

TENNESSEE SUPPLEMENT

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REMINDER OF SCHEDULED GRAND YORK RITE SESSIONS



Grand Chapter, Council, and Commandery of Tennessee have been rescheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 8:00 am.

There will be a divine service at 5:00 pm on Friday, June 5, 2020 and the York Rite banquet will follow at 6:00 pm with business as usual for the banquet.

Grand Chapter will open at 8:00 am and will complete all business, elect officers and then close. This will be followed by the Grand Council in the same manner.

Following the installation of Grand Council officers, the Grand Commandery will open, complete all business, elect officers and close, and conduct installation of Offices.

Ancillary bodies will meet as well; no degree work will be done. Candidates for 2020 will receive their degrees at a later date.

No further details have been decided at this time and those attending will be responsible for their own travel arrangements and accommodations.

Please note that the Grand York Rite Session is subject to change due to State and Local Guidelines or other consideration. At the time of this publication there has been no cancellation of the Grand York Rite Sessions, however you should consult your Recorder or the Grand York Rite office or website before making arrangements.

SOUTHEASTERN YORK RITE CONFERENCE CANCELED

The Southeastern York Rite Conference scheduled for June 12-13 has been canceled. The host hotel has or soon will be canceling reservations for those who had planned to attend.

FEAR, DESPAIR, AND HOPE

Freemasonry can be viewed as an allegory of a journey or quest. This is illustrated in our ritual, and several of the higher degrees build directly on this concept. This journey represents our life and all the tasks and challenges we encounter. Three lessons are illustrated regarding this quest, and how we approach it.

The first lesson presented is that we are all subject to fear. In every new phase or aspect of life there is a certain element of fear. We fear failure along with ridicule or rejection; sometimes we even fear success itself. We might think that success will present greater challenges than we are able to deal with, and we fear to take on that responsibility. Nothing in life is without risk. If, however, we give in to fear, we allow ourselves to be defeated.

The next lesson is that of despair. Often in life, at the beginning of a task we are ready to withstand any difficulty. But, as time passes, enthusiasm wanes. After some time without success, we may begin to lose sight of a goal or see the it as pointless. We are willing to give up, to admit defeat. We may come to believe we are closer to the beginning than the end of the journey, and be ready to acknowledge failure. The word despair literally means “without hope.” Despair differs from fear; fear realizes there will be an outcome, albeit unpleasant. Despair loses sight of the goal – it goes no further because it sees no reason to do so.

There is another alternative, though. That is encouragement, which has hope. Encouragement presses on to the end. It is ready to do whatever is necessary, ready even to accept the consequences of failure because we have done our best. Encouragement sees failure as a possibility, but never sees fear as an option. Even in the face of failure, encouragement always has Hope.

Masonry incorporates within its ritual and teachings, the allegory of the human soul. It illustrates that life is a journey. Along that journey, we meet with trials, difficulties, and dangers; but, if we have faith in the One who stands ready to walk with us, we need never fear or despair. He is always able to encourage us and give us strength to finish what we have begun, and lead us through the darkness of uncertainty into the bright sunshine of hope.