


The role of the Chaplain is to promote thorough, faithful, and honest endeavours to improve. In so doing, he makes his greatest contribution to the Lodge.

Some of the areas of expanded commitment will be a frequent review, memorizing, and ability to deliver a polished rendition of prayers and parts, which include:

- Opening and Closing prayers
- prayers in various portions of the ritual
- To assist the Master in participation and coordination of Masonic Funeral Rites,
- Visit sick and distressed members
- Timely awareness and reporting of the passing of a Brother



Thomas L. Lund
Grand Master



Lodge Chaplain Self Certification

Having been selected as Chaplain for the 2009-2010 Masonic year I am committed that during the term I serve as Chaplain that I will to the best of my abilities perform my duties and will assist in the shepherding and stewardship of all the members of my Lodge.

Should additional information be needed please contact:

Jim E. Trowbridge, Grand Chaplain
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Corvallis, MT 59828

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406 961-3286



Grand Lodge AF&AM of Montana 2009 - 2010 Lodge Chaplain Program



Brothers for the 2009-2010 Masonic year we are seeking an expanded Lodge Chaplain program. Each Brother selected for the position of Chaplain is asked to expand the duties and performance and take the office of Chaplain to a new level of activity and visibility.

A new Lodge Chaplain lapel pin has been designed for those Lodge Chaplains who will commit to this new level of responsibility. This commitment must be made with the effort to follow through and the desire to perform the expanded duties.

His Jewel of office is an open book, symbolizing the Volume of Sacred Law (the Christian Bible, Hebrew Torah or Tanach, the Muslim Qur'an, the Hindu Veda, the Zoroastrian Zend-Avesta, or the Proverbs of Confucius). It's simply referred to as the Volume of Sacred Law. This is a nonsectarian term representing the Holy Book held sacred by members of that Lodge.



The Chaplain of a Masonic Lodge is an appointed officer of the Lodge. Sitting to the left of the Master, he is the designated spiritual leader of the Lodge. While he may or may not be a real-world Minister, Priest, Rabbi or Imam, in the Lodge, the Chaplain is responsible for non-denominational prayers at both the opening and closing of meetings, and before meals. He should also contact and visit with sick and distressed Brothers both within and outside the local area.

We recall that Freemasonry formally organized in 1717 in England, less than 300 years ago. The office of Chaplain was instituted in the early years of Speculative Masonry. The English term "Chaplain" refers to a priest, minister or other clergy officiating in a private chapel. It is this office which is charged with the offering of holy prayer. It was adopted when men of great intellectual curiosity--musical composers, architects, philosophers, authors, churchmen, men of the aristocracy, from both royalty and the nobility--were becoming Freemasons having been attracted to this peculiar and unique organization which they learned had been founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue.

In Masonry were men, congregated together, who were devoted to the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God, and engaged in the search for truth, the relief of the indigent, and the protection of virtue. Masonry is not a religion. Masonry is not a religious order or religious organization of any kind. Masonry is not meant to replace religion in a man's life. Be that as it may, however, prayer is an essential part of the form, substance and content of Masonic assemblies and meetings.

Men in the Masonic Order denied the right of dictation by any church and were conscious of the tendency to persecution by governments under whose protection they resided. In this vein, they initiated the prohibition of religion and politics as discussion topics within the Lodge. This prohibition is jealously guarded to this day. Masonry, nevertheless, is so far interwoven with religion as to lay men under obligation to pay that rational homage to the deity which at once constitutes their duty and their happiness. It leads the contemplative to view with reverence and admiration the glorious works of creation and impresses them with the most exalted ideas of the perfection of the Creator.

From these early beginnings we now define the Chaplain's role in Masonry, which is to interpret the spirituality of the ritual to the Master of the Lodge and through him to all Lodge members. In this office it is essential that the Chaplain be conversant with the history, aims, purposes and fundamentals of the Order in general and with his Lodge in particular, paying special attention to the membership as individuals with their own particular needs and problems. His prayers unite the Brethren in a mystical bond of fellowship whose faculties are, at this time, directed toward God, the Supreme Being, to whom all must submit, and whom we ought most humbly to adore.

The only time a candidates' particular religion is of importance to the Order is when he takes his obligation on the sacred book of his own religion, the better to deem it solemn and binding. His religion is otherwise of no concern to anyone.

It is the concern of the Office of Chaplain to see that the Holy Bible is in its place on the altar when the Lodge is opened--for the Bible, and the Square and Compass, represent the Three Great Lights by which a Mason must walk and work.

Brother _____ you have been appointed Chaplain of _____ Lodge No. _____. I now invest you with the jewel of your office. That Holy Book, (which is the chart and text-book of your sacred calling) is also the Great Light of Masonry, and forever sheds its benignant rays upon every lawful assemblage of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. From it we may learn our duty to God, our neighbours and ourselves. Teach us from its life-giving precepts, and you will have faithfully fulfilled your (sacred and) important trust. Its is fitting that an emblem of the Sacred Volume should be the jewel of your office.

If you are willing to commit to this expanded role of Lodge Chaplain, then please wear your Chaplain lapel pin with pride.

