

PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

GRAND YORK RITE BODIES OF FREEMASONRY OF GEORGIA

ADOPTED AUGUST 24, 2016

SECTION A – GENERAL

1. This program shall be known as “The York Rite Perpetual Membership” Program of the Grand York Rite Bodies of Freemasonry of Georgia. Hereafter referred to as “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP (YRPM)” PROGRAM.

2. The “YRPM Investment Committee” shall have control and management of the YRPM Investment Fund made available to the Investment Committee for investment, and shall have the authority to invest and reinvest the corpus of said funds only as permitted under the laws of the state of Georgia for executors and trustees, and in making investments and managing the corpus shall exercise the judgment and care that a prudent person would acting in a like capacity. These “Funds” shall be invested in stocks, bonds, government certificates, certificates of deposit and other such instruments as may be most expedient and advantageous.

3. The YRPM Program shall be supervised and managed by the YRPM Committee, which shall consist of no less than six (6) and no more than twelve (12) voting members and two (2) non-voting members. The first year, three members shall be appointed by each of the heads of the three Grand York Rite Bodies to serve as follows: One member from each Body to serve one year, one member to serve two years and one member to serve three years. and (3) three voting ex-officio members. The Grand High Priest, Grand Illustrious Master, and Grand Commander, shall serve as ex-officio -voting members and (2) two non-voting ex-officio members. The Grand Secretary/Recorder and Grand Treasurer(s) shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members. Thereafter, at each annual meeting of the Grand Body, one voting member shall be appointed to serve for a three-year term. The head of each body shall be able to remove any member appointed to represent their respective body on the committee and make any necessary appointment to fill the vacant position for the remainder of that term. No member shall serve as a voting member of this committee for more than ten years. The Chairman of this committee shall be elected annually, at the annual organizational meeting, by the voting members.

4. The Annual Organizational Meeting of the YRPM Committee shall be held each year, after the conclusion of the Annual meeting of the Last Grand Body, but not later than June 1st of each year.

At the Annual Organizational Meeting, the YRPM Committee shall elect from its voting members an Investment Committee consisting of three, one from each Body, which will manage the Committee activity and coordinate and communicate with the Grand Secretary/Recorder and Grand Treasurer. The Investment Committee will meet at least twice a year and be charged with investing the “funds” in accordance with the investment policy adopted, from time to time, by the YRPM Committee.

5. If the action “YRPM” Committee cannot be agreed upon by 2/3 majority, the action shall be presented for the approval of the membership at the next following meeting of each Grand Body.

6. The Investment Committee charged with the investment of these funds shall be bonded in an amount approved by the presiding Grand Officers to protect these Funds. “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL

MEMBERSHIP” will be audited by the Grand York Rite Audit Committees annually with the reports of those committees presented at each Annual Communication.

SECTION B – ELIGIBILITY

1. Any member, who is in good standing in any constituent Body within this Grand Jurisdiction, may become a participant in “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP” and receive a “Perpetual Membership Certificate” when paid full.
2. Any Sir Knight who is not a “Life Sponsor” in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation may NOT participate in the Commandery portion of “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP”. This requirement shall apply to any member participating in “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP”.

SECTION C – COST

1. The entire cost of the purchase of a “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP” will be a “Year Table” (See below Example) times the amount of the annual dues at the time of application for participation in “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP”. A new member’s “Year Table” starts at the date he becomes a member of constituent body (See Below Example of a New Member joining in 2017).

Current Member and New Members in 2016		New Members Joining in 2017	
Year	Times Dues	Year	Times Dues
2016	21	2017	21
2017	22	2018	22
2018	23	2019	23
2019	24	2020	24
2020	25	2021	25

2. A member can finance “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP” over a period of 3 years. But, must pay Annual Dues, as in effect annually, until the perpetual membership cost is paid in full. A minimum Down Payment of \$200 must be paid at the time per application.

3. Upon receipt of the application for “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP” by an individual member and payment or down payment of the proper amount, the Secretary/Recorder shall transmit to “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP” Committee Chairman the name of the applicant, member number and funds received. Upon approval of the application by the Committee Chairman, “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP” Committee Chairman shall deposit said monies received in “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP” Account. Upon approval of the Application, any funds received become non-refundable.

SECTION D – ADMINISTRATION

1. The administration of “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP” shall be vested in “THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP” Committee.

2. The Annual Statements of constituent bodies will receive a credit per Perpetual member per annum of amount equaling the amount as date of purchase.
3. Upon the holder of a Perpetual Membership Certificate transferring to another Constituent Body within this jurisdiction, "THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP" Committee Chairman shall upon notice thereof, transfer on the books of "THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP" the fees received for such Membership, regardless of by whom the cost of said Membership was paid, to the credit of the Constituent Body to whom the transfer was made. Provided that, if the dues of the affiliated Body are greater than the amount of payment from "THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP", the member may pay the difference annually or, he may pay "25" times the additional amount into "THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP" and thus receive a Perpetual Membership Certificate in the affiliated participating Body.
4. Upon the holder of the Perpetual Membership Certificate demitting from this Grand Jurisdiction to any other and taking a demit from his Body, then the fee for such membership shall remain to the credit of such Body in the future, or upon the death of said member the same shall hold true. No funds shall be transferred to another Grand Jurisdiction. If a Member shall demit and then return to this jurisdiction, he shall regain his former paid up status subject to the provisions of Section D, Paragraph 6.
5. When two or more Constituent Bodies consolidate, all monies in "THE YORK RITE PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP" shall be transferred to the credit of the surviving or consolidated Body.
6. Upon the dissolution of any Constituent Body, holders of Perpetual Membership Certificates shall have their perpetual membership transferred to the Constituent Body to which they have affiliated.
7. Holders of Perpetual Memberships are subject to all the laws, rules and regulations of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free and Accepted Masons, and the Grand Body and Constituent Body of which he is a member. Any loss of prerequisite membership by expulsion shall automatically abrogate his Perpetual Membership and any claim to any portion of any fees paid for such Perpetual Membership; but, the Constituent Body of which he was last a member shall continue to receive the income from such funds.
8. After approval of the "YRPM" Application, no refunds shall be made to any participating member for any reason, except under circumstances determined by the Grand Secretary/Recorder to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for perpetual membership as of the date of the application.
9. Any part of this document that is in conflict with the rules and regulations of any superior organization shall be void.