



Ashlar College of Freemasonry Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon

The Masonic Family.

The Masonic family is a loosely defined grouping of those bodies with practices and beliefs complementary to Freemasonry that also either restrict their membership to regular freemasons in good standing or to relatives of regular freemasons in good standing. Those organizations restricted to freemasons are generally termed concordant while those restricted to relatives, or requiring a freemason as sponsor, are generally termed appendant.

-Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon

This course is to familiarize you with the other fraternal and sorority groups that are related through membership of Freemasonry to one another.

The paper will be broken into five sections:

Royal Arch Freemasonry and those organizations requiring membership to RAM in order to join or be invited.

Scottish Rite Freemasonry

Shrine

Ladies organization which allow for Masons to join them in their membership and those Women organizations which are strictly for females

Youth groups

Assignment 1

Select two of the bodies that are in amity with our Grand Lodge and discuss the set up of each body, the lodge unit, and its grand body, the master of the lodge, the degrees that are conferred, and any philanthropy it supports. Discuss the advantages of joining such a body? If you are a member of some concordant or appendant orders, it is suggested you choose one body you are a member of, and one that you are not.

[The Masonic Family](http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/textfiles/family.html) (<http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/textfiles/family.html>) on The Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon website will illustrate and expand on those bodies

that have accepted relations with our jurisdiction and are permitted to practise in our Masonic area.

Definition of Amity

Amity comes from the Latin word for "friend," amicus, and is used especially for relationships between political leaders and nations in which goodwill is shown despite differences that might exist between the two parties.

-Merriam-Webster Dictionary

AMITY

RESOLUTIONS

The Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon may acknowledge a Concordant Body to be in 'Amity' and have friendly relationship with it provided that Body is found to be a regular member of the Fraternal Masonic Family that recognises Grand Lodge as the Cornerstone of Freemasonry and shows loyalty to it. Their membership must acknowledge the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry as practised in this Jurisdiction and must maintain their membership on its registry. It is understood that Grand Lodge has no jurisdiction in the operation or management of said Concordant Body. [2004]

Resolved that the Grand Lodge of British Columbia is in amity with the following bodies:

1984

1. The Sovereign Grand Lodges, recognized as such by the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, and the Lodges working under them.
2. The Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia, having its headquarters in Vancouver, B.C., and the Grand Royal Arch Chapters, recognized as such by it; and the chapters working under all such bodies.
3. The Sovereign Great Priory of Canada of the United Orders of Malta and the Temple, having its headquarters in Toronto, Ontario, and the Great Priories of other countries and jurisdictions recognized by it; and all the priories and preceptories working under the authorization of all such bodies.
4. The Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Western Canada, of the Cryptic Rite of Freemasonry, having its headquarters in Vancouver, B.C., and the Grand Councils of other countries and jurisdictions recognized by it; and the councils working under all such bodies.
5. The Grand Imperial Conclave of Canada of the Red Cross of Constantine having its headquarters in Barrie, Ontario, and the Grand Imperial Conclaves recognized as such by it; and the conclaves working under all such bodies.
6. The Grand Imperial Council of Scotland of the Red Cross of Constantine having its headquarters in Edinburgh, Scotland, and the Grand Imperial Conclaves recognized as such by it; and the conclaves working under all such bodies.
 7. The Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of Canada, having its headquarters in Hamilton, Ontario, and the Supreme Councils of the Rite, recognized as such by it; and the consistories, chapters and lodges working under all such bodies.
 8. The Royal Order of Scotland, having its headquarters in Edinburgh, Scotland, and all the Provincial Grand Lodges of that order, chartered and recognized as such by it.
 9. The Imperial Council of North America of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine having its headquarters in Tampa, Florida; and the Temples and Shrine organizations chartered and recognized as such by it.

1987

10. The Supreme Council of the Grottoes of North America, having its headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, and the Grottoes chartered and recognized as such by it.

1996

11. The order of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, Grand Lodge of Great Britain and Tabernacles Overseas, having its headquarters in the City of York, England, and the Tabernacles chartered and recognized by it.

2004

12. The Grand Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, or the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan of Canada, and the Conclaves chartered and recognized by it.

13. The Convent General Knights of the York Cross of Honor, and the Priories chartered and recognized by it.

14. The Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of Canada, and the Councils chartered and recognized by it.

15. The York Rite Sovereign College of North America, and the Colleges chartered and recognized by it. [2005, p. 5.]

1. The Constitutions mention Royal Arch Masonry in two places.

Section 73 Honorary.

No honorary or other jewel shall be worn in Grand Lodge which shall not appertain to or be consistent with the Degrees of Ancient Craft Freemasonry as recognized or acknowledged by Grand Lodge, and which are Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason. Members of a Constituent Lodge who belong to the Order of the Holy Royal Arch may wear in Grand Lodge the honorary Jewel of this Order, but not the clothing. [A brother...Grand Lodge.]

R158. Jewels to be worn.

1. No honorary or other jewel shall be worn in any Constituent Lodge which shall not appertain to or be consistent with the Degrees of Ancient Craft Freemasonry, as recognized or acknowledged by Grand Lodge. Members of a Lodge who belong to the Order of the Holy Royal Arch may wear in Lodge the honorary Jewel of this Order, but not the clothing. A brother from a recognized Jurisdiction may appear as a visitor in the clothing recognized by his own Grand Lodge.

2. No breast jewels shall be worn in a Lodge other than those specified in R158.1 except: the jewel of Past Master, any Past Grand Lodge officer as listed in Section 27 and described in Section 72 and Section 73; a Grand Lodge Representative of another Grand Lodge; a Lewis jewel (a member whose Father is/was a Master Mason of any recognized jurisdiction); a Masonic Medal of Merit; Dennis Marsh Medal and any other jewel, button, or medal especially designed for and any lodge insignia approved by the Grand Master and authorized by Grand Lodge. The Masonic medal of Merit, Dennis Marsh Medal and Honorary Jewel of the Order of Royal Arch shall be worn on the right Lapel. [2008]

Royal Arch Masonry, Scottish Rite, and Shrine are usually the first steps taken by master masons, having completed some years of experience in the Craft Lodge, to extend their knowledge of Freemasonry. And usually it is members of the Craft lodge who may approach the brother to consider joining in the fraternal fellowship of a concordant body. There is no time allotted to the entry into these three bodies, so we are now experiencing some new masons joining within a year of them being raised. This has caused controversy from both sides, the Craft lodge and the concordant body.

“Where is the learning of the basics of Freemasonry before the mason is moving on?”

“Will the loyalty of the Mason remain with his Craft lodge while he pursues further light?”

These are not questions that need to be responded to in this course but they do have to be presented. Concordant bodies are a great benefit to the craft freemasonry. During their masonic journey, brethren will be curious about what these other bodies offer. Do these concordant bodies give us more enlightenment to our search for truth? What lessons do they tell more than that of the Craft lodge? And with a growing interest in charity – what is the philanthropy focus of the concordant body?

Some of these bodies have their governing body in Canada, other have their governing body in British Columbia and Yukon. For example, the Royal Arch Masons are organized under the Grand Chapter of British Columbia and Yukon. Scottish Rite is governed by the Scottish Rite of Canada – its see being in the city of Hamilton. Shrine is governed first by the provincial body but has responsibility to an international body whose see is in USA. The governing bodies vary in their locations.

Assignment 2

It is important to note that all these organizations have purposes, goals, structure, conditions, rules and regulations for their members. Now that you have researched and experienced the variety of organizations that the Grand Lodge is in Amity with, it's time to create your own organization. Including its purpose (Charity, Service, Fellowship, Community etc) it's structure (how it operates), its means (how is it paid for) and purpose (why is it important) and who is allowed to join.

Resource

<http://www.freemasonry.bcy.ca/textfilesd/family.html>

Jackson, K. B. (1982) Beyond the Craft, Lewis Masonic, London.

Klövekorn, H. A. (2006) 99° of Freemasonry – Turning the Solomon Key, Seaview Press, South Australia.