

Clinton J. Christensen
Grand Commander



Alan Mackenzie
Grand Recorder

07 July 2026

GENERAL ORDER No 1 (Christensen)

To the Officers and Members of the Grand and Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of the State of Minnesota:

These General Orders shall be published during the first Stated Conclave immediately following the 2026 Grand Conclave of Knights Templar of Minnesota.

ANNUAL CONCLAVE

The 161st Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Minnesota was held in the City of St. Cloud, Minnesota on Saturday, June 27, 2026, A.O. 909.

GRAND OFFICERS INSTALLED

Clinton J. Christensen, KCT, KTCH	Right Eminent Grand Commander
John E. Helcl, II, KCT, GPE	Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander
Philip T. Bodle	Eminent Grand Generalissimo
James A. Henderson, KCT	Eminent Grand Captain General
Scott F. Wood, KCT	Eminent Grand Senior Warden
Joel R. Porter	Eminent Grand Junior Warden
Foster D. Solem, KCT, GPE	Eminent Grand Prelate
Michael A. Hilgert, KCT	Eminent Grand Treasurer
Alan Mackenzie, KCT, KTCH, PGC	Eminent Grand Recorder
Anthony J. Heimer, KTCH	Eminent Grand Standard Bearer
James A. Helms, KCT, GPE	Eminent Grand Sword Bearer
Edward Gerwill	Eminent Grand Warder
David P. Sarazin, KCT	Eminent Grand Sentinel
Rick Vance	Eminent Grand Education Officer
Scott Giannone, KTCH	Eminent Grand Herald
Steve J. Sandberg	Eminent Grand Organist

DIVISION COMMANDERS

The Division Commanders for The Templar Year 2026 -2027 are as follows:

Chief Division Commander	John E. Helcl, II, KCT, GPE,
1st Division Commander:	Keith L. Donaldson
2nd Division Commander:	Anthony J. Hiemer, KTCH
3rd Division Commander:	William H. Gunther, Jr.
4th Division Commander:	Aaron J. Boltjes, KCT
5th Division Commander:	David P. Sarazin, KCT
6th Division Commander:	Scott Giannone, KTCH

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE CONCLAVE 2026

In order to conduct the business of this Grand Commandery in an efficient manner, there will be a Special Conclave for the purpose of proposing and voting and several resolutions to our Constitution. This Special Conclave will be held via Zoom on **January 23, 2027 at 1:00 post meridian**. All Sir Knights are encouraged to attend.

GRAND CONCLAVE 2027

The 162nd Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Minnesota will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2027, A.O. 910 at the Best Western Kelly Inn, in the City of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

ATTENDANCE AT GRAND CONCLAVE

It is the obligation of each Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General and Recorder of each Constituent Commandery to attend the Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Minnesota. Said officers, or their proxies, shall attend in compliance with the Constitution, Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Minnesota, Sections 4 and 6. **Except by dispensation from the Grand Commander only is an officer's absence excused.**

MASONIC YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

From our Masonic youth organizations of today will come our future leaders of tomorrow. Therefore, it is requested that each Sir Knight attend at least one DeMolay chapter or Jobs Daughters Bethel function within the Templar year. It is further requested that each constituent Commandery lend its support by attending their meetings, both initiatory and stated and by providing them with financial support according to the ability of the Commandery. Our youth groups are more than willing to support our Commanderies in their activities and should be called upon whenever it is appropriate. We should also give them our support by providing escorts or whatever service they may require.

RITUAL

Each Commandery shall forward the name and contact information of one Sir Knight who shall be named that Commandery's Ritual Supervisor. Said Sir Knight shall work with the Ritual Committee to supervise, in his Commandery, the Floor Work, Asylum Ceremonies and Tactics. **This shall be forwarded to the Grand Recorder no later than September 31, 2026.** The Grand Recorder will furnish this information to the Ritual Committee when received.

SUSPENSIONS

The Commandery has the right to remit the dues of those Sir Knights in arrears when the Sir Knight is judged unable to comply due to illness, infirmity, or financial inability. Those instances of compassion demonstrate pure Templar benevolence. **No Sir Knight may be dropped from the roles of the commandery before a 60 days notice is given to the Grand Recorder.** The Grand Commandery office will make personal contact to make inquiry of his reasons for his indebtedness and how his membership can be continued. Providing that such contact is possible, the Grand Commandery office will report its findings back to the commandery and discuss. If no response is received from the Grand Commandery to the constituent commandery following the 60 day notice, the Recorder shall then drop the member in compliance of Section 82 of the Constitution Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Minnesota.

DEMITTS

All requests for demits are to be reviewed by the Eminent Commander. He shall appoint a Committee to make personal contact with the Sir Knight requesting the demit. After being contacted by the Committee, the demit will then be issued providing the Sir Knight is clear on the books of the Commandery. No dues are to be collected after the date of the demit.

DISPENSATIONS

Dispensations may be issued upon request as authorized by the Statutes of the Grand Commandery of the State of Minnesota. The Commander or Recorder shall make such request, over his signature and bearing the Seal of the Commandery. All requests shall specify the date of the action and provide all pertinent information necessary for evaluation. The request must be forwarded to the Grand Recorder with no less than 10 days notice for the Grand Commander's review and reply. Said reply shall be forwarded to the Commander, Recorder, Chief Division Commander, and the Division Commander. The actions of the Commandery shall be regularly recorded in the minutes of the Commandery.

TEMPLAR MEMORIALS

Upon the death of any member of a constituent Commandery in the State of Minnesota, the Recorder of the deceased Member's Commandery is requested to send to the Grand Recorders office a notification regarding the deceased member's name, including his address, next of kin's address, his date of birth and any other information pertaining to the Sir Knight. The Grand Commandery office will respond with appropriate condolences to the bereaved family. The Recorder must also report the death in his MMS record. The Sir Knights are requested to participate in any Masonic Services if requested by the Family.

MEMBERSHIP

Every Knight Templar knows that the lifeblood of our organization is our membership, and it remains the obligation of each and every Sir Knight in the State to promote membership at all times. The Grand Commandery encourages every Knight Templar to go back and work in and support his local lodge. We cannot hope for a member of our Craft to join the York Rite of Freemasonry, particularly a Commandery of Knights Templar if they know nothing about the organization or do not recognize the Templar members. Recognition that the members of the Commandery are supporting the Lodges, Chapters, and Councils goes a long way in encouraging Minnesota Masons to continue the search for Masonic Light within our organization.

By my hand and sealed, this 6th day of July, 2026 A.D

Clinton J. Christensen
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Minnesota



STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

(not required to be read but included in the minutes and for reference purposes)

BOARD OF INSTRUCTION

John E. Helcl, II, KCT, GPE, Chairman	No. 1-8
Keith L. Donaldson	No. 1
Anthony J. Heimer, KTCH	No. 2
William H. Gunther, Jr.	No. 27
Aaron J. Boltjes, KCT	No. 8
David P. Sarazin, KCT	No. 18
Scott Giannone, KTCH	No. 14

BENEVOLENCE

Foster D. Solem, GPE, Chairman	No. 23
Shawn R. Carrick	No. 8
Terry L. Tilton, KTCH, GPE	No. 18

EDUCATION FOUNDATION AND SCHOLARSHIP

Bradly N. Phelps, Chairman	No. 5
Eric J. Thiem	No. 1
Terry L. Christiansen, KCT, KTCH	No. 1
Rick Vance	No. 8
Shawn R. Carrick	No. 8

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION

Philip T. Bodle, Chairman	No. 18
James A. Henderson, KCT	No. 8
Scott F. Wood	No. 2

FINANCE

John E. Hell, II, KCT, GPE, Chair	No. 1-8
Philip T. Bodle	No. 18
James A. Henderson, KCT	No. 8
Michael A. Hilgert, KCT	No. 2, 24
Alan Mackenzie, KCT, KTCH, PGC	No. 18

INVESTMENTS

Jerry E. Zierdt, KCT, PGC, Chair	No. 1, 8
Frank J. Spevak	No. 1
David J. Sarazin, KCT	No. 18
Michael A. Hilgert, KCT	No. 2, 24

JURISPRUDENCE

Tony R. Krall, Chairman	No. 23
Brian K. Dimatteo, KCT, KTCH, PGC	No. 2
Ethan A. Seaberg	No. 9

TRIENNIAL

Alan Mackenzie, KCT, KTCH, PGC	No. 18
John E. Helcl, II, KCT, GPE	No. 1, 8
James A. Henderson, KCT	No. 8

HONOR GUARD

James O. Helms, KCT, GPE, Captain	No. 18
James A. Henderson, KCT, Sgt. Maj.	No. 8
John E. Helcl, II, KCT, GPE, Sgt.	No. 1, 8

SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

PUBLIC RELATIONS / MARKETING

Nathan Smithson, Chairman	No. 8
Scott Giannone	No. 14

RETURNS

Alan Mackenzie, KCT, KTCH, PGC, Chair	No. 18
Michael A. Hilgert, KCT	No. 2, 24
John E. Helcl, II, KCT, GPE	No. 1, 8

NECROLOGY AND RELIGIOUS EVENTS

Foster D. Solem, GPE, Chairman	No. 23
Shawn R. Carrick	No. 8
Terry L. Tilton, KTCH, GPE	No. 18

RITUAL

Jerry E. Zierdt, KCT, PGC, Chairman	No. 1, 8
Terrance D. Christiansen, KCT, KTCH	No. 1
Alan Mackenzie, KCT, KTCH, PGC	No. 18

YOUTH

Joel R. Porter, Chairman	No. 8
Brian K. Dimatteo, KCT, KTCH, PGC	No. 2
John E. Helcl, II, KCT, GPE	No. 1, 8

AWARDS AND HONORS

James A. Henderson, KCT, Chairman	No. 8
Scott F. Wood, KCT	No. 2
Joel R. Porter	No. 8

DIVISIONS

John E. Helcl, II, KCT, GPE, Chairman	No. 1, 8
Anthony J. Heimer, KTCH	No. 2
William H. Gunther, Jr.	No. 27
Aaron J. Boltjes, KCT	No. 8
David P. Sarazin, KCT	No. 18
Scott Giannone, KTCH	No. 14

PROPERTIES

James O. Helms, KCT, GPE, Chairman	No. 18
Edward J. Gerwill	No. 5
David Sarazin	No. 18

TELLERS

Scott R. Boehning	No. 8
Paul E. Smith	No. 8
Jake M. Reimer	No. 8

DIVISIONS

The Divisions for the Templar Year 2026 – 2027 are as follows:

Division 1:

Zion	No. 2
Mounted	No. 23

Division 3:

Ivanhoe	No. 31
Fairmont	No. 27

Division 5:

Duluth	No. 18
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Division 2:

Damascus	No. 1
Faribault	No. 8

Division 4:

Cyrene	No. 9
Bernard	No. 13
Home	No. 5

Division 6:

Nazarene	No. 24
Palestine	No. 14