

REFLECTIONS ON THE FORMATION OF A SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE
FOR OR INCLUDING
THE DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF BARBADOS & THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN
ENGLISH CONSTITUTION

The following observations are made in the context of reference to Rules 186 - 190 of the UGLE Book of Constitutions and in certain particulars to Preceptors Memorial Lodge 9714 E.C.

1. Preceptors Memorial Lodge was consecrated in the year 2000 and has since initiated 9 candidates for membership in the English Constitution of Freemasonry. Of the remainder of its total 29 to date, 15 including its founders are subscribing members of Union Lodge 7551 and also other Lodges of the English or Scottish Constitutions; 4 are subscribing members of other Lodges in the English jurisdiction, and 1 is a subscribing member of a Lodge in the jurisdiction of District Grand Lodge of Barbados (Scottish Constitution).
2. Dual and multiple membership of lodges in both jurisdictions are common features of Freemasonry in this region. For this reason, the winnowing of the roll of members of every Lodge in the jurisdiction is mandatory to determine the actual number of individuals comprising the total roll of the 18 Lodges in the District Grand Lodge of Barbados & The Eastern Caribbean(E.C.). So that if two-thirds of the membership of Union Lodge had already discussed and decided the question of the formation of a Sovereign Grand Lodge for or including the District, the polling of the same individuals, as members of Preceptors Memorial Lodge would be redundant. This redundancy applies in every case of dual or multiple membership. It is also important to note the provision of Rule 187(v) of the Book of Constitutions which states that no second meeting shall be called to discuss the question of the formation of an independent sovereign Grand Lodge for or including the District without the special leave of the Grand Master.
3. The final two thirds majority vote which determines the question of the formation of the SGL is not operable until all the provisions of Rule 187 have been satisfied i.e. Grand Lodge shall have, with the assent of the Grand Master, recognised the regular and independent sovereign body as having jurisdiction in the District where it is not the intention of the Grand Master to grant for the future any warrant for a new lodge in that jurisdiction.
4. Before the consequences of the former paragraph emerge, it should be determined whether the proposed Sovereign Grand Lodge includes all or part only of the District; so that if only part of the District is included in the new body, the District may continue under the jurisdiction of UGLE.
5. It is yet to be confirmed with regard to Rule 186 of BOC from which Lodge or Lodges the application was made to District Grand lodge for a dispensation to discuss and resolve the question of the formation of the independent sovereign Grand Lodge for or including the District as a whole or in part.
6. What is the effect of the surrender of warrants issued to private lodges on the Grand and District Grand Lodge ranks conferred by UGLE: Are those ranks and honours to be deemed extinguished with the warrants and letters patent from which they were derived?

The positive conclusion draw from the perspective of a professional planner of accommodation for the practical administration and governance of geographical regions is as follows:

A. The practicable resolution of the question would be the formation of the independent sovereign Grand Lodge as PART of the District Grand Lodge of Barbados & The eastern Caribbean jurisdiction by which it is expressly desired, leaving the remainder to continue under the UGLE: and

B. The subdivision of the continuing District Grand Lodge of Barbados & The Eastern Caribbean into:

(a) District Grand Lodge of Barbados & The Windward Islands viz: Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada (10 Lodges)

(b) District Grand Lodge of St. Thomas & The Leeward Islands viz: St. Thomas, Antigua, Montserrat, Tortola, Anguilla (8 Lodges)

Sincerely and fraternally,



W. Bro. Leonard E. St. Hill, PDSGW

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