Good Evening Brethren,

My holiday to-do list tied into “Is this all that we do?”

In my last speech I talked about how Masonry is a global organization and how membership matters. Tonight, I want to talk about why what we do matters. I heard something when we did the Brother to Brother work at Landmarks / Doric in October that I want to address. One of the newer brothers stood up during the Q&A and asked “Is this all that we do?” That struck home to me, because when I was an Inner Guard, I asked the same question, I started to wonder is this all that we do. But then a Past Master took the time to sit down with me, mentored me along my journey and explained the context of the Work, and why the Work that we do matters.

Think of this Brethren, when the work is done well, we get energized. Those words have meaning. They have lasted over 150 years. The words of the Work, unite everybody in this room and in this province. Yes people make mistakes, yes that is okay because we are a volunteer organization. But Bad Work is not acceptable**.**

**Do the work well!** When you do the work well, you put energy into the room, you make the candidate feel good, you make your lodge feel good, and you make yourself feel good.

Eastern Philosophy which spread its benign influence to us from the East says.” **Be Present”** The first thing we need to do for ourselves and for each other, is to **be present** and **to Live in the now**, the internet will distract us, but every time we come together in Lodge we close the door, and we are present. When you have Work to do today, you are not worried about tomorrow, you are worried about the doing the work and worried about doing it well.

When we come together in Lodge and we focus on the work and the candidate we are present; Present for each other, Present in our hearts and Present with Faith.

The Second thing you need to do. Wrap someone in a warm hug of friendship. Greet them with Brotherly love, give them a handshake, be warm to them. If there is someone in this room tonight that you do not know, go up to them and shake their hand, and introduce yourself. Greet them and make them welcome.

R.W. Bro. Mike Elliot is present tonight, he and I met at a Temple Lodge reunion 15 or 20 years ago. I remember getting out of a cab at a reunion in Ottawa, “There were the Oshawa boys.” They greeted my wife and I with warmth and friendship, a hug and a handshake and we have been friends ever since. To recap, our second to-do on the list: honour each other and greet each other with warmth.

Our third thing to-do, **Send Peace**, we come together in harmony, we maintain that harmony/ Let us practice outside the lodge those dictates that happen inside the lodge Let us live in peace with each other, with our brothers and with our neighbours.

Fourth, **Practice charity,** donate food and your time. “Is this all that we do?” In this District I know of 2 occasions this year where the board of relief have donated money to families in need. I know Grand Lodge through the Masonic Board of Relief, distributes bursaries and donations across the province, and I know my lodge, and this lodge, are helping people out quietly and without fanfare. So one of the things we do is lend a hand when it is most needed. Quietly and without publicity.

Number five to-do: **be brothers to each other**, Let us show love to each other, it is okay to be warm to each other. The energy, warmth and support I have received from all of the brethren of the district has been inspiring and overwhelming, and I appreciate it every time.

Lastly, **Be the Light**, Each of you my Brothers is the light. Practice what we do with energy and enthusiasm. Seeing the Work done well and the new candidate openly embracing everything we do is gratifying.

Represent to each other what we do. Everyone in this room, should stand and be the light for each other.

It is all that we do…Good Work, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth,