

VOLUME XXVIII

FALL 2021

ISSUE 1



# THE BYZANTIUM

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL · RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE



THE GRAND SOVEREIGN  
D. ALLEN SURRATT, KGC

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL

D. Allen Surratt, KGC,  
Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign

Marcos D. Ostrander,  
Most Eminent Grand Viceroy

Richard V. Travis, KCC,  
Very Illustrious Grand Senior General

David D. Goodwin,  
Very Illustrious Grand Junior General

Joe R. Manning, Jr., KGC, KCC,  
Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer

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Illustrious Grand Chancellor

Brian R. Dodson,  
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Gordon A. Davids, KCC,  
Illustrious Assistant Grand Recorder

W. Berry Rigdon,  
Illustrious Grand Chamberlain

Robert J. Bean, Sr.,  
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Russell E. Bridges,  
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Illustrious Grand Marshal

Wade E. Sheeler,  
Illustrious Grand Herald

Lloyd F. Christopher, KCC,  
Illustrious Grand Sentinel

Rev. Dr. W. Kenneth Lyons, Jr.,  
Illustrious Grand High Prelate

David C. Ladd,  
Illustrious Grand Chaplain

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# *Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign Dolan Allen Surratt, KGC*

**Born:** Pinehurst, North Carolina on September 19, 1954.

**Family:** Married Pam Childress, one son Brian.

**Education:** University of North Carolina at Charlotte—BA Business Administration, BA Political Science (1976).

**Profession:** Retired June 1, 2005 from the North Carolina Department of Insurance with 30 years of service as a Criminal Insurance Fraud Investigator.

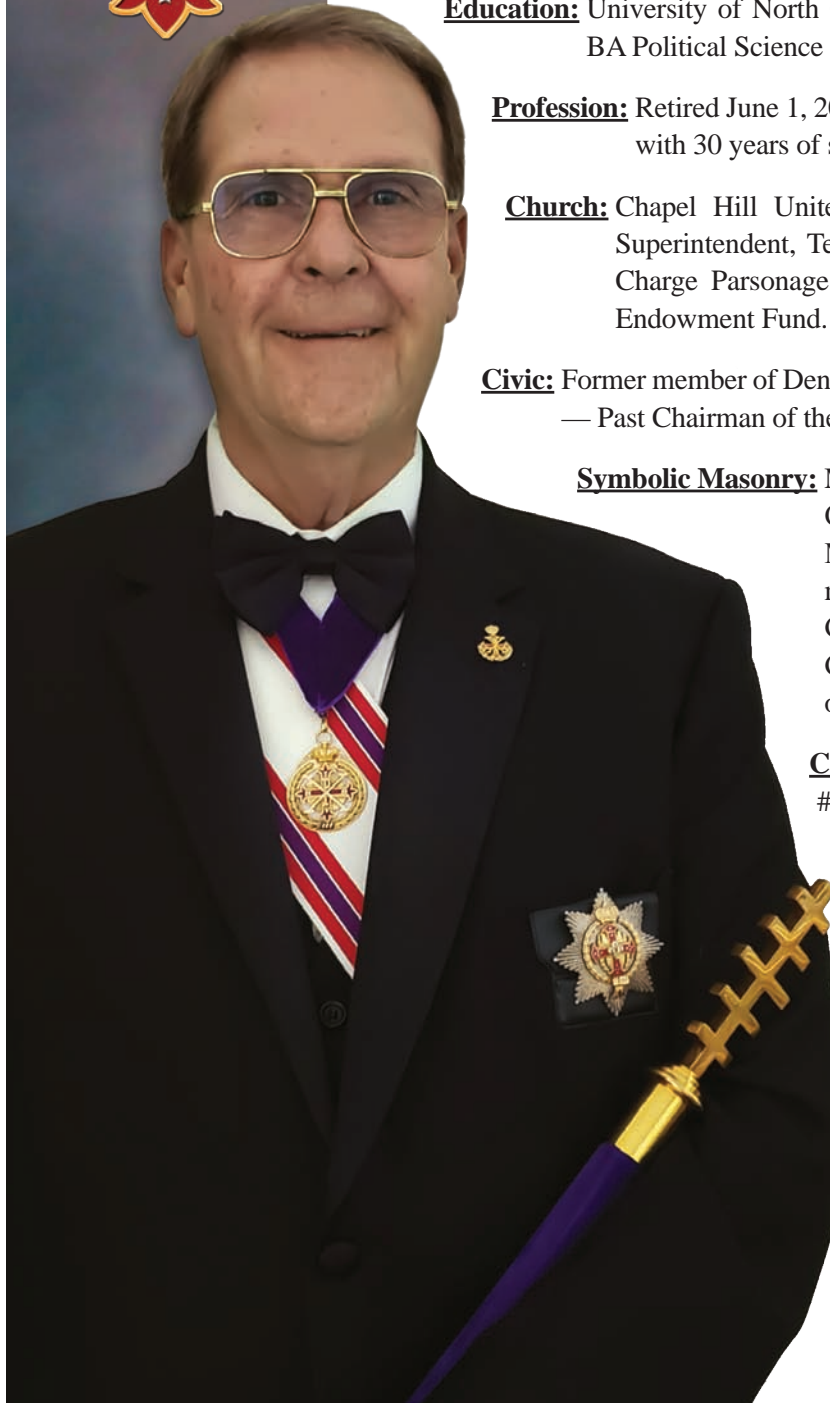
**Church:** Chapel Hill United Methodist Church - Served as Sunday School Superintendent, Teacher, Chairman of the Administrative Council and Charge Parsonage Committee. Presently Chairman of the Cemetery Endowment Fund.

**Civic:** Former member of Denton Lions Club — Cub Lion of the year. 2005 to 2007 — Past Chairman of the Randolph County Democrat Party.

**Symbolic Masonry:** Made a Master Mason in 1976, Master in 1981, Certified Lecturer in 1983, Past District Deputy Grand Master, Past District Deputy Grand Lecturer, Life member of Denton Lodge # 404 AF & AM, various Grand Lodge Committees. Past Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina. Joseph Montfort Award.

**Capitular Masonry:** Life member of Salisbury Chapter # 20 RAM, Past High Priest, Past District High Priest - District # 7, Certified Lecturer, Past District Capitular Lecturer - District # 7, Past President of the Order of High Priesthood, Founding member and Past High Priest of Mt. Ararat Royal Arch Research Chapter # 3, Grand Representative to the Grand Chapter of Tennessee, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of North Carolina.

**Cryptic Masonry:** Life member of Adoniram Council # 2 R & SM - Past Illustrious Master, Certified Lecturer, Past District Illustrious Master - District # 7, Past District Lecturer - District # 7, Past Thrice Illustrious Master, Super Excellent Master, Past Illustrious Master of Roanoke Research Council # 1, Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of



The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in North Carolina, Grand Representative to the Grand Council of South Dakota, Past General Grand Council Ambassador to North Carolina, Served as Deputy General Grand Master Southeast Region (1995 — 1996), Triennial Chairman for General Grand Council (1993 — 1996), General Grand Steward (1996 — 1999), Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters in North Carolina.

**Chivalric Masonry:** Life member of Salisbury Commandery # 13 KT, Past Commander, Past District Commander - District # 7, Knight Crusaders of the Cross - Past Knight Crusader of the East, Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor of Virginia, Sovereign Grand Preceptors Council — Past Preceptor, Life Sponsor Eye Foundation, Knight Commander of the Temple, Knight Templar Cross of Honor, Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Carolina.

**York Rite College:** Western North Carolina York Rite College # 78 — Past Governor, Order of the Purple Cross, Past Grand Governor, Herald General (1998-2000), Marshal General (2002-2004), Board of Directors York Rite Sovereign College of North America (2002 to present), Secretary General (2006 to present), Knight Commander of the Purple Cross (2007), Knight Grand Cross of York (2016).

**KYCH:** Lily of the Valley Priory # 1 — Past Prior, Knights of the York, Grand Cross of Honour, One quadrant, Personal Representative District # 6 (2002 to 2005), serving as Grand Master-General (2010 — 2011), Knight Grand Cross (2010), Grand Register General (2011 to present).

**Knight Masons:** St. Patrick's in America Council # 1 — Past Excellent Chief. Past Great Chief of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the United States of America (2017).

**HRAKTP:** Mount of the Holy Cross Tabernacle # 1 HRAKTP — Past Preceptor, Grand College of America Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest – Grand II PILLAR (2021).

**MSRCF:** N. C. College S.R.I.C.F., IX°, Celebrant.

**S.R.I.A.:** Honorary IX°.

**Red Cross:** St. Titus Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine - Past Sovereign, Member of UGIC Time and Place Committee, Intendant General for North Carolina (2013 to 2015), Grand Sovereign (2021-2022), United Grand Imperial Council Red Cross of Constantine.

**AMD:** Mecca Council # 76 AMD - Past Sovereign, Life member. Past President of the AMD Association of North Carolina (2006), Past Most Venerable Sovereign Grand Master of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA, Knight Grand Cross, Marvin E. Fowler Award Recipient (2010), Red Branch of Eri, Past Knight Grand Commander Red Branch of Eri, Supreme Grand Cross Red Branch of Eri. Supreme Rulers Conclave - Royal Order of Masonic Knights of the Scarlet Cord Fourth Grade. Past Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler of the Grand Conclave of the Order of Secret Monitor. St. Andrew in America # 1A Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, Masonic Order of the Bath - Past Commander, Ye Ancient Order of the Cork - Past Grand Bung of the Americas.

**St. Thomas of Acon:** Charter member of Trinity Chapel # 12 and Shute Chapel # 53 - Past Worthy Master. Past Grand Almoner Ye Commentative Order of St. Thomas of Acon USA.

**Scottish Rite:** Valley of Greensboro for 45 years.

**Grand College of Rites:** Knight Grand Cross, P. Gr. Chancellor.

**Royal Order of Scotland:** (Member).

**Shrine:** Oasis Temple AAOMS – 40 years, Past Masters Unit.

**Philalethes Society:** (Member).

**Eastern Star:** Denton Chapter # 216, Past Patron, member 40 + years.

Honorary member of the Grand Chapter, Grand Council and Grand Commandery of each of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Louisiana, South Dakota and Illinois.

**Athelstan:** Member of the Masonic Order of Athelstan in England, Wales and its Provinces Overseas and Watling Street Court No. 3, The Court of North Carolina, Primus Master; served as the Provincial Grand Master of the USA for the Masonic Order of Athelstan in England, Wales and its Provinces Overseas. Currently serving as the Assistant Grand Master in charge of the America.

**KBHC:** Member of the Great Priory of England and Wales, The Scottish Rectified Rite, Knights Beneficent of the Holy City, VI degree. Member of the Great Priory of America.

**The Operatives:** The Worshipful Society of Freemasons: Solar White Quarry Assemblage, Rank VII°.

# Report on the 149th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council

The 149th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council was held virtually using Zoom Webinar on June 5th of this year. A complete report on the 149th Annual Assembly will be included in the Transactions for the just completed Constantinian year.

Grand Viceroy D. Allen Surratt, Secretary General of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America and Grand Registrar-General of the Covent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour, was installed Grand Sovereign and invested with the dignity and decorations of a Knight Grand Cross. Knight Companion Brian R. Dodson, a Past Grand Master of Masons of Texas and a Past Intendant General, was installed Grand Almoner. The other officers installed for the 2021 – 2022 Constantinian year were:

Grand Viceroy	Marcos D. Ostrander
Grand Senior General	Richard V. Travis, KCC
Grand Junior General	David D. Goodwin
Grand Treasurer	Joe R. Manning, Jr., KGC, KCC
Grand Recorder	R. Stephen Doan, KGC
Grand Trustee (2022)	Glenn D. Woody
Grand Trustee (2023)	Bryce B. Hildreth
Grand Trustee (2024)	Charles L. Stuckey, KGC
Grand Chancellor	Stanton T. Brown II
Grand Chamberlain	W. Berry Rigdon
Grand Orator	Robert J. Bean, Sr.
Grand Standard Bearer	Russell E. Bridges
Grand Marshal	J. David Cashion
Grand Herald	Wade E. Sheeler
Grand Sentinel	Lloyd F. Christopher, KCC
Grand High Prelate	Rev. Dr. W. Kenneth Lyons, Jr.
Grand Chaplain	David C. Ladd

## **The following new Intendants General were appointed:**

Hawaii	Dennis Ing
New York Eastern	Richard T. Schulz
Oklahoma	John L. Logan
Puerto Rico	Pedro Nicot-Santana
Texas Southern	Lawrence E. Tucker
West Virginia	F. Paul Baker

A complete list of the committees appointed for the 2021 – 2022 Constantinian year may be found at <http://www.redcrossconstantine.org/committees.html>.

The UGIC budgets for the current Constantinian year were adopted.

A copy of the Constitution and Statutes and Regulations of the United Grand Imperial Council as amended through the close of the 149th Annual Assembly may be found at <http://www.redcrossconstantine.org/resource-docs/RCC-Constitution-Statutes-Regulations-2021-Edition.pdf>. Section 807.000.D was added to the Statutes and Regulations to prohibit a Subordinate conclave meeting during an Annual or Special Assembly of the Grand Imperial Council, without the written consent of the Grand Sovereign. Section 407.047 was added to the Statutes and Regulations to establish the Ned Dull and G. Wilbur Bell Endowment Fund with the proceeds of the bequest received from the trust of the late Moneta Bell, widow of G. Wilbur Bell.

The Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder delivered their reports. The Board of Control accounted for its receipts and disbursements, together with an inventory covering all of its investments and funds.

The 150th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina at the Embassy Suites Hotel on the dates of June 2 – 4, 2022. Registration forms will be available on the UGIC website in early 2022.





D. Allen Surratt, KGC  
Most Illustrious  
Grand Sovereign



# *Elected Officers of the United Grand Imperial Council*



Marcos D. Ostrander  
Most Eminent  
Grand Viceroy



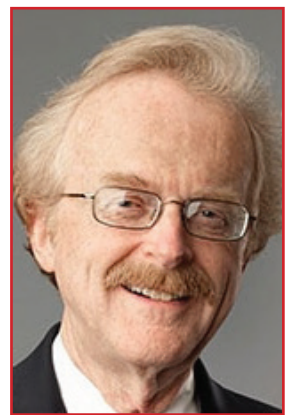
Richard V. Travis, KCC  
Very Illustrious Grand  
Senior General



David D. Goodwin  
Very Illustrious Grand  
Junior General



Joe R. Manning, Jr. KGC, KCC  
Right Illustrious  
Grand Treasurer



R. Stephen Doan, KGC  
Right Illustrious  
Grand Recorder



Glenn D. Woody  
Illustrious Grand Trustee  
(2022)



Bryce B. Hildreth  
Illustrious Grand Trustee  
(2023)



Charles L. Stuckey, KGC  
Illustrious Grand Trustee  
(2024)



Stanton T. Brown, II  
Illustrious Grand  
Chancellor



Brian R. Dodson  
Illustrious Grand  
Almoner

# *Appointed Officers of the United Grand Imperial Council*



**Gordon A. Davis, KCC**  
Illustrious Assistant  
Grand Recorder



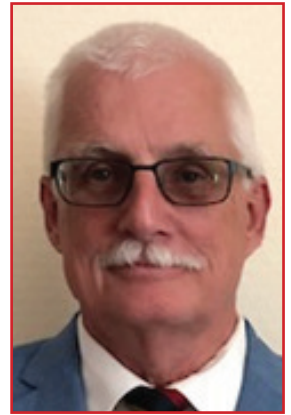
**W. Berry Rigdon**  
Illustrious Grand  
Chamberlain



**Robert J. Bean, Sr.**  
Illustrious Grand  
Orator



**Russell E. Bridges**  
Illustrious Grand  
Standard Bearer



**J. David Cashion**  
Illustrious Grand  
Marshal



**Wade E. Sheeler**  
Illustrious Grand  
Herald



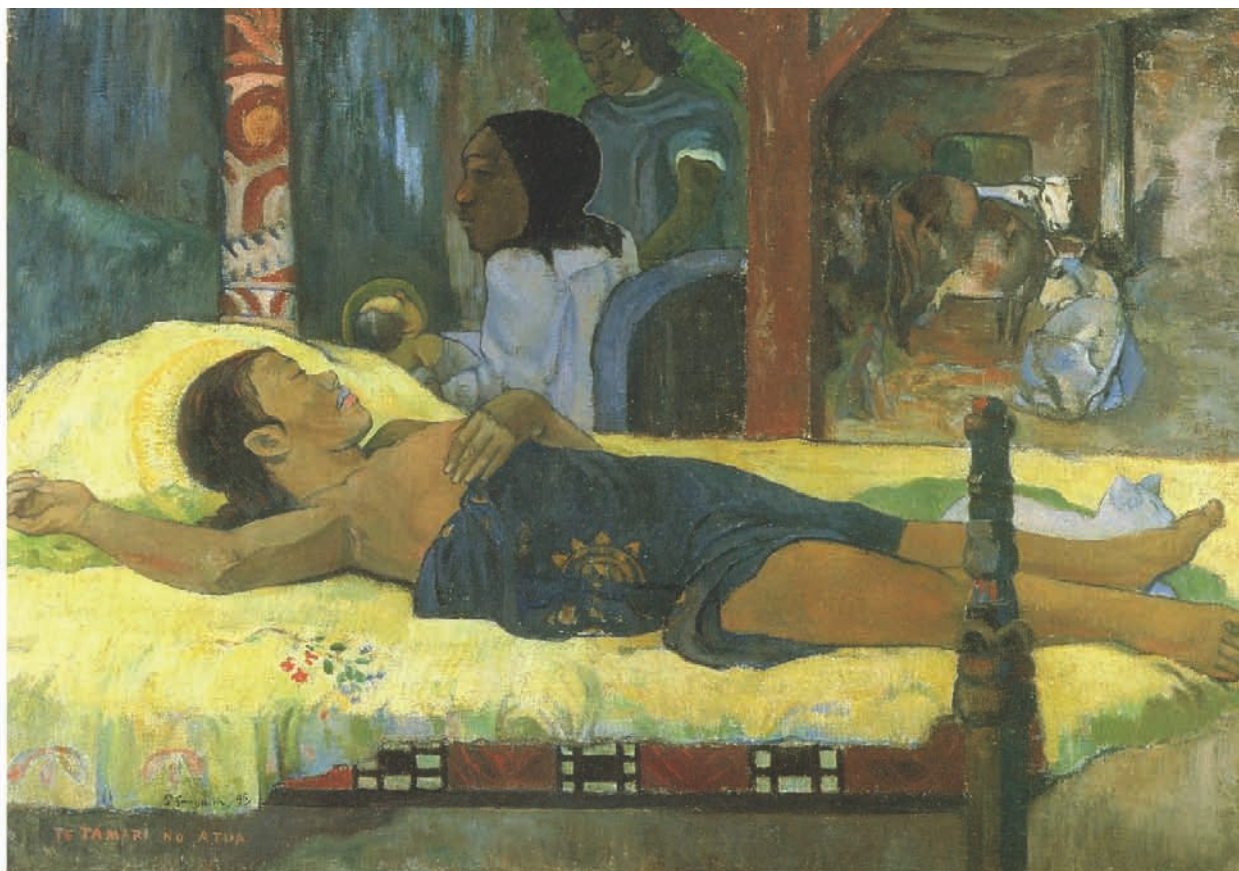
**Lloyd F. Christopher, KCC**  
Illustrious Grand  
Sentinel



**Rev. Dr. W. Kenneth Lyons, Jr.**  
Illustrious Grand  
High Prelate



**David C. Ladd**  
Illustrious Grand  
Chaplain



Te tamari no atua (Nativity/The Birth of Christ), Paul Gauguin, 1896 <sup>1</sup>

## Seeing, with fresh eyes.

**T**he painting above took me back to my college years, reminding me of something said by a professor I knew from my home town, where he had served as an Associate Pastor at one of the churches. Originally from the east coast, he was a convert from Judaism, and became a Lutheran.

In addition to teaching about religions and their traditions, he helped still-impressionable Midwestern-descended-from-European youth “see” things with fresh eyes. Case in point: the famous images by Warner Sallman (1892-1968), among which are *Head of Christ* <sup>2</sup> (see below) and *Christ at Heart’s Door*.

“What do you see when you look at this picture?”, he’d ask the high schoolers of the church youth group. Students’ reply: “Jesus.” The teacher would continue: “This is a popular rendition of Jesus, yes. But stop and think about it: wouldn’t he look more like me? I’m olive-skinned, short, and have straight black hair. Do you think the

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*[European] facial features you see in these images represent a Middle-Eastern Jew of 2000 years ago?*” The students, wide-eyed and slack-jawed, had a mental image and revelation with which they could not argue...lesson learned.



*Head of Christ, 1940*

Eugène Henri Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) was a painter and sculptor of the Post-Impressionist period, and lived the last years of his life in French Polynesia. Often controversial during his lifetime, he dared to reimagine the traditional “Madonna and Child” as represented in countless 14th to 16th century works by artists named Bellini, Botticelli, Caravaggio, Ghirlandaio, and so on. A strong case can be argued for Gauguin’s representation of a dark-skinned mother and child in a 19th-century Tahitian stable as having more accurate features than those depicted in the European Renaissance.

So now *you* also see with fresh eyes, don’t you?

**W**e all experienced a tumultuous year in 2020; 2021 has presented its own trials and awakened us to the realization that life as we knew it will never be the same. As the character Doc Brown *may* have said in the movie *Back to the Future*,<sup>3</sup> “Marty, whatever happens, don’t go to 2020 (or 2021).” While we can’t be sure that the light at the end of the tunnel isn’t another train, we *can* take heart in the words of John 1, verse 5: “And the light shines on in the darkness, but the darkness has not mastered it” (New English Translation). God has given us brains with which to think, and to guide our hearts. Reasoning, believing, trusting, and following the Light of Christ will carry us through the dark times as they ebb and flow.

Originally, I wrote this during the winter solstice: the shortest day and literally the darkest time of the year in the northern hemisphere, henceforth the days lengthen and the light returns. Make no mistake...our Early Church forebears purposely adopted the pagan observance Yule, marking the death and rebirth of the s-u-n by recasting it as Christmastide, the (re)birth of the s-o-n.

During the four weeks of the season, the Advent wreath symbolically helps us in marking time; it gradually takes us from darkness to light. It’s a time of preparation in our hearts for the coming of our savior and redeemer Jesus Christ, the Light. *Fiat Lux!*<sup>4</sup>

Author Philip Britts (1917-1949) described Advent this way: “The meaning of Advent and Christmas is thus the coming down of God’s love. This love alone revolutionizes our

lives. Only God's love, not the elevation of human souls, can effect a transformation of the world. Those who mourn the futility of their own efforts receive the comfort of the love of God. Those who are meekly obedient to his will are filled by the love of God, not as a prize to be won after death, but as redeemed life for this earth."<sup>5</sup>

So, what is the view of recent months and years? With the 20/20 vision of hindsight, we see it's been horribly unpleasant in many ways. Looking back with fresh eyes we can see many mistakes made, tremendous opportunities missed, great loss, failure, hubris, angst. But there has also been innovation, *new* opportunities, resourcefulness, integrity, rebuilding, and compassion. In the scope of things, the latter set, which are actions of love, far outweighs the former.

Back to the Gauguin image. I must admit that I *do* like and appreciate paintings of the Renaissance. A favorite of mine for the Christmas season is Domenico Ghirlandaio's *The Adoration of the Magi* (1488), with its incredible amount of symbolism. BUT, I think Gauguin's lesser-known *Nativity* is my new favorite. The simplicity of the work and the humble state of its subjects draw me in. It's a reminder of who and what is *truly* most important in not just this season, but *all year*.

This Christmas season and beyond, **watch** for God's New Covenant in action, and **seek** ways where *you* may act. **Look at a situation from another point of view.** Listen, and seek understanding. **Be kind.** Above all else, follow the exhortation and example of Jesus: **love one another.** *What you see with fresh eyes may pleasantly surprise you.*

May you have a blessed Christmas.

Mark A. Anderson  
Intendant General, Division of Minnesota

Revised 24 August 2021

*This piece was originally presented to Zion Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, for its 2020 Christmas Observance (virtual). The author has contributed as its Prelate for over 24 years, and is serving a third term as Grand Prelate for the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Minnesota.*

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<sup>1</sup> In the collection of the Neue Pinakothek, Munich, Germany.

<sup>2</sup> © 1941 Kreibel & Bates; now owned by Warner Press. <https://www.warnersallman.com/collection/images/head-of-christ/> accessed 15 January 2021.

<sup>3</sup> © 1985, by Robert Zemeckis and Robert Gale. Produced by Amblin Entertainment and Universal Pictures.

<sup>4</sup> Genesis 1:3. Also, the license plate on the author's car!

<sup>5</sup> From an unpublished address by Philip Britts (Isla Margarita, Paraguay, December 12, 1948) in the Bruderhof Archives, Rifton, New York. Printed in: *Watch for the Light — Readings for Advent and Christmas* © 2001 The Plough Publishing House of the Bruderhof Foundation.



## Tentative Calendar of Upcoming Events in 2022

- 8 January ..... Tennessee Divisional Assembly, Nashville, TN**
- 9-13 February ..... AMD Masonic Week, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA**
- 19-22 February ..... Conference of Grand Masters, Hotel Pfister, 424 E. Wisconsin Av,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**
- 18-19 March.....37th Annual Northwest Regional Assembly, Kennewick, WA**
- 15 April.....Good Friday Breakfast, St. Simeon Stylites Conclave, Washington, DC**
- 16-17 April .....Grand Encampment Easter Observance, Alexandria, Kansas City and  
Denver**
- 2-4 June .....150th UGIC Annual Assembly: Embassy Suites Hotel, 204 Centreport Dr,  
Greensboro, NC 27409**
- 23-25 June .....DeMolay International, Rosen Plaza, Orlando, FL**
- 7-8 July .....36th Annual Southwest Regional Assembly, Reno, Nevada**
- 10-12 July .....Great Smokies Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons, Maggie Valley, NC**

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# 150th Annual Assembly Greensboro, North Carolina June 2nd through June 4th, 2022

The 150th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council will be held at the

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Greensboro Airport, 204 Centreport Drive,  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
on the dates of June 2 – 4, 2022.

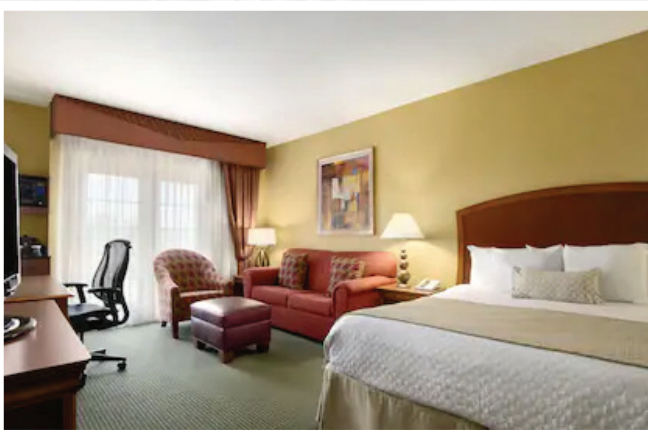
The hotel is ten minutes from the Piedmont Triad International Airport (PTI) using the complimentary hotel shuttle. Currently, PTI is serviced by Allegiant, American, Delta, Spirit and United airlines. Nonstops to PTI are currently available from Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, New York, Philadelphia, Tampa and Washington, D.C.

The hotel is a ninety minute drive from Charlotte Douglas International Airport in Charlotte, North Carolina (CLT). CLT has more nonstop flights available than PTI.

During our stay, hotel guests will enjoy a complimentary cooked-to-order daily breakfast and evening receptions with two free drinks and light snacks. All guests will be provided complimentary parking. Potential tours are being explored for the event along with special events and collectables to commemorate the 150th Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council. This will be our first in person meeting since 2019. You will not want to miss it!

Registration forms for the 150th Annual Assembly will be available on the UGIC website in early 2022.





# Perfect Ashlar

By, Arthur H. Weiss, Past Grand Master of Masons of California  
Past Sovereign of Pacifica Conclave

**T**he perfect ashlar is a Masonic symbol so basic that it is part of the first lessons we are taught in our first degree. We learn that it represents our spiritual selves.

Just as stones are cut from the earth in raw form, we begin our existence as a rough ashlar, and strive to shape ourselves as we pass through this existence, preparing our souls for the next lessons to be learned in the celestial lodge above, that house not made with human hands.

Although we all acknowledge this process as Masons, what do we actually gain from removing the rough and superfluous parts of our being? Just as the surfaces of the perfect ashlar lie beneath its rough exterior, so do the tenets and characteristics of a perfect Mason lie within, needing only to be brought forth by study and learning, by actions and deeds. It is only when we have understood and regularly practice these virtues that we are ready to work together with others for the benefit of humanity. Only by perfecting our tenets within ourselves do we begin to understand the true nature of the cement that unites us together, that cement which bonds ashlars together for the benefit of the edifice they support - our society and our nation. It is the cement of interrelationships that creates the world in harmony. As the perfect ashlar represents our goal of achieving the mastery of ourselves, let us remember that it is the necessary step to fully understanding the cement that is needed to unite us into one sacred band and unite everyone into one society devoted to harmony. May the Great Architect ever grant us the wisdom and patience to be the cement.



# St. Stephen Conclave Installation



**The following officers of St. Stephen Conclave of Haddonfield,  
New Jersey were installed on October 2, 2021:**

Sovereign: William Michael Krzewick III  
Viceroy: David Bruner  
Senior General: Douglas Ralph Policastro  
Junior General: Paul E. Best  
Treasurer: Donald E. Franks  
Recorder: Robert John Sheridan  
Prelate: Lawrence Craver  
Orator: Scott Gothe  
Prefect: Joseph Buono  
Stan Bearer: Michael J. Merritt  
Herald: Daryll Slimmer  
Sentinel: Frank G. Bogdzio





## Centenary of St. Louis Conclave

June 26, 2021 was a stellar day for St. Louis Conclave. On that evening Knights Companions representing five of Missouri's six Conclaves celebrated the Centennial anniversary of St. Louis Conclave in a gala event. The photo indicates that, among others, Knight Companion D. Allen Surratt, KGC, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, and Knight Companion Barry V. Cundiff, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Missouri, were the honored guests. Together, all present led the Conclave into its second century of service to Constantinian Masonry.

On March 2, 1921, Isaac H. Hettinger, Grand Sovereign, instituted St. Louis Conclave, stationed at St. Louis, Missouri. He was assisted by Most Illustrious Knight Companion William F. Kuhn, Intendant General of Missouri, who invested the officers with their Official

Grades. The members of this conclave were reported to be among the most prominent and high ranking Masons of their city. The institution ceremony was followed by a Banquet at the Hotel Statler with the ladies present. The conclave's charter was granted on June 2, 1921 at the next Annual Assembly of what would later become the Empire of the West.

The initial eighteen members of St. Louis Conclave were Wm. S. Campbell, Percy B. Eversden (charter Viceroy), Herman Mauch (charter Sovereign), Oscar E. Deichman, Chas. H. Errington, Theo. J. Evers, August Gundlach, John T. Hall, James M. Jones (charter Recorder), Wm. J. Kennedy, August Kron, Albert F. Linde, F. H. Littlefield, Arthur Mather, Louis Moller, Harry G. Nicks, Samuel R. Stevenson and Edward F. Von Gunden.





# Short Burst: Eusebius of Ceasarea (c. 260-339)

By George E. Weil, Arizona Conclave

**I**t is unclear which historical Eusebius is intended in our ritual, Eusebius of Nicomedia, who tradition has it baptized the Emperor Constantine, or Eusebius of Caesarea, the reputed author of Constantine's biography, *Life of Constantine*, and other works. Clearly, the latter has allegedly left a greater written record and led a most interesting life.

If Eusebius of Caesarea could speak to us today across the ages, here is what I think he might say:

My name was Eusebius, and I was sometimes referred to as the "Father of Church History." I enjoyed the favors of the Roman Emperor Constantine I. I lived in a place called *Caesarea Palestinae*, in Palestine as the name indicates. Some call my work *Ecclesiastical History* a landmark in Christian history or historiography. You may also know me by another name: "Eusebius Pamphili." It is a name which I held very dear. When I was baptized and ordained at Caesarea, I was most fortunate to have been taught by a learned mentor Pamphilus. That is whence my name "Eusebius Pamphili" (i.e., the son or servant of Pamphilus) is derived. I added Pamphili to my name in tribute to the man persecuted and martyred

by the Romans for his beliefs who died around the year 310.<sup>1</sup>

I became a bishop of Caesarea around the year 313. Being a bishop then was a challenging position as I served during a turbulent time in Church history, marked by the "Great Persecution" under Diocletian and his co-rulers (c. 303-311), the conversion of Emperor Constantine to Christianity (c. 312) and the Council of Nicaea (c. 325) which promulgated the Nicene Creed to address schism in the church.<sup>2</sup>

I too was persecuted and witnessed many martyrdoms. I was imprisoned for a while. I was criticized even by Christians for some of my beliefs. One such belief involved free will. I believed that men were sinners by their own free choice and not by the necessity of their natures. I believed that the Creator impresses a natural law upon the soul of every man, as an assistant and ally in his conduct, pointing out to him the right way. Yet, man is also endowed with free will, the ability to choose wrong over right as Adam did. Some of my contemporary Christian theologians thought that people who consistently made bad choices were inherently bad and thus irredeemable. To the contrary, I believed that all men are inherently good but sometimes are led astray by their bad choices, which God will forgive if the sinner simply turns back to God and God's Creation with love. Nothing in our nature or in what we have done can





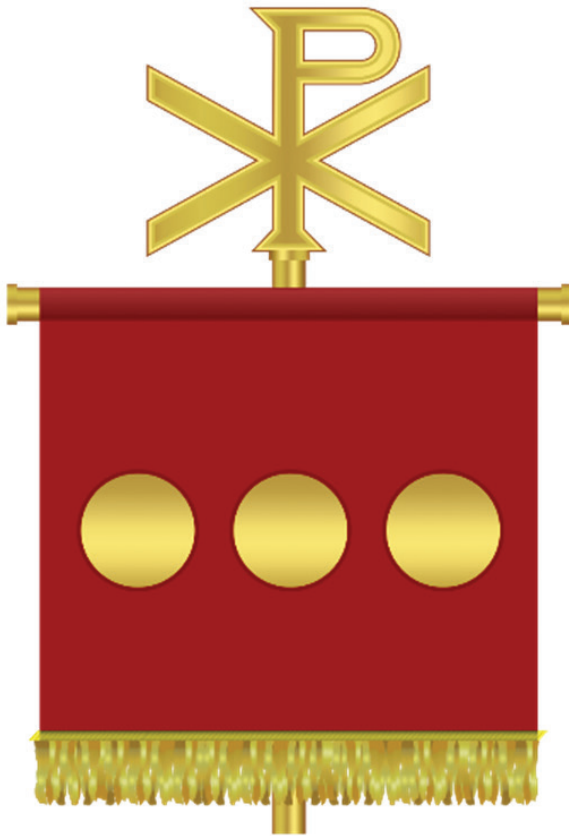
Figure 2 What is Sin? Symbols: Apple and Snake.



Figure 3. Battle at the Milvian Bridge

separate us permanently from the love of God, if we return to God with faith and love.<sup>3</sup>

I called my classic work the *Life of Constantine*. I wrote it as a eulogy shortly after the great emperor's death in 337. This work is often maligned for perceived factual errors and deemed by some so hopelessly flawed that it cannot be my work at all. Some see me as a Constantine apologist, because as a trusted adviser to Emperor Constantine, it was politically expedient for me (they say) to present Constantine in the best light possible. It is true that the emperor was very fond of me and my counsel, but that is why the emperor entrusted to me alone for posterity his magnificent story: Sometime between the death of his father – the *Augustus Constantius* – and his final battle against his rival *Maxentius* as *Augustus* in the West, Constantine experienced a vision in which he and his soldiers beheld a Christian symbol, “a cross-



*Figure 4. The Labarum of Constantine I, reconstructed from the depiction on a *follis* minted c. 337. The three dots represent "medallions" which are said to have shown portraits of Constantine and his sons. A. Macgeorge, *Flags*, Glasgow (1881)*

shaped trophy formed from light," above the sun at midday. Attached to the symbol was the phrase "by this conquer," a phrase often rendered into Latin as "*in hoc signo vinces.*"

In a dream that night "the Christ of God appeared to the emperor with the sign which had appeared in the sky, and urged him to make himself a copy of the sign which had appeared in the sky, and to use this as a protection against the attacks of the enemy." This sign was therefore placed on the *Labarum*, the military standard used by the emperor in his later wars against Licinius, a device which also included the Chi-Rho sign.<sup>4</sup>

It's getting late, and the candle is almost at its end. My dear reader, I am now old and I have left so much out from my life story and have so much more to tell. However, please know my wish was to make a small contribution to the history of our beloved Church. I hope that my scholarly work remains a foundation for centuries. Only you and time will judge the value I have left.

**NOTES:**

1. See Eusebius of Caesarea, <https://www.britannica.com/print/article/196614>
2. See The Problem of Eusebius, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/channel/utilities/print.html>.
3. See Eusebius, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/eusebius#cite\\_ref-62](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/eusebius#cite_ref-62).
4. See Labarum. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labarum#cite\\_note-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labarum#cite_note-1)

# All Missouri Regional Conclave August 13 and 14, 2021

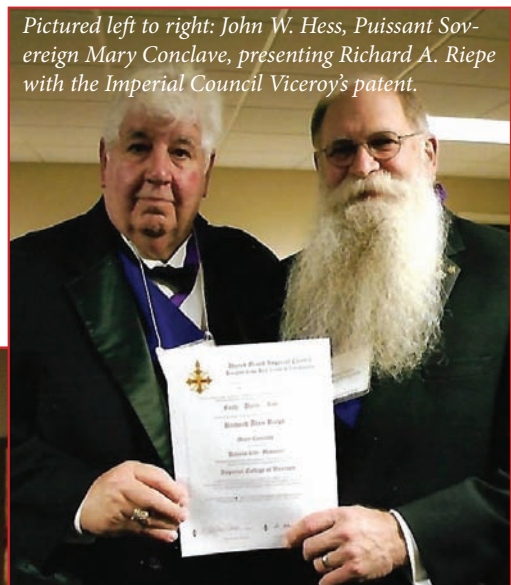


The 36th Annual Missouri Regional Conclave assembled at the Stoney Creek Hotel & Convention Center in St. Joseph, MO. This event, hosted by St. Joseph Conclave, Puissant Sovereign Larry Chambers, began Friday evening, August 13, 2021 with a well-attended reception offering much needed hospitality and fellowship among and between the Knights Companions. We were pleased to be joined by Stanton T. Brown II, Illustrious Grand Chancellor, who not only offered comments from the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign D. Allen Surratt, but also participated in the conferral of the Senate of Sovereigns on Saturday morning.

The College of Viceroys convened at 10:00 a.m. on the Saturday with Robert R. Anderson as Most Eminent Viceroy, Clark A. McLemore as Eusebius, Paul Daniels as Marshal and Dennis Hammack as Prelate. Receiving the honor were Clinton F. Mitchell, Richard A. Riepe, Harold F. Coots, Charles E. Cooper, Michael E. Wheeler and Terry D. Coppotelli.

*Pictured left to right: Clinton F. Mitchell, Richard A. Riepe, Harold F. Coots, Charles E. Cooper, Michael E. Wheeler and Terry D. Coppotelli.*

*Pictured left to right: John W. Hess, Puissant Sovereign Mary Conclave, presenting Richard A. Riepe with the Imperial Council Viceroy's patent.*



Immediately following was the Senate of Sovereigns about 11:00 a.m. with Robert W. Schlichter presiding as Most Illustrious Sovereign and ably assisted by Richard L. Mansfield, Most Eminent Viceroy, Stanton T. Brown II, Marshal and James D. Jeffers, High Prelate. Honorees were Harry L. Tripp, Jr., Donald E. Gilkerson, Charles E. Cooper and Gerald R. McCoy.



*Pictured left to right: Harry L. Tripp, Jr., Richard L. Mansfield, Stanton T. Brown II, Donald Gilkerson, Robert W. Schlichter, James D. Jeffers, Charles E. Cooper and Gerald R. McCoy.*

The men's buffet luncheon as catered by Hy-Vee was surprisingly good and well attended. The Ladies enjoyed their own luncheon and attended a prearranged tour of St. Joseph sights.

Opening ceremonies, conducted by Intendants General Northern and Southern, Bobbie E. White and John W. Siscel III, respectively, by way of brief remarks, followed at 1:00 p.m.

Thereafter came the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine as presented by St. Joseph Conclave, followed by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre by St. Louis Conclave and The Order of St. John the Evangelist by Mary Conclave. Eleven candidates received the Orders.



This Regional Conclave was pleased to recognize and receive several Grand Lodge Line Officers. More notably, Most Worshipful Brother Barry V. Cundiff, Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Ty G. Treutelaar, Deputy Grand Master and participant in the communication of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Right Worshipful Brother Richard W. Kaeser, Jr, Senior Grand Warden and a candidate for the Orders, and Right Worshipful Brother Emmett J. Bryson, Junior Grand Deacon. The Grand Master was afforded the Grand York Rite Grand Honors and offered brief remarks.



Announcements: 37th Annual Missouri Regional Conclave will be hosted by St. Andrew Conclave of Joplin, MO on the 2nd Saturday in August 2022, August 13th. It will be held at the Holiday Inn, 3402 Arizona Ave.

The festivities of the weekend concluded with a well-attended buffet style banquet at 5:30 p.m. with the Ladies. All Missouri Conclaves were represented.

Mary Conclave was well represented.

*Pictured left to right front row: Robert W. Schlichter, Cory B. Huntsucker, Stanton T. Brown II, James Madden, former candidate, John W. Hess, Puissant Sovereign, Jon F. Abshier and Daniel R. Quesenberry. Back row left to right: Bruce A. Olds, Lloyd G. Lyon, Danny D. Smothers, Richard A. Riepe.*



# St Simons Spring Assembly



St. Simon Conclave met on May 1, 2021 at Resurgam Lodge in Mitchell, South Dakota. It was their Spring Assembly and the first big gathering for a Masonic organization in South Dakota since the start of the Covid-19 lock down. St. Simon was chartered on April 27, 1923. In two years, the conclave will celebrate its centenary.



*From left to right: Robert D. Osborne, Troy Magnuson, Lyle Rowen Sr, Stephen Butterfield, Stan Schwellenbach, Dennis Robinson, Roger Hansen, Darrell Bjerke, Robert Webb, Virgel Andersen, James Taylor, George Cross. Not pictured Vincent Webb.*

The meeting was held in the large lodge room of Mitchell Masonic Temple dedicated in 1925. Constructed exclusively for fraternal use, it features Masonic symbols from the plaster ceiling moldings to the door hardware. Substantially renovated in 2005, and with minor work always ongoing, the Temple is once again a classic venue for meetings, receptions and Masonic activities. The building boasts two Lodge Rooms; a "club style" second floor Lounge complete with Billiard Mezzanine and fireplace; a hardwood floored Ball Room; Dining Room; Kitchen.



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## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> See Eusebius of Caesarea, <https://www.britannica.com/print/article/196614>
- <sup>2</sup> See The Problem of Eusebius, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/channel/utilities/print.html>.
- <sup>3</sup> See Eusebius, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/eusebius#cite\\_ref-62](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/eusebius#cite_ref-62).
- <sup>4</sup> See Labarum. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labarum#cite\\_note-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labarum#cite_note-1)