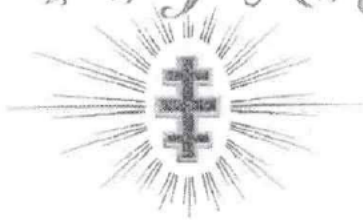


Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



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OFFICE OF
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MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER

Decision Nos. 1-3, Series 2021-2024

September 1, 2021

Background. The Committee on Templar Jurisprudence is charged to

consider all decisions upon questions of Templar Laws and usage reported by the Grand Master and such other matters as may be referred to it by him or the Grand Encampment [and] advise upon all questions of Templar Law [and] report upon all proposed amendments of the Constitution, Statutes, Regulations and Edicts.¹

Though the Committee are appointed at each Triennial Conclave by the newly installed Grand Master, in order to ensure their impartiality in the performance of their important duties, it is desirable that they enjoy a certain degree of independence. For this reason, the *Statutes* of the Grand Encampment presume that, once appointed, they "serve until the close of the next Triennial Conclave."²

Issue. Prior to the 68th Triennial Conclave, Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson, K.G.T., then Most Eminent Grand Master, being upset with the preliminary report of the Chairman of the Templar Jurisprudence Committee on two items of proposed legislation, berated the Chairman and removed him and another member of the Committee, replacing them with Sir Knights whose views, presumably, were more in concert with his own. Grand Master Nelson purported to remove and replace the Chairman and the other member, because, on account of illness, neither could be physically present in Minneapolis on the day and time appointed for the meeting of the Committee. That was mere pretext. The Chairman had already arranged for the Committee to meet at the appointed time by video teleconference and had circulated draft Reports to the Committee. His offer to furnish Grand Master Nelson the link to the video teleconference and the draft Reports was rejected out of hand, notwithstanding that such virtual meetings had been instituted by Grand Master Nelson, himself, from the inception of the COVID-19 contagion. Further, Grand Master Nelson and several of his officers insisted on participating in the

¹ *Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms And Approved Decisions Of The Grand Encampment Of Knights Templar Of The United States Of America, 2019 Edition*, Section 97

² *Ibid.*

Committee's deliberations and dictated the contents of the Committee's report concerning the proposed legislation. The Chairman had reported that two Proposals, Nos. 2021-22 and 2021-23, because they dealt with matters of Recognition, had to be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, as required by Section 99 of the *Statutes*, before they could be considered by the Grand Encampment.³ Grand Master Nelson overruled his determination. It was unseemly to remove members of the Committee on Templar Jurisprudence on the eve of the Triennial Conclave, who had served faithfully during the Triennium and who, had they been permitted, would have continued so to do, since, per Section 97 of the *Statutes*, it was expected that they would "serve until the close of the next Triennial Conclave."

Decision No. 1 Attendance at meetings of Committees shall be limited to Committee members, unless attendance by a nonmember is specifically requested by the Committee to facilitate its deliberations. Invitees, if any, shall confine their comments to those areas expressly requested by the Committee and will immediately depart the meeting when their comments are concluded. Only the Committee members will participate in deliberations and preparation of Reports.

Decision No. 2 Proposals for recognition, foreign or domestic, and any related negotiations must be referred to, and include, the Committee on Foreign Relations who, per Section 99 of the *Statutes*, are charged to report upon and make recommendations concerning "all matters of interest connected with ... Bodies of Knight Templar [and] consider and report upon such correspondence as may be had between this Grand Encampment and any foreign body of Knights Templar."

Decision No. 3 Personal attacks, interference with the membership of Committees, meddling in their deliberations, and refusal to observe the dictates of the *Constitution* and *Statutes* are clear violations of an officer's vow of office and constitute unknighly conduct. Officers and other Sir Knights who countenance or are complicit in such actions or defaults also bear culpability.

Decision No. 4, Series 2021-2024

September 1, 2021

Background. At the 68th Triennial Conclave, during a business session, literature authored by the Great Priory of America was placed in the Asylum on tables which were intended for official reports of the Grand Encampment and its Officers and Committees.

Issue. The literature prepared by the Great Priory presented a position advocated by the Great Priory to influence the deliberations of the Grand Encampment on pending legislation. Placing literature in the Asylum alongside the official reports and other documents of the Grand Encampment had the possibility of being misconstrued as an endorsement by the Grand Encampment of the positions promoted by the Great Priory.

³ *Ibid.*, Section 99

Decision. The sanctity of the Asylum must be respected. During any Conclave of the Grand Encampment, no literature or other materials concerning legislation, elections or otherwise intended to influence the Voting Delegates may be distributed or made available within the Asylum or within one hundred feet (100') thereof, except official reports of the Grand Officers, auditors or Committees of the Grand Encampment.

NOTICE

September 1, 2021

Please be advised that Koon Decision No. 2 dated May 24, 2010 and approved on August 13, 2012 remains Templar Law.

The Great Priory of America CBCS (Chevaliers Bienfaisants de la Cite Sainte) is an unrecognized Templar Order operating within the United States of America, in direct conflict with Section 3 of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America. Accordingly, membership in the Great Priory of America CBCS is incompatible with membership in the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of American and any Grand, Constituent, or Subordinate Commandery under its jurisdiction or owing allegiance to the same.

⚔ *Michael B Johnson*

Michael Burke Johnson, GCT
Most Eminent Grand Master