

# The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

*Free and Accepted Masons • Jurisdiction of Tennessee*

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**From the Desk of L. Lamont Banks, KYGCH, 33°  
Most Worshipful Grand Master**

May 30, 2025

To all elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers

To all Prince Hall Master Masons that owe allegiance to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN

To all Concordant, Auxiliary, and Subordinate Masonic bodies that owe allegiance to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN

Greetings one and all,

This directive will address the long-standing confusion & tension between the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodges, and the Prince Hall Shriners. The Prince Hall Shriners have claimed for several years that they ARE NOT a Masonic body and, as such, are not under the control and supervision of Grand Lodges or their Most Worshipful Grand Master. The Conference of Grand Masters & several Grand Lodges didn't agree with The Prince Hall Shriner's declaration. What followed was over a decade of withdrawn recognition, broken relationships, unstable truces, and unspoken hard truths.

The Conference of Grand Masters held its 106th annual session in Omaha, Nebraska on May 15-17, 2025. After much discussion and deliberation, one hard truth was accepted, and three recommendations were adopted.

## **Hard Truth:**

Prince Hall Shriners ARE NOT a Masonic Body. This fact changes the way Prince Hall Masons view and engages with Prince Hall Shriners.

## **Recommendations:**

1. The COGM will create a Memorandum of Understanding with the Prince Hall Shriners if the Shriners are willing to do so.
2. Each Prince Hall Grand Lodge shall decide if they want to enter into a MOU with the Prince Hall Shriners.
3. Prince Hall Grand Lodges, who decide to enter into a MOU with the Prince Hall Shriners, will endeavor to mirror the COGM MOU for clarity and uniformity.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN is a proud member of the Conference of Grand Masters and will stand by the decision the conference made on this topic.

**Banks001-6-1-2025**

I, L. Lamont Banks, 17th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN do hereby acknowledge that the Prince Hall Shriners have by their actions and declarations successfully

removed their status as a Masonic Body. We, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN accept their status change and recognize their independence.

Now, I, L. Lamont Banks, do hereby declare and decree, that the words about Mystic Shriner in Chapter 10, Article 3, Section 1, listed on page 107, of the Masonic Code and Constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN, that states the Mystic Shrine, hereafter called the Prince Hall Shriners, are a Masonic Body and grants authority over them to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN to be NULL and VOID.

I hereby decree that the Prince Hall Shriners and their Auxiliary, The Daughters of the Imperial Court, (DOI) are no longer to be considered a Masonic body, and their respective leadership will not be treated as a Grand Head of a Masonic House.

I hereby decree that all Masonic organization charts, calendars, literature, documents, regalia, and all other Masonic items that have the Prince Hall Shriners or DOI name, images, symbols, or emblems listed as a Masonic Body to be improper Masonic information.

I hereby direct all Masonic Bodies, and their Subordinate bodies, to immediately remove all improper Prince Hall Shrine-related items from all Freemason buildings, ritualistic and study materials, websites, and all virtual spaces owned or controlled by a Masonic body or entity that owes allegiance to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of TN. The only exceptions to this rule are:

(1.) when it's marked as a historic display or presentation.

(2.) The Prince Hall Shrine body has rented space in a Masonic building, or a Masonic body has rented space in a Prince Hall Shrine building.

These two exceptions shall be approved by the District Deputy Grand Master /District Deputy Grand Matron or Senior Grand Officer.

The Prince Hall Shriners are a **HIGHLY** respected organization and will be treated as such just like all other respected Non-Profit organizations in Tennessee. I look forward to the day we can enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Prince Hall Shriners on a National and Jurisdictional level.

I remain,



MWGM L. Lamont Banks  
17th Most Worshipful Grand Master  
MWPHGLTN



Lee V. Lester  
RW Grand Secretary  
MWPHGLTN

