

Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters

*GM William O. Jones
President
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge of Alabama*



*GM Benjamin Hooks
Vice President
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge Tennessee*

06 May 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: Conference of Grand Masters in North America

THRU: Commission on Information for Recognition

We, the below signed Grand Masters for Prince Hall Grand Lodges in North America, Canada, and the Caribbean, in an effort to establish fellowship, true brotherly love and those things that bond Masons universally around the world present the following request and recommendations for consideration.

The standards of Recognition are summarized as follows:

1. Legitimacy of Origin
2. Exclusive Territorial Jurisdiction; except by mutual consent and/or treaty.
3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks – specifically, a Belief in God, the Volume of Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion.

1. Legitimacy or Origin.

Through many years of research and discussion, it has been established that Prince Hall Freemasonry is regular in its form and practices. Prince Hall Masonry was started 20 September 1784 when Prince Hall received a charter for African Lodge #459 from the Grand Lodge of England signed By Thomas Hall, Earl of Effingham, Acting Grand Master. There are now 40 Grand Lodges in the U.S. that recognizes Prince Hall Masonry as being regular and just.

2. Exclusive Territorial Jurisdiction except mutual consent and/or treaty.

- a. The Commission on Information for Recognition stated in its 1975 report to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America that:

"There can be no question about Exclusive Jurisdiction. It is a basic principle that a Grand Lodge must be autonomous and have sole and undisputed authority over its constituent Lodges. This cannot be shared with any other Masonic council or power.

- b. There are no Prince Hall Grand Lodges that share their authority over their constituent Lodges with any other Masonic council or power.

3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks.

- a. All Prince Hall Grand Lodges adhere to the Ancient Landmark, as well as require all members of said Prince Hall Grand Lodges to believe in a Supreme Being as well as take their oath with hand(s) resting on a Volume of Sacred Law in open lodge.

- b. All Lodges under the Jurisdiction of Prince Hall Grand Lodges display the Volume of Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge, they also prohibit the discussion of politics and religion during Lodge meeting.

Adhering to the standards of Recognition established by the Commission on information for Recognition under the banner of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, we the members of the Conference of Grand Masters for Prince Hall Masons issue the following request.

1. That all Prince Hall Grand Lodges be declared regular by the Conference of Grand Masters of North America.
2. That the policy of Exclusive Territorial Jurisdiction be clearly defined so that universal Masonry can prevail while keeping the Brotherhood of Man through the Fatherhood of God; a viable cause for Freemasonry as a whole.

We further request that if the (2) recommendations listed above do not receive a favorable vote that they be put to the body again and voted on separately.

Fraternally yours,

William O. Jones

President

Prince Hall Conference of Grand Maste

Attested by

Secretary

Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters

Cc: All Grand Masters and Secretaries of
Prince Hall Jurisdictions

Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters

Hon. William O. Jones
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of Alabama
and Jurisdiction

Hon. James L. Adams
Grand Master
The Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM Alaska and
Jurisdiction

Hon. L. Bruce Miller
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM Arizona and
Jurisdiction

Hon. Cleveland K. Wilson
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM, Inc.,
Jurisdiction of Arkansas

Hon. Herby Price Jr.
Grand Master
The Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge, F&AM, Inc. of
California

Preston L. Copper
Grand Master
The Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge, F&AM, Inc. of
Bahamas

Hon. Floyd E. Bagwell, Jr.
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of
Connecticut, Inc.

Hon. Solomon L. Henry
Grand Master
The Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of
Delaware, Inc.

Hon. Robert E. Wheeler
Grand Master
The Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge, F&AM Jurisdiction
District of Columbia Inc.

Hon. Michael R. Moore
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Union Grand
Lodge F&HA Florida &
Belize, Central America
Jurisdiction Inc.

Hon. Willie L. Williams
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM Jurisdiction
of Georgia Inc.

Hon. Ervin Hendrix Jr.
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of Hawaii
and Its Jurisdiction, Inc.

Hon. Jerry Butler
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F & A.M. State Of
Illinois and Jurisdiction

Hon. James Hill
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM Jurisdiction
of Indiana

Hon. Gary L. Morrow
Grand Master
M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge
F. & A. M. of Kansas and its
Jurisdiction

Hon. Pink J. Garner
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of
Kentucky, Inc.

Hon. Ralph Slaughter
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM for the State
of Louisiana and Jurisdiction

Hon. Shelton D. Redden
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F.&A.M. State of
Maryland and Jurisdiction

Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters

Hon. Napoleon Burton, Jr.
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM Jurisdiction
of Massachusetts

Hon. Arthur L. Turner, Jr.
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM Jurisdiction
of Michigan

Hon. James M. Chrisley
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge of Minnesota and
Jurisdiction

Maurice Lucas, Sr.
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Stringer Grand
Lodge F&AM (PHA) Jurisdiction
of Mississippi

Hon. Rodney S. Terry
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of
Missouri and Jurisdiction

Hon. Ivory Bobb
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of Nebraska
and Its Jurisdiction

Hon. Tyrone C. Freeman
Grand Master
The Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge, F&AM, of Nevada,
Inc

Hon. Thomas P. Caldwell
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM State of
New Jersey

Hon. Jessie James
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of the State
of New Mexico, Inc.

Hon. Calvin Martin
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of the State
of New York

Hon. Milton F. Fitch Jr.
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge of F&AM of North
Carolina and Jurisdictions, Inc.

Hon. Gregory S. Snead
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of Ohio

Hon. Deary Vaughn
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM Jurisdiction
of Oklahoma

Hon. Hilliard L. Blanchard, Jr.
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of Oregon,
Inc

Hon. Earl C. Abrams Sr.
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of
Pennsylvania

Hon. William T. White
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of the State
of Rhode Island

Hon. Alonzo Haynes
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge of F&AM of the
State of South Carolina

Hon. Benjamin Hooks
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of
Tennessee

Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters

Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of Texas

Hon. Kenneth Hill
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of Virginia,
Inc.

Hon. Wendell O. Hutchings
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM
Washington and Jurisdiction

Hon. Paul Mitchell
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of West
Virginia, Inc.

Hon. James E. Davis
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of
Wisconsin, Inc

Hon. Joseph Halstead
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM Province of
Ontario and Jurisdiction

Hon. Dennis M. Clarke
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of the
Caribbean and Jurisdiction

Hon. James Sauls
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of Colorado

Hon. Carlyle Ross
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F&AM of Alberta,
Canada