

**2025 REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION
CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF NORTH AMERICA**

Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful Brethren, Right Worshipful
Brethren, Brethren All:

I am Cameron Bailey, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and the
Chairman of the Commission.

At this time, I am pleased to present the other members of the Commission, all of whom
are styled Most Worshipful:

Anthony Craaco, Vice-chairman, Illinois (Midwest)

Adam Hathaway, New Mexico (old Southwest)

John Liley, Utah (Rocky Mountain)

Bradley Phillips, Arkansas (Southeast)

Richard Maggio, Massachusetts (Northeast)

Marc David, Quebec (Canada)

Sean Metroka (Western), nominee

Glen A. Cook, Utah, Secretary/Treasurer, is absent from this meeting. Daniel J. Laws,
Utah, is present as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

For your information, the next region to nominate a Commissioner will be the Midwest
Conference.

Since the delegates to this Conference change each year, I will reiterate the standards for
Recognition adopted for our guidance. These are the guidelines used to evaluate the regularity of
a grand lodge, and to thereby determine whether it is worthy of consideration for recognition by

our member Grand Lodges. The Commission provides this data for use by our Grand Lodges and does not attempt to influence or recommend what action should be taken. The Commission serves you in an investigative and advisory capacity only.

The standards for recognition are summarized as follows:

1. Legitimacy of origin.
2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and/or treaty.
3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks-specifically, a Belief in God, the Volume of the Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion in Lodge.

These Standards, the Commission bylaws, our reports, and other resources are at our website, masonicrecognition.org.

Regular Grand Lodge of Italy and Grand Orient of Italy

For some years, there has been a division in the recognition of Italian Grand Lodges, with the Northern European Grand Lodges generally recognizing the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy, and North American Lodges the Grand Orient of Italy.

In March 2023, the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) announced that the two Italian Grand Lodges had consented to both being recognized by UGLE. It was the understanding of the Commission that the consent now extended to our North American Grand Lodges, and a request was submitted to us to consider the matter. Subsequent to our oral report, we have received information that questions whether the positions of the Grand Lodges were accurately communicated.

To properly evaluate the matter, we require additional time. We are aware of the issues of governance in the Grand Orient of Italy resulting in civil litigation. It may be necessary to wait until these matters are resolved before providing further information for the Conference.

Grand Lodge of Belize

The Grand Lodge of Andres Quintana Roo, Mexico, formed three lodges in Belize during the period of 1976-2010. It ceded its territorial claim and authorized the formation of the Grand Lodge of Belize in 2012. In 2024, the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida, Prince Hall Affiliated, issued a statement that it “concedes the prerogative of the Grand Lodge of Belize to co-exist with the MWUGL of Florida within the country of Belize and to operate as a sovereign grand lodge.”

In 2024, the Grand Lodge of Belize was recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England.

Based on the information submitted to us, it appears that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Belize meets the Standards of Recognition adopted by this Conference.

Grande Oriente de São Paulo (Brazil)

There are three systems of Masonry in Brazil: The Grand Orient of Brazil, individual state Grand Lodges, and individual state Grand Orients. *See*, 2015 Report of the Commission. In 2019, the Commission noted that two state Grand Orients were each recognized by and had signed treaties with their respective state Grand Lodges. In 2020, we reported that three more Grand Orients took such actions in 2019, also signing an agreement with the Grand Orient of Brazil. One of those state Grand Orients was the Grand Orient Paulista (GOP).

The Grand *Orient* of São Paulo (GOSP) which now seeks findings regarding the Standards of Recognition, was formed in 1921, in what may have been an irregular manner. Nevertheless, from 1929 until 2018 when the GOSP withdrew, the GOSP was in a “Federation” with the Grand Orient of Brazil (GOB). Consequently, it lost its status of regularity as part of the GOG with it withdrew from the GOB.

The Grand Orient Paulista and the Grand Lodge of the State of São Paulo (GLESP) formed in 1927, share territory and recognize one another. Neither share territory with nor recognize the Grand *Orient* of São Paulo (GOSP) who has come before the Commission.

We are advised that the GOSP is in amity with irregular groups, including Grand Loge de l’Alliance Maçonnique Française and the Grande Loja Unida de Portugal. Additionally, we have reviewed an April 19, 2024, social media post by the GOSP in which it is stated that a GOSP lodge met in a session “only for Masons” with members of Thomas Smith Lodge No. 5 of Prince Hall Origin, Sao Paolo. We emphasize this was a Prince Hall Origin Lodge and not a Prince Hall Affiliated Lodge. Charters of both organizations appear to be displayed in the pictures.

It does not appear the Grand *Orient* of São Paulo (GOSP) meets the Standards of Recognition.

Grande Oriente do Rio Grande do Norte (Brazil)

We reviewed some of the recent history of Freemasonry in Brazil in our previous finding Grande Oriente de São Paulo. This Grand Lodge was formed in 1973 from the Grand Orient of Brazil (GOB) as the Independent Grande Oriente do Rio Grande do Norte. They amended their name to its current style in 2017.

This Grand Lodge states that it is in amity with its State Grand Lodge counterpart. It is also in amity with the United Grand Lodge of England.

It appears the Grande Oriente do Rio Grande do Norte meets the Standards of Recognition adopted by this Conference.

National Grand Lodge of Romania

In our 2023 report, we noted a schismatic grand lodge had taken the name of the National Grand Lodge of Romania and appeared at a regional masonic conference, asking to “reconfirm” existing treaties of recognition. It was further noted that they had similar, but different coats of arms on their letterhead. That Grand Lodge, which states its Grand Master is Vlad Năstase, has objected to the 2023 Note. Both grand lodges claiming legitimacy appeared and made presentations.

We find the objection without merit.

In short, the Nastase Grand Lodge claims that the last year that Grand Master Radu Bălănescu served was 2021. The Grand Lodge recognized by the majority of the grand lodges of the world states that M. W. Balenescu served until 2023, when Cătălin Viorel Tohăneanu was elected.

We have not been presented with facts that convince us to accept the Năstase Grand Lodge. The Tohăneanu Grand Lodge still appears to be the legitimate grand lodge in Romania.

The Commission would not expect to hear further on this matter unless there are new and material facts or a change in circumstances.

United Grand Lodge of Georgia

We refer to our reports of 2022 and 2023, in which we have stated that the Grand Lodge of Georgia (2015) appears to be regular , and that the United Grand Lodge of Georgia (2018) does not appear to be regular. The United Grand Lodge of Georgia returns, asking the Commission to change its findings.

There is no dispute that regular grand lodges constituted the United Grand Lodge of Georgia (2018). That does not answer the issue we have repeatedly raised: if the 2015 Grand Lodge of Georgia continued to exist and work, as we were informed it has, the 2018 United Grand Lodge of Georgia does not have territorial jurisdiction.

The UGLG errs on a number of issues. There is no well established rule in Freemasonry that a grand lodge officer must first serve as a master of a lodge. It certainly is not found in the Standards of Recognition which we apply, the Principles of Recognition utilized by the United Grand Lodge of England, or Mackey's Landmarks. Is it common to do so in various grand lodge constitutions? Our experience leads us to believe so. But that does not make it a requirement of regularity.

There is evidence that the 2015 GLG has allowed its members to join a Scottish Rite obedience allied with the Grand Lodge of France, considered by the members of this Conference to be irregular, and a Scottish Rite obedience which would not be not in amity with the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States. There is no evidence that the 2015 GLG members are allowed to sit in a GLdF lodge. The fraternal relations of side orders are not the fraternal relations of Grand Lodges. There are members in this Conference who may be allowed to sit in a side order or appendant body with Masons of a grand lodge with whom theirs is not in amity.

It appears the 2015 GLG is a member of a confederation. It is unclear who belongs to that confederation or if they meet in tyled meetings This Conference does not meet in tyled meetings. Some members of this Conference are also members of the World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges which has grand lodges which do not share amity. But that Conference does not meet as a tyled masonic entity.

It is alleged that none of the parties present at the 2016 Cologne meeting recognized either the 2015 GLG or Archil Ebralidze as its Grand Master. Of course, that means that Archil Ebralidze could not have consented to the merger of the 2015 GLG. It is also inconsistent to name him as a Past Grand Master of the 2018 UGLG if he was not a member of a regular grand lodge nor a grand master.

It is not disputed that there was a vote to form the 2018 UGLG. That does not mean the 2015 GLG had been called to session to hold such a vote.

As has become common place in submissions to your Commission, there is some space spent on character assassination and in this case nationalistic biases. We will not address those comments.

It is claimed the founding charter of the GLG is in possession of the UGLG. First, it is not required that a charter be issued to found a grand lodge. This has become an unfortunate tendency in Eastern Europe. We agree that our concern with the charter originally issued to the 2018 UGLG has been resolved.

The UGLG quotes the Commission's statement in our 2022 report regarding the Grand Lodge of Lebanon: "We agree that the well established custom and practice in Europe is to consult with other grand lodges working in a jurisdiction." It is disappointing that UGLG omits

our further comment: “However, that need for consultation, while a custom, and even a well recommended custom, is not a requirement for forming a grand lodge.”

The 2015 Grand Lodge argues that the founding lodges of the 2018 Grand Lodge were actually not working in the country of Georgia.

Our opinion is unchanged. On the evidence which we have been presented, the Grand Lodge of Georgia was properly constituted in 2015. The evidence presented does not show it has ceased to exist.

The Commission does not wish to entertain any future presentation on this matter unless new and material evidence is provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Bailey, PGM, Chairman
Anthony Craaco, PGM
Adam Hathaway, PGM
John Liley, PGM
Bradley Phillips, PGM
Richard Maggio, PGM
Marc David, PGM
Glen A. Cook, PGM, Secretary/Treasurer

Most Worshipful Sir, I move that this report be accepted.

Final upon publication