



GRAND LODGE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF CALIFORNIA

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Via electronic mail and postal mail

March 7, 2016

Most Worshipful F. Andrew Lane, Jr.
Grand Master of Masons in Georgia
The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Georgia
811 Mulberry Street
Macon, GA 31201-6779

Dear Most Worshipful:

Once again, I appreciate the opportunity which I had to meet with you at the recent sessions of The Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America and discuss the ratification of Grand Master McDonald's Edict No. 2015-4 at the last Annual Communication of your Grand Lodge. I understand that your Grand Lodge thereby added the following language to your Grand Lodge law: homosexual activity with anyone subjects the offender to discipline. I understand that this activity subjects the participant to discipline in your Grand Lodge because such activity is against the moral law. As you know, I have made a statement about this subject to the Masters and Wardens of our lodges in California.

I have also considered whether these changes in Georgia's Masonic law are in violation of the General Regulations of Masonry or other standards of recognition. The General Regulations of Masonry include Anderson's Constitutions of 1723. Anderson's Constitutions of 1723 oblige a Mason to obey the moral law. The moral law prescribes the standards to which the actions of people should conform in their dealings with the Supreme Being, each other and themselves. However, the moral law includes only those sectarian rules and principles on which all men agree. Consistent with this point, Anderson's Constitutions of 1723 oblige a Mason to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves. Thus, no discussion is allowed in a regular lodge of Masons on any sectarian rule on which Masons have differing yet genuinely held beliefs, nor may a regular lodge or Grand Lodge take a position on any such rule. The Standards of Recognition of the Commission on Information for Recognition of The Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America address this point also. Among other requirements, these standards condition recognition on a Grand Lodge's prohibition of the discussion of religion. By this prohibition, we live up to


the centuries-old aim of our fraternity - to unite men of every country, sect, and opinion and cause true friendship among those who otherwise would have remained at a distance.

I acknowledge that some Masons genuinely believe that homosexual activity violates the moral law and the teachings of their religion, but other Masons genuinely believe otherwise. In my view, the question of whether homosexual activity violates the moral law is a sectarian issue on which all men do not agree. Accordingly, a regular Grand Lodge should not take a position on such an issue. I therefore construe these changes in Georgia's Masonic law as a sectarian stand which is inconsistent with and does not subscribe to the General Regulations of Masonry. It undermines the great purpose and precepts of Freemasonry and unnecessarily causes disharmony in the fraternity.

Under Section 409.010 of the *California Masonic Code*, the Grand Master may suspend recognition of any Grand Lodge for its violation of any of the requirements of this section for recognition until the next Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge.

I have no choice but to exercise my authority as Grand Master of Masons in California pursuant to Section 409.010 of the *California Masonic Code*. I therefore intend to suspend recognition of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Georgia by the Grand Lodge of California until the next Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge. I will be informing all California Masons of this action and explaining to them its impact on Masonic Communication with a Mason of your Grand Lodge.

Sincerely and fraternally,


M. DAVID PERRY
Grand Master