

M.W. Bro. James Jessop, Grand Master, Officers and Members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Province of Ontario and Jurisdiction:

As Deputy Grand Master, it is my honour and privilege to bring you most sincere and warmest fraternal greetings and salutations from M.W. Bro. Allan J. Petrisor, Grand Master, and the Members of the Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

In the annals of Freemasonry in Ontario this occasion will mark an historic milestone in the history of our two Grand Lodges – the first time that our Grand East has been officially invited to be received by your Prince Hall Grand Lodge meeting in Annual Communication.

As Brothers we have always been equals in the Universal Brotherhood of Man. There is only one race, and that is the human race, and we are all ‘sons of Adam.’ We may now give thanks to the Great Architect for the divine plan that has brought us closer to the visionary ideal expressed in words attributed to your first Grand Master, Prince Hall: “*To see the day of Jubilee, when men would see men as Friends and treat them as Brothers.*”

It has been said that Masons move slowly in order to ensure that all things are done decently and in order. The final step in according formal Recognition has been a long time coming. It was achieved through the vision, patient perseverance and skilful negotiations of many good men in both our Grand Lodges. Among these in our Grand Lodge, credit must be given to the late M.W. Bro. Norman E. Byrne, Grand Master 1991-1992,

who initiated informal talks; M.W. Bro. Donald H. Mumby, Grand Master 2003-2004, who at our Annual Communication in 2005, authorized '*full right of reciprocal visitation with Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons*'; M.W. Bro. Gary L. Atkinson, Grand Master 2005-2006, who appointed an ad hoc committee to negotiate the constitutional terms under which Recognition could be accorded, and, above all, the members of that committee – R.W. Bro. George E. Hinds, PDDGM and Member of the Board of General Purposes and R.W. Bro. Errol A. Stewart together with M.W. Bro. Mumby. To these men, acting as the dictates of right reason prompted them, we must be forever grateful.

The amendment to the Constitution of our Grand Lodge was read and approved by the Board of General Purposes for presentation to Grand Lodge, where it was included as 'Regular' in the Report of the Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence presented on Wednesday, 16 July 2008 and passed by unanimous vote of the delegates, on Thursday, 17 July 2008. When M.W. Bro. Petrisor announced the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment, he was accorded a spontaneous standing ovation and prolonged applause by all present.

This was accomplished because it was done for the right reason – because it was the right thing to do.

A milestone is a marker; it is not a stopping place. Two convoys of the great caravan of Freemasonry now move forward in parallel columns, united in a common cause, the great work of serving humanity, striving to

make this world a better place, as the old hymn puts it: “You in your small corner and I in mine.”

In conclusion, I quote the lines of John Greenleaf Whittier – may it be our Credo as men and as Masons.



*brother man, fold to thyself thy brother!*

*Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;*

*To worship rightly is to love each other,*

*Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.*

*Follow with reverent steps the great example*

*Of Him whose holy work was doing good;*

*So shall the wide earth seem our Father’s temple,*

*Each living life a psalm of gratitude.*

John Greenleaf Whittier

So mote it be.

-RSJD

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Constitution – Section 4 (b)

Any other provision of this code to the contrary notwithstanding, the Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario recognizes the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. and A.M., Province of Ontario (and Jurisdiction) and will consider recognizing more than one Grand Lodge in another jurisdiction if the mainstream Grand Lodge in that jurisdiction “chooses to waive its right to maintain exclusive jurisdiction and to permit concurrent jurisdiction.”