

CHAPTER 42

LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION (U.D. LODGES)

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Constitutional Provisions

The Grand Lodge has the power to constitute new Lodges, and grant Charters or Warrants of Constitution for the same, and has the supervision and approval of the By-Laws of the Particular Lodges, and therefore may adopt a Uniform Code of By-Laws for their government; *provided*, that local Regulations for the benefit of the Craft be not interfered with. (Art. V, Sec. 4)

The Grand Lodge is clothed with the power of constituting new Lodges upon the Petition of not less than twenty (20) Master Masons. But no Dispensation nor Charter shall be issued to a Lodge except upon written consent of the Lodge nearest the place where the new Lodge is to be located and Certificate of the Committee on Work or its duly authorized representative that the Officers and membership of the new Lodge are qualified and capable of conferring the Degrees of Freemasonry.

In the event that two or more Lodges meet at the place nearest the location of the new Lodge, the consent of any one of such Lodges shall be sufficient. (Art. VII, Sec. 1)

In the recess of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master has authority to grant Dispensations for new Lodges until the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, when due returns of the work, with a copy of their proposed By-Laws for examination, shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge, when a Charter may be granted. But until a Charter is granted, the petitioners for the Dispensation continue their membership in their respective Lodges. (Art. VII, Sec. 2)

The fee for a Charter, or Warrant of Constitution for a new Lodge, shall be fifty dollars, to be paid at time of delivery, and five dollars to be paid as a fee to the Grand Secretary. For Dispensation, a fee of five dollars shall be paid to the Grand Secretary for his services, but no fee for the Dispensation. (Art. VIII, Sec. 1)

PETITION

Regulations

42.01 Dispensation shall not issue for a new Lodge unless petition for Dispensation is signed by twenty (20) or more Master Masons.

References

The Master of a Chartered Lodge cannot be a petitioner for U.D. Lodge. Reg. 19.18

Rulings and Decisions

Plural Members of a Particular Lodge U.D. may sign the Charter of said Lodge U.D. without forfeiting their membership in their Home Lodge. (2005 Proc. 115)

OTHER LODGES CONSENT

References

See Art. VII, Sec. 1 above.

Regulations

42.02 A new Lodge will not be established within the jurisdiction of a Chartered Lodge against its consent (Constitution, Article VII, Section 1), but the Grand Lodge may recommend a favorable consideration of the subject.

CHARTER

Regulations

42.03 All Charters granted to U.D. Lodges shall be deposited with the Grand Secretary, and held by him subject to the order of the Grand Master, to be delivered to the Lodge by the constituting Officer at the time the Lodge is constituted and the Officers duly installed.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Regulations

42.04 The Master of a Lodge Under Dispensation shall be a Past Master of a Florida Lodge, however, the Grand Master may waive this Regulation in his discretion. (1984)

MASONIC DISTRICT

Regulations

42.05 When Charters are granted U.D. Lodges it is the Grand Master's responsibility to assign them to the proper Masonic District.

OPENING AND SETTING TO WORK

Regulations

42.06 When a Lodge under Dispensation is to be set to work, a Communication shall be called for the purpose by the designated Master. The Grand Master, or his duly authorized representative, shall preside and open the Lodge. The Dispensation shall be read and ordered recorded in full in the minutes, and the Lodge instructed in regard to its powers and duties. The Officers appointed shall not be installed, but shall be placed in charge of the Lodge, and the Dispensation, a copy of the Constitution and the Laws of this Grand Lodge, and a copy of the Monitor, shall be delivered to the Master.

POWERS OF GRAND MASTER**Regulations**

42.07 Lodge under Dispensation is a creature of the Grand Master by virtue of a Constitutional provision (Article VII, Section 2). It possesses no power or authority, except such as is expressly stated in Dispensation. Its existence extends only to the first day of the month in which the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge will be held, to which its authority, records, and documents must be surrendered.

If no Charter is applied for, and it is desired by the members of the late U.D. Lodge to continue its Dispensation, petition for same must be presented to the Grand Master after the close of Grand Lodge, as petitions for the U.D. Lodges must be made to the Grand Master in recess, and not to the Grand Lodge while in session. None but members of Florida Lodges in good standing, dual members in good standing, and dimitted Masons, in or out of Florida, are eligible to sign petition for a Lodge U.D. and then only if dimits of dimitted Masons, and receipts for current year's dues of members of Florida Lodges, are filed with the Grand Secretary, along with the petition.

If a Charter is granted to a U.D. Lodge, the Grand Secretary shall transmit with the Charter a true and correct copy of all dimits filed in his office with the petition for the U.D. Lodge and the Charter.

U.D. Lodges cannot affiliate members, but the Grand Master may add qualified members at any time by unanimous request of the U.D. Lodge expressed by unanimous ball ballot at a Stated Communication. It is also his prerogative to remove any member or members, or to revoke the Dispensation.

JURISDICTION AND POWERS**Regulations**

42.08 A Lodge U.D. cannot entertain charges against any of its members, nor try them for Masonic offenses. A Lodge U.D. is a creature of the Grand Master, who can add to or strike members from its roll at his discretion.

42.09 A Lodge under Dispensation cannot legislate except to arrange for its meetings and fees for Degrees, but Brethren receiving the M.M. Degree therein are members thereof. It cannot elect Officers, make By-Laws, affiliate members, grant dimits, or install its Officers. Nor is the Worshipful Master designated in the Dispensation entitled, at any time, to the title or Degree of "Past Master."

A Lodge, therefore, cannot make By-Laws for its government while working under Dispensation, but under the provisions of Article VII, Section 2 of the Constitution, a Lodge U.D., when petitioning for a Charter, is required to submit to the Grand Lodge, for its examination, a copy of proposed By-Laws for its government as a new Lodge, to be regularly adopted by the new Lodge, if and when, it is Chartered, constituted, and its Officers duly installed.

42.10 Lodges U.D. have the same right of jurisdiction as Chartered Lodges. Non-Masons living within its jurisdiction must petition the U.D. Lodges, but the U.D. Lodge does not acquire jurisdiction over a non-Mason who had previously petitioned a more distant Lodge.

42.11 Lodges under Dispensation are subject to the same Regulations as Chartered Lodges, as to balloting for candidates and the time which must elapse between the Degrees.

Rulings and Decisions

- (b) U.D. Lodge does not have authority to collect affiliation fee.
- (c) U.D. Lodge has no authority to issue receipts for dues to members.
- (d) U.D. Lodge does not have authority to refuse paid up member in good standing the privilege of signing petition for Charter.
- (e) There is no provision for use of petitions for affiliation by U.D. Lodge. The proper procedure is for Lodge by unanimous vote to request Grand Master to add to roll of members. (1959 Proc. 59-60, 164)

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Regulations

42.12 Membership in a U.D. Lodge in no way affects the membership of a member of a Chartered Lodge.

42.13 All Brethren who are members of a Lodge U.D. when a Charter is granted may become members of the newly Chartered Lodge by signing the petition for Charter, but this is not compulsory, and those members of Chartered Lodges who do not sign the petition for Charter retain their membership in their respective Lodges, unaffected. A Master Mason, raised in a U.D. Lodge, becomes a Charter member automatically, if and when Charter is granted, and does not have to sign petition for Charter. Newly Chartered Lodges are authorized to complete Degree work begun while they were U.D. Dimitted members of a Lodge U.D. may sign petition for Charter and become Charter members of the new Lodge. If they fail to sign the petition for Charter, their dimits are returned to them.

42.14 If Charter is granted, petitioners for a new Lodge, their relation with their former Lodge or Lodges is automatically terminated. Care should therefore be observed that no petitioner for the new Lodge Charter is under charges.

42.15 If for any reason a Dispensation is not renewed or a Charter granted, all Brethren who may have received Degrees in such Lodge under Dispensation shall be provided by the Grand Secretary with Certificates stating the fact, and such Brethren as may have received all the Degrees shall thereafter have the status of unaffiliated Masons. Any one who has not received all the Degrees may petition any Lodge in whose jurisdiction he resides upon said Certificate for the remaining Degrees, and upon election thereto and upon receiving the Master Mason Degree shall become a member of such Lodge.

42.16 Members of a Lodge U.D. shall not be required to pay the current year's dues to their old Lodge when signing the application for Charter and if such dues have been paid to their Lodge, or Lodges, then if a Charter be granted to such Lodge U.D., any amount paid as dues by members of such Lodge U.D. to their former Lodge or Lodges shall be promptly paid over by such former Lodge or Lodges to the newly Chartered Lodge, and such members shall be accounted for only by the new Lodge. (See Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 2)

RECORDS

Regulations

42.17 A Lodge U.D. must keep a complete record of its proceedings. Such record should exhibit a fair specimen of that intelligence and regularity of proceedings which are characteristic of well-governed Masonic Lodges. From that record and its evidence of fraternal prosperity, the Grand Lodge is to judge whether or not a Charter should be granted.

42.18 The instruction booklet, "How to Form and Set a U.D. Lodge to Work," adopted at the 134th Annual Communication, with such revisions adopted by this Grand Lodge from time to time, is the official publication for guidance in forming a new Lodge. (1985)

Rulings and Decisions

Section 2 of Article VIII of the Constitution requires Lodge receiving dues for year in which new Lodge was Chartered to remit to the newly Chartered Lodge all current dues collected by it from members who became members of new Lodge. (1967 Proc. 74, 210)