 21.4 The Grand Knight needs to consult with the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia before officially bestowing the Decoration of Merit upon those who are not canonical Orthodox Christians, and who fall outside of the Orthodox Church. In this case, the brevet (certificate) of appointment to the Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit is signed by both the Grand Knight and by the First Hierarch and/or his Clerical Representative.

Article Twenty-Two – Auxiliary Membership Requirements

- 22.1 Any Christian person may apply for membership into the Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit so long as such an individual meets the following criteria:

- (a.) is a baptized and/or confirmed Christian;
  - (b.) is a member of a Trinitarian denomination (Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Lutheran etc.);
  - (c.) is ***NOT*** a member of a Masonic fraternity and/or organization;
  - (d.) is living according to Christian principles;
  - (e.) is a member in good standing of their local parish community;
  - (f.) is of sound mind and judgment;
  - (g.) is known to live honorably;
  - (h.) is prepared to observe the rules and regulations of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr;
  - (i.) is willing to make a solemn pledge of allegiance to the Order and to its mission at a formal ceremony of investiture; and,
  - (j.) is no less than 18 years of age upon applying for membership.
- 22.2 Application packets for membership will be available for download on the Order’s website ([www.orderofsaintgeorge.org](http://www.orderofsaintgeorge.org)) or by contacting a local Commandery of the Order.
- 22.3 Once an application is completed, it is submitted to the Order’s local Commandery. The local Commandery will then examine the application for completeness and submit it to the Council of Admissions for a final decision. Once the Council gives its approval, it will then contact the local Commandery of the Order. It will be the responsibility of the local Commandery to inform the individual. When approved, the individual will receive an official document (*brevet*) signed and sealed by the Grand Knight, indicating the applicant’s reception into the Order with the formal rank of “Cadet” unless the applicant wishes to be received in with a higher rank as indicated in their application.
- 22.4 Those received into the Order are received in accordance with their personal state and may choose the nature of their commitment in the activities of the Order. All new members of the Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit shall be invested at an authorized ceremony of investiture as soon as practically possible after their acceptance.

#### Article Twenty-Three – Passage Fee and Yearly Dues

- 23.1 The Grand Knight, in consultation with the Sovereign Council, establishes the amount of passage fees and annual membership dues.
- 23.2 The Order will permit passage fees and annual membership dues to be paid either in full or in two installments. Additional financial arrangements are to be given to those who join at the rank of Companion 4<sup>th</sup> Class or higher.
- 23.3 It is expected by the Order that those wishing to join at a rank higher than Companion 5<sup>th</sup> Class will commit more effort, time, and money to the greater advancement of the Order than those of a lower rank.
- 23.4 One year following admission into the Order, members are required to pay an annual membership due. Membership dues are assessed according to the rank of the individual.
- 23.5 If a member is promoted to a higher rank within the Order, that member can continue to pay the original annual membership due assessed at the time of their entrance into the

Order or opt to pay the new fee that corresponds to their new rank. Equally, members promoted to a higher rank within the Order do not pay for any additional passage fee, but only for the medals attached to the new rank.

- 23.6 Members need to participate in all charitable fundraising activities of the Grand Magistracy of the Order, their Grand Priory, and of their local Commandery.
- 23.7 A person is considered a member for life unless expelled from the Order due to Article Nineteen of this Constitution.

#### Article Twenty-Four – Ranks

The Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit has six grades of ranks separate from that of the Grand Knight. These five grades of ranks are:

##### **Men**

Grand Knight

##### **Women**

Grand Dame

*The rank of Grand Dame is the official title for the wife and consort of the Grand Knight.*

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1 Cadet

2 Knight Companion 5<sup>th</sup> Class

3 Knight Companion 4<sup>th</sup> Class

4 Knight Companion 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

5 Knight Companion 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

6 Knight Companion 1<sup>st</sup> Class

Cadet

Dame Companion 5<sup>th</sup> Class

Dame Companion 4<sup>th</sup> Class

Dame Companion 3<sup>rd</sup> Class

Dame Companion 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

Dame Companion 1<sup>st</sup> Class

#### Article Twenty-Five – Assignment of Ranks

The Grand Knight is the sole authority for awarding the various ranks of the Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit. The ranks of the Order can be granted by the Grand Knight at any time regardless of position. Ranks are not awarded freely but are rather earned through hard meritorious work and dedication to the Holy Orthodox Church and to the goals and objectives of the Order.

#### Article Twenty-Six – Commitment of Auxiliary Members

- 26.1 All members of the Most Meritorious Order of the Holy Spirit shall be committed to leading their lives in an exemplary manner in full accordance with the teachings and beliefs of the Gospel of Christ.
- 26.2 In addition, one of the major responsibilities of each member is to promote the goals and objectives of the Order and to actively and purposely encourage other Christians to join in membership.

26.3 At the investiture each lay non-Orthodox member must make the following oath before the Gospel of Christ:

*“I, (name), do solemnly promise and declare that I will bear true allegiance and witness to Christ and to His Holy Gospel; that I, in my capacity as (an cadet, knight, or dame), will be of loyal and faithful service to the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr as an auxiliary member; and, to respect and observe its constitution, mission, bylaws, regulations, and customs; that I shall conduct my whole life in accordance with Christian moral and religious principles, that I may always be worthy of the honor that is to be bestowed upon me and of the dignity with which I shall be vested; that I shall never engage in any actions that could disparage the image and dignity of the Order of which I am to become a lifetime member; and, that I shall respond to the initiatives and needs of the Order by assisting in its charitable works towards the greater benefit of the Holy Orthodox Church.*

*Should I, in the future, ever break and/or seriously violate the preceding promises that I have solemnly made, I understand that I will be subject to the rules and/ or policy concerning dismissal from the Order, this in accordance with its legitimately constituted authority.”*

#### Article Twenty-Seven – Official Style and Forms of Address

The Grand Knight and his spouse are the only individuals given an official style and form of address within the Order.

#### Article Twenty-Eight – Expulsion, Removal, and Right of Appeal

- 28.1 The Grand Knight may, with or without out the advice of the Sovereign Council, expel any member of the Order regardless of office, or rank who transgresses the aims, obligations or standards of behavior or integrity of the Order.
- 28.2 Any person expelled from the Order (excluding clause 28.5 of this Article) shall have the right of appeal. All appeals must be made to the Constitutional Council for a vote. The Constitutional Council has sixty days to reach a decision. Once the decision is made it is final and irrevocable.
- 28.3 In case of an expulsion, no reimbursement or compensation for any monies, gifts or services rendered to the Order will be given or returned.
- 28.4 Any office, rank or honor awarded may be removed by Sovereign Decree of the Grand Knight. In such a case the decision of the Grand Knight is final and irrevocable.
- 28.5 Those members of the Order found to be part of a Masonic fraternity will be expelled from the Order, striped of all honors, and barred from future membership with no right to appeal.

~ TITLE V ~

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ORGANIZATION OF THE ORDER

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Article Twenty-Nine – Subdivisions of the Order

- 29.1 The subdivisions of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr exist to further its goals and objectives. The basic structure of the Order from the lowest authority locally to the highest authority internationally are:
- (a.) the Commandery;
  - (b.) the Grand Priory; and,
  - (c.) the Grand Magistracy
- 29.2 At the national level, each Commandery shall be subject to the jurisdiction of a Grand Priory. All Grand Priories are subject to the jurisdiction of the Grand Magistracy with the Grand Knight as its temporal head.

Article Thirty– Headship of a National Priory

- 30.1 Each Grand Priory shall be headed by a Prior appointed by the Grand Knight. The Prior shall function as the personal representative of the Grand Knight within the Grand Priory and due to the honor of the office, is its most senior figure.
- 30.2 The Prior shall ensure that all matters and activities of the Grand Priory are properly performed in full accordance with this Constitution.
- 30.3 Each Prior shall appoint a Chancellor from amongst the Order’s membership within the Grand Priory. Any candidate selected for appointment as Chancellor needs to be approved by the Grand Knight. The Chancellor assists and helps lead in the day-to-day governance of the Grand Priory.
- 30.4 The Commanderies of the Order are headed and chaired by a Commandery Officer elected by the members of the Commandery and approved by the Prior.

Article Thirty-One – Bylaws of a Grand Priory and Sub-jurisdictions

- 31.1 Each Grand Priory and its sub-jurisdictions shall adopt their own bylaws and regulations for proper functioning and governance. Elections shall not be held more than once per year unless a special election is needed and is recognized as such by the Prior and Grand Knight.
- 31.2 Any bylaws or regulations adopted pursuant to this provision shall not be inconsistent with or supersede this Constitution or any Sovereign Decree issued by the Grand Knight.

Article Thirty-Two – Legal Establishment

- 32.1 The Grand Magistracy of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr shall be incorporated under the civil law of the country of its founding.

- 32.2 Grand Pories and Commanderies of the Order shall be established by the Grand Knight in the form of a Sovereign Decree.
- 32.3 Each Grand Priory and all dependent sub-jurisdictions are to establish a legally constituted not-for-profit organization according to the laws of the country in which they exist. The statutes of each association must be concordant with the current Constitutional Charter of the Order.
- 32.4 The members of a Grand Priory and its dependent sub-jurisdictions are automatically members of the Order.

#### Article Thirty-Three – Finances

- 33.1 In order to realize its goals and objectives, the Grand Magistrty of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr will rely financially on passage fees, free contributions, grants, legacies, and all types of public and private means or through any other means agreed upon by the Sovereign Council.
- 33.2 All Grand Pories and dependent sub-jurisdictions are independently responsible for the procurement of monies for their own financial needs. Additionally, each Grand Priory and its sub-jurisdictions are to develop a calendar of events and programs with which additional funds can be raised to assist the Grand Magistrty of the Order in its goals and objectives as outlined in Title I, Article Three of this Constitution.

~ TITLE VI ~

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THE GOVERNANCE OF THE ORDER

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Article Thirty-Four – The Structure of Government

- 34.1 The following constitutes the Grand Magistracy and the international government of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr:
- (a.) the Grand Knight, who is the temporal (earthly) head of the Order;
  - (b.) the Sovereign Council which assists and advises him;
  - (c.) the Constitutional Council which interprets the regulations, statutes and Constitution of the Order. It arbitrates in disputes between the different organs of government, the Grand Priories, and the members of the Order;
  - (d.) the Governing Council which provides for the equal and fair representation of all the Grand Priories; and,
  - (e.) the General Assembly which permits the expression of all members of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.
- 34.2 In addition to the above, the Government of the Order shall be comprised of and assisted by the following Councils and bodies:
- (a.) the Council of Admissions;
  - (b.) the Council of Humanities;
  - (c.) the Council of Auditors;
  - (d.) the Media Office;
  - (e.) the Office of the Chief of Protocol;
  - (f.) the Office of Fundraising Strategy and Organizational Development;
  - (g.) the Office of the Advocate General; and,
  - (h.) Consular Missions and Consular Representatives

Article Thirty-Five – The Grand Knight

- 35.1 The Grand Knight is the temporal head of the Order and to him is delegated for life all governing authority, prerogatives, and honors. He is the Order's most senior and visible representative. The person of the Grand Knight must fully dedicate himself and his life to the development of the works of the Order and so set an example of living according to Orthodox Christian principles.
- 35.2 The Grand Knight together with the Sovereign Council issue any legislative measures not covered by this Constitution.
- 35.3 The Grand Knight promulgates government acts, helps manage Common Treasury assets, ratifies international agreements, appoints in consultation with the First Hierarch the holders of the Five High Offices, appoints the Consular Representatives, appoints the Priors of the Grand Priories, summons the General Assembly, and awards the various ranks of knighthood and honors of the Order.

- 35.4 The office of Grand Knight is for life. At the inception of the Order and its legal establishment, it is hereby embodied in the person of Ernest Christopher Konstantine Pandolfi, co-founder and co-originator of the Order.
- 35.5 Konstantine's (né Ernest Christopher Konstantine Pandolfi) legitimacy and right to govern over the Order as Grand Knight and that of his successors derives from the blessing he received from the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia in July of 2020.
- 35.6 In his rule over the Order, the Grand Knight is solely responsible to the First Hierarch and must communicate with him on a quarterly basis (every three months) regarding the activities of the Order.
- 35.7 By virtue of his office, the Grand Knight is the temporal fons honorum within the Order.
- 35.8 The official style of address and title of the temporal head of the Order is:

*“His Most Excellency (baptismal name), Grand Knight of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.”*

#### Article Thirty-Six – The Oath of the Grand Knight

During the Grand Knight's ceremony of investiture, the Grand Knight makes the following solemn oath before the First Hierarch:

*“I, (baptismal name), by the Grace of God and as his servant, do solemnly swear, promise and affirm before Him, the Holy Theotokos, His angels and His saints: that I shall forever uphold and observe the beliefs, practices and the Holy Tradition of the Holy, Orthodox, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith; that I shall ensure they are upheld and obeyed by all members of the Order, insofar as it may lie within my power and influence so to do; that I shall administer and govern the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr loyally and faithfully to the end of my days, as befits the duty and dignity of the Grand Knight; and that I shall uphold the statutes, regulations, decrees, and customs of the Order as so written and rightfully observed; and that I shall be of loyal service to the Church and to the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. I say this oath in the presence of the Holy Gospel of Christ, before His Precious Cross, and before the Holy and Sacred relics of Saint George the Great Martyr the Victory barer.”*

#### Article Thirty-Seven – Sovereign Decrees

The Grand Knight shall have the exclusive right to issue Sovereign Decrees for the appointment of members to any office, rank, or honor within the Order, including the Priors of the Grand Priories and for such other acts as may be necessary to carry out his responsibilities or for the governance of the Order as a whole.

#### Article Thirty-Eight – Delegation of Authority

The Grand Knight may delegate in such manner as he deems fit any of his powers or authority for the day-to-day operation of the Order to any member of the Order as he may specify. Any power or authority so delegated is held temporarily at the discretion on the Grand Knight.

#### Article Thirty-Nine – Succession of the Grand Knight

The ruling Grand Knight, with or without the consultation of the First Hierarch, shall appoint his successor in a manner most suitable to the interests of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.

#### Article Forty – The Consort of the Grand Knight

The official style of address and title of the of the consort of the Grand Knight of the Order is:

*“Her Most Excellency (baptismal name), Grand Dame of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.”*

#### Article Forty-One – The Regency

- 41.1 In the event the Grand Knight becomes unfit for the exercise of his authority, and this incapacity is recognized jointly by the Sovereign Council, the immediate family of the reigning Grand Knight and by the First Hierarch, the Sovereign Council in consultation with the First Hierarch shall appoint a regent to exercise the prerogatives of the Grand Knight.
- 41.2 The Regency shall be exercised by constitutional mandate, and always on behalf and in the name of His Most Excellency the Grand Knight.
- 41.3 In order to exercise the Regency, it is necessary to be an Orthodox Christian in good standing, a member of the Order with the rank of Knight Grand Cross and legally be no less than 18 years of age upon assuming the Office of Regent.

#### Article Forty-Two – Resignation of the Grand Knight

- 42.1 The Grand Knight has the right to resign his position as the temporal head of the Order.
- 42.2 Resignations found to have been made under duress shall be null and void.
- 42.3 An act of resignation must be made in person in both the presence of the First Hierarch and the Sovereign Council.
- 42.4 In order for the resignation to be binding it needs to be signed by the resigning Grand Knight, the First Hierarch and by all the members of the Sovereign Council.

- 42.5 The former Grand Knight shall hold the title and dignity of “Grand Knight Emeritus” with the form and style of address of “His Most Excellency”.

#### Article Forty-Three – The Sovereign Council

- 43.1 The Sovereign Council shall assist the Grand Knight in his governance over the Order as a whole. It serves as the Board of Directors of the Grand Magistracy of the Order.
- 43.2 The Sovereign Council is the highest governing, executive, legislative, and legal body of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.
- 43.3 The Sovereign Council is composed of the Grand Knight who presides over it, the holders of the Five High Offices – the Grand Chancellor, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Humanitarian Aid, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Records, and at least six additional members at large.
- 43.4 The Sovereign Council shall be convened by the Grand Knight and shall meet at the Seat of the Order at least two times a year and whenever necessary as directed by the Grand Knight.
- 43.5 Approval of any vote will be decided upon by simple majority. In the event of a tie vote among the members, the Grand Knight shall cast the deciding vote. Any proposed revisions or amendments to the Constitution of the Order will be reviewed, discussed, and voted upon by the Sovereign Council, notwithstanding Articles 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42 of this Constitution.
- 43.6 The Grand Knight does not vote on matters for which the Sovereign Council has a deliberative vote or where it must give its advice to various organs of the Order’s government, notwithstanding Article 37 of this Constitution.
- 43.7 Before being promulgated, all documents drafted by the Sovereign Council must be signed by the Grand Knight indicating his approval. The Grand Knight’s signature is required for decisions to be binding upon the whole Order.
- 43.8 The Grand Knight maintains absolute veto authority.

#### Article Forty-Four – The Grand Chancellor

- 44.1 The Grand Chancellor is the most senior aide and advisor to the Grand Knight. Under the authority of the Grand Knight, the Grand Chancellor presides over the executive branch of the Order.
- 44.2 The Grand Chancellor is responsible for the representation of the Order to third parties, the carrying out of policy and the internal administration of the Order, as well as the coordination of the activities of the Government of the Order between its different administrative bodies.
- 44.3 The Grand Chancellor on behalf of the Grand Knight oversees the Grand Priories of the Order.
- 44.4 The person of the Grand Chancellor must be a member of the clergy holding the rank of priest or higher.

#### Article Forty-Five – The Minister of Foreign Affairs

- 45.1 The Minister of Foreign Affairs serves as the international advisor to the Grand Knight.
- 45.2 The Minister of Foreign Affairs is responsible for overseeing the foreign policy and international relations of the Order as well as the Order's Consular Missions and Consular Representatives.
- 45.3 In addition to the above provisions, the Minister of Foreign Affairs shall strive to establish bilateral relations with countries, governments, and international organizations in which the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr has an interest in.

#### Article Forty-Six – The Minister of Humanitarian Aid

- 46.1 The Minister of Humanitarian Aid serves as the humanitarian advisor to the Grand Knight.
- 46.2 The Minister of Humanitarian is responsible for overseeing and administering the various charities run by the Order, ensuring that Christian principles of care and human dignity are always represented everywhere the Order is present.

#### Article Forty-Seven – The Minister of Finance

- 47.1 The Minister of Finance is the financial advisor to the Grand Knight and to the Sovereign Council and serves as the Order's Finance Secretary.
- 47.2 The Minister of Finance is responsible for and shall administer all finances, salaries, properties, and monetary accounts of the Grand Magistracy of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr in coordination with the Sovereign Council under the authority of the Grand Knight and under the surveillance of the Council of Auditors.
- 47.3 The Minister of Finance shall submit to the Grand Knight for his approval the acceptance of inheritances, bequests and donations, and the disposal per the vote of the Sovereign Council of subsequent reinvestment of any property or goods of the Order.
- 47.4 The movement of any financial or physical property assets of the Grand Magistracy of the Order needs to be voted upon by the Sovereign Council. Approval will be decided upon by simple majority.
- 47.5 The Minister of Finance is the counter-signatory, together with the Grand Knight for acts of disposal or assignment and contracts which involve the financial or physical property assets of the Grand Magistracy.

#### Article Forty-Eight – The Minister of Records

The Minister of Records is the Secretary of the Order and conducts all correspondence on behalf of the Grand Magistracy; keeps the minutes of the Sovereign Council; informs in a timely fashion the membership of the Order of any regular or extraordinary meetings; records and lists the names, addresses, and contact information of the Order's membership; and prepares annual reports and any other reports as needed.

## Article Forty-Nine – The Constitutional Council

- 49.1 The Constitutional Council is composed of six members of the Order directly appointed by the Grand Knight.
- 49.2 The members of the Constitutional Council elect from amongst their membership a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.
- 49.3 The Constitutional Council is responsible for the interpretation of this Constitution, as well as the regulations and statutes of the Order. As an independent body, it arbitrates in disputes between the different organs of the Order's Government, the Grand Priorities, and the members of the Order. Its conclusions are expressed in the form of recommendations which become binding once validated by the Grand Knight.
- 49.4 Any member of the Order regardless of rank or position may address the Constitutional Council directly in writing regarding a serious problem or dispute.

## Article Fifty – The Governing Council

- 50.1 The Governing Council is composed of the Priors of the Grand Priorities of the Order.
- 50.2 The members of the Governing Council elect from amongst their membership a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.
- 50.3 It is the job of the Governing Council to transmit to the Sovereign Council, via its Chairman, propositions and/or reports of difficulties, concerns or issues encountered in the Grand Priorities of the Order. It is also the responsibility of its Chairman to transmit back to the Council all appropriate information from the Sovereign Council that is necessary for the good functioning of each Grand Priory and its respective sub-jurisdictions.

## Article Fifty-One – The General Assembly

- 51.1 The General Assembly of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr represents the supreme assembly of knights of the Order. It meets no less than twice every year to discuss important issues of the Order such as: the current status of Orthodox Christians in the Holy Land, the Middle East, and the World; humanitarian issues facing Orthodox Christians; the humanitarian activities and programs of the Order; and the international relations of the Order with national governments and international organizations.
- 51.2 Any issue or concerns expressed may be formally submitted to the Sovereign Council for their deliberation and action.
- 51.3 The General Assembly is convened and presided over by the Grand Knight and shall be composed of a total of thirty individuals picked by the Grand Knight from each rank of knighthood.

#### Article Fifty-Two – The Council of Admissions

- 52.1 The Council of Admissions is the governmental body responsible for granting membership to those Orthodox Christians wishing to become members of the Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.
- 52.2 The Council is made up of six people of different ranks appointed directly by the Grand Knight.
- 52.3 In order for a person to become a member of the Order, the applicant will need to be approved by at least 4 members of the Council of Admissions.

#### Article Fifty-Three – The Council of Humanities

- 53.1 The Council of Humanities is the advisory board to the Sovereign Council in charge of studying political, religious, humanitarian, and international issues.
- 53.2 The Council shall be made up of six people of different ranks appointed directly by the Grand Knight.
- 53.3 The members of the Council elect from amongst their membership a Chairman and a Vice Chairman.

#### Article Fifty-Four – The Council of Auditors

- 54.1 The Council of Auditors is responsible in overseeing and auditing the income, expenditures, and all financial and physical property assets of the Grand Magistracy.
- 54.2 The Council of Auditors consist of a Chairman and at least two ordinary Councilors appointed by the Grand Knight upon the advice and guidance of the Sovereign Council, from amongst knights with particular expertise in legal, economic and/or financial disciplines.

#### Article Fifty-Five – The Media Office

- 55.1 The Media Office oversees the internal and external communication activities of the Order's Grand Magistracy and assists the Grand Knight in the development and implementation of communication programs.
- 55.2 It is composed of a Chief Executive Director and at least four Directors chosen by the Grand Knight, competent in various sectors of communication, management, public-relations, mass/social media.

#### Article Fifty-Six – The Office of the Chief of Protocol

- 56.1 The Office of the Chief of Protocol is an expert advisory, collegial body that advises the Grand Knight regarding the protocol, customs, traditions, and internal, non-legal matters of the Order.

56.2 It meets at the seat of the Order and is composed of the Chief of Protocol, a Vice Chief of Protocol, and five additional members. The members of the Office of the Chief of Protocol are appointed by the Grand Knight.

#### Article Fifty-Seven – The Office of Fundraising Strategy and Organizational Development

57.1 The Office of Fundraising Strategy and Organizational Development is responsible for procuring patrons, benefactors, and donors for the causes and expenditures of the Order. This office is additionally responsible for organizing and managing all social, volunteer, and community outreach activities of the Grand Magistry.

57.2 As a supporting body of the Sovereign Council, the Office of Fundraising Strategy and Organizational Development needs to work directly and in collaboration with the Office of the Minister of Finance, the Council of Auditors, the Office of the Chief of Protocol, and with the Media Office.

57.3 It is composed of a Chief Executive Director and at least four additional Directors who are appointed by the Grand Knight.

#### Article Fifty-Eight – The Office of the Advocate General

58.1 The Office of the Advocate General is the standing legal counsel of the Order, providing legal assistance to the Grand Magistry in all matters of public and international law. It is made up of independent members of the legal profession who are experts in various areas of jurisprudence.

58.2 It is composed of the Chief Counsel and at least two additional legal counsels who are appointed by the Grand Knight.

58.3 The Office of the Advocate General is, additionally, to assist on a case-by-case basis, those Orthodox Christians who are facing legal battles or lawsuits of a political or religious nature.

58.4 All Consular Missions, Consular Representatives, Priors of the Grand Priorities, and organizations of the Order should seek the advice and assistance of the Office of the Advocate General whenever necessary, especially in cases which involve complex legal issues.

#### Article Fifty-Nine – Consular Missions and Consular Representatives

59.1 The Order of Saint George the Great Martyr will seek to establish Consular Missions to help facilitate its relations with local Orthodox churches, national governments, peoples, and international organizations.

59.2 Consular Missions may only be established by means of a Sovereign Decree issued by the Grand Knight.

59.3 Consular Representatives head all Consular Missions.

~ PROMULGATION ~

This Constitution is hereby promulgated and shall come into immediate effect upon its approval by His Most Excellency the Grand Knight of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr.

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Konstantine Pandolfi  
Grand Knight of the Holy Orthodox Order of Saint George the Great Martyr

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

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Clerical witness

Date Witnessed: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_