



The Grand York Rite of Freemasonry of South Carolina

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To: High Priest, Illustrious Masters, Commanders and Secretary / Recorders

Companions and Sir Knights, we pray that this letter finds you and your family healthy and well.

Most of you have seen or heard of the Grand Master's Order dated August 24, 2020 announcing the Phase One: Re-Opening of Subordinate Masonic Lodges and Appendant Masonic Organization in the Grand Jurisdiction of South Carolina.

As we are aware the COVID-19 virus has not fully run its course. There is a clear and present danger that infection and death rates could spike higher and anytime. This is especially true as schools and colleges across South Carolina re-open. We have also seen the spikes after major Holidays of which we will be celebrating Labor Day soon. The average age of York Rite members is 68.4 years of age and many of our older members are in high risk categories.

As all York Rite Bodies meet in Subordinate Lodges, we need to give those Lodges an opportunity to re-open and comply with Phase One requirements without the added pressure from York Rite meetings. As of this date we do not know if all the Lodges we use for York Rite meetings have decided to re-open.

By order of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment USA all In-Person meetings are prohibited in the USA.

It is our order that all Chapters, Councils and Commanderies in the Grand Jurisdiction of South Carolina DO NOT OPEN in September.

We will revisit the situation in September and decide about October.

Let us all stay safe and stay healthy.

Ricky Freeman

Ricky Freeman
Grand High Priest

Ronnie Richards

Ronnie Richards
Illustrious Grand Master

Mike Kirk

Mike Kirk
Grand Commander