

BETHEL GUARDIAN COUNCIL

OBJECT: Provide adult guidance and supervision of all Bethel meetings and activities held in the name of IOJD by this Bethel.

MEMBERSHIP: Consists of not more than nine (9) adult members, five (5) of whom will be Executive Members and four (4) of whom will be Associate Members. All others appointed by the Bethel Guardian shall be Committee Chairmen. Such committees may bear the same designation as listed in B-BGC 5, Article III which are not held by an Associate Member of the BGC. The title of "Chairman" shall be used instead of "Promoter" or "Director", except in the cases of Chairman of Finance, Chairman of Hospitality.

ELIGIBILITY: Those eligible for appointment as **Bethel Guardian and Associate Bethel Guardian** are Master Masons and women who have attained the age of twenty (20) years provided they are the wife, daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, mother, grandmother, sister, half sister, niece, daughter-in-law or widow of a Master Mason; members of an organization basing its membership requirement on Masonic relationship; Past Bethel Guardians or Majority Members of the IOJD.

Executive Members, (other than Bethel Guardian and Associate Bethel Guardian) **and Associate Members:** above relationship or parent, grandparent, stepparent or guardian of a member of the Bethel.

APPOINTMENT: There is no election of members of a BGC. They are appointed by the newly elected Supreme Guardian within thirty (30) days thereafter. Adults are recommended by the Daughters and current Council members for consideration by the new Supreme Guardian.

TERM OF OFFICE: Runs concurrent with the Supreme Guardian Council year and terminates at the close of the Annual Session of the SGC. Members shall serve until their successors are installed. Executive Members of BGC shall serve no more than three (3) consecutive years in the same office unless deemed necessary by the Supreme Guardian. They shall be ineligible until after a lapse of one year.

RESIGNATIONS: A letter of resignation shall be submitted to the Guardian Secretary who shall notify the Bethel Guardian. The Bethel Guardian shall immediately call a meeting of the Executive members who shall take action on the resignation. The Bethel Guardian shall then notify the Supreme Guardian and the member who resigned of the action taken.

REMOVAL: In the event of the removal from office of one or more Executive Council Members by the Supreme Guardian, the Supreme Guardian shall select and appoint those necessary to fill vacancies caused by such removal.

An Executive BGC Member who fails to attend three (3) meetings of the Bethel or three (3) meetings of the BGC except in the case of illness or unavoidable absence, is automatically removed. Any member of the BGC may be removed from office by the Supreme Guardian for cause, insubordination, misconduct or unlawful withholding or retention of property of a Bethel. Executive Members who are delinquent in paying fines (late annual report) shall lose the right of membership in the SGC.

INSTALLATION: A member of the SGC, Assisting Deputies, Bethel Guardians, Associate Bethel Guardians, Past Bethel Guardians and Past Associate Bethel Guardians of a Bethel under Supreme shall install the appointed Council members at a Bethel meeting no later than **October 31**.

VACANCIES: When any vacancy occurs on a BGC, the Bethel Guardian shall immediately notify the Supreme Guardian. If requested to do so, the remaining Executive BGC Members shall recommend the name of an eligible replacement to the Supreme Guardian. The Supreme Guardian makes the appointment. Those appointed shall be installed at the next regular meeting of the Bethel, or as soon as is convenient following receipt of the Certificate of Appointment.

MEETINGS: Executive Members of the BGC shall hold regular monthly meetings (except during vacation) for discussion of all matters pertaining to the Bethel and for the good of the Order. The Associate Members and adult Committee Chairmen may be invited to attend. The five (5) elected officers of the Bethel may also be invited. After the matters for which their presence is required have been discussed, they shall be excused before the BGC continues with its business. Accurate minutes of all BGC meetings shall be kept by the Guardian Secretary. These minutes shall be approved by the Supreme Guardian (or her Deputy) at the time of her Official Visit. When attending a BGC meeting, Associate Members and adult Chairmen shall be entitled to vote on all business except those matters specifically delegated to the Executive BGC.

ANNUAL MEETING: To be held during the month of April but at least 90 days prior to Annual Session. The nine (9) members of the BGC shall recommend by secret ballot the Executive BGC Members for the ensuing term, for consideration by the Vice Supreme Guardian. The ballots shall be tabulated in the presence of those in attendance and additional ballots taken until a majority recommendation appears for each office. The Executive Members present shall recommend not more than four (4) Associate Council Members. Committee Chairmen are not eligible to vote on recommendations for any members of the BGC at the Annual Meeting. Names are then listed on Form 222 and sent to the Vice Supreme Guardian at least 80 days prior to Annual Session.
