



Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter

HOLY ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF FLORIDA & U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, INC.
Prince Hall Affiliated

Post Office Box 26834, Jacksonville, Florida 32226 | 305.527.9523
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17TH ANNUAL YORK RITE WORKSHOP PROCLAMATION

August 1, 2025

Most Excellent
Dr. Elton L. Lewis KYGCH KCT
Grand High Priest

Right Excellent
Peter J. Bruton KYCH
Deputy Grand High Priest

Right Excellent
Andre Reed KYCH
Grand King

Right Excellent
Craig E. Hall KYCH
Grand Scribe

Right Excellent
Jose "Tito" George
Grand Treasurer

Right Excellent
Darryl V. Smith
Grand Secretary

Right Excellent
Rev. Jeremy N. Blackwell
Grand Chaplain

Right Excellent
Henry L. Williams III
Grand Chair of Foreign
Correspondence

To the Honorable Gus Harris Jr., Most Worshipful Grand Master; All Florida Jurisdiction Department Heads; Deputy Grand High Priest, Right Excellent Peter J. Bruton; Grand King, Right Excellent Andre Reed; Grand Scribe, Right Excellent Craig E. Hall; Grand Treasurer, Right Excellent Jose "Tito" George; Grand Secretary, Right Excellent Darryl V. Smith; Grand Chaplain, Right Excellent Rev. Jeremy N. Blackwell; Grand CCFC, Right Excellent Henry L. Williams III; All Past Most Excellent Grand High Priests; All Past Grand High Priests; All Appointed Grand Chapter Officers; All Excellent High Priests, Past High Priests, Kings, Scribes, Treasurers, Secretaries; All Local Appointed Officers, and All Companions.

Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

1 Timothy 5:17

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter has worked to deliver you a York Rite Workshop built on a foundation of EXCELLENCE, housed in PERFECTION, and guarded by LOVE. This year's **workshop**, just as in years past, will focus on the good **work**, true **work**, and square **work** of our Companions all across the Jurisdiction. However, this workshop is more especially significant as we honor our leader for his service to this craft and an EXCELLENT tenure as Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

CALL TO ASSEMBLE

Now, by the prerogative of this office and in conformity with the Constitution and By-Laws governing the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons of Florida & U.S. Virgin Islands, Prince Hall Affiliated, I, Most Excellent Dr. Elton L. Lewis KCT KYGCH, Grand High Priest of all Capitular Masonry, do hereby proclaim the **17th Annual York Rite Workshop**, will convene for all Holy Royal Arch Masons on Friday, January 9, 2026 and conclude on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at the Double Tree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld 10100 International Dr., Orlando Florida 32821.

LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS

The host hotel for this event is the Double Tree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld. The hotel can be reached at (407) 352-1100 to make your reservations. Book your rooms under the group name of "**York Rite Weekend 2026**." The room rate is \$139.00 per night plus applicable taxes/fees for a standard single (king bed) or standard double (queen beds). Reservation cut-off date is December 1, 2025. *(After December 1, 2025 reservation requests are confirmed on guestroom and convention rate availability. If the rate is not available, the prevailing hotel rate will apply.)*

The Pass Key for Hotel Reservations:

The pass key for the 17th York Rite Workshop is below. Please click the hyperlink below to access the hotel reservation site:

[LINK TO DOUBLETREE BY HILTON - ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD - PASS KEY](#)

We are expecting a larger than normal attendance at this event, so make your reservations early. Please do not over book rooms. Reservations must be made with a major credit card. The Grand Chapter will not be responsible for cancellation charges or overbooked rooms.

REGISTRATION

Registration is **\$150.00 from August 1, 2025 through November 15, 2025**. Late Registration is **\$175.00 from November 16, 2025 through December 1, 2025**. Any registrations received by the Grand Secretary after December 1, 2025 will be considered on-site registration. On-site registration is \$225.00. Chapters must pre-register the following six (6) local Chapter officers: Excellent High Priest, King, Scribe, Captain of the Host, Principal Sojourner, and Royal Arch Captain. These officers must register whether in attendance or not. Your ticket to the testimonial is included with the registration cost. **All those who are exempt from registration are required to pay \$75.00 to receive a ticket to the testimonial for the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.**

All **Appointed Grand Chapter Officers** and Companions who serve as **Joshua or Court Director** for the Heroines of Jericho are expected to **register with their local Royal Arch Chapter**. This will be strictly enforced. Please understand that it should not be expected that the local HOJ Court will pay your registration for you.

This year's registration form can also be completed using the online registration form. A link to the online registration form can be found on the registration form attached below. ALL local Chapter Secretaries are asked to complete the online registration form to allow for accuracy of information being submitted. The QR Code for Zelle payments can also be found on the online registration form.

Registrations should be mailed directly to the **Grand Secretary, Right Excellent Darryl V. Smith, at P.O. Box 26834, Jacksonville, FL 32226**. Attached below is the registration form, which includes a link to the online registration form. Make all checks and money orders payable to the "M.E.U.G.C." If you send a check there will be a \$40 fee on any returned check plus bank fees. Individuals or Chapters can also register using Zelle by sending funds using the email address meugc.grtreasurer@gmail.com.

ATTIRE

All elected and appointed Grand Chapter Officers are to dress in full ritualistic regalia. Please see the attached agenda for more detailed information regarding the attire for each event. *In lieu of full Royal Arch dress Companions are authorized to wear the **APPROVED** Grand Chapter oxford of any color, black slacks, black shoes, black socks, crown, apron, gloves, and appropriate collar.*

OCCASIONAL CHAPTER OPENING

The officers and members of District 5 out of Zone 1 will perform the Workshop opening in due and ritualistic form.

MOST EXCELLENT GRAND HIGH PRIEST TESTIMONIAL BANQUET

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter HRAM is excited to announce the much anticipated Testimonial Banquet honoring our 18th Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Dr. Elton L. Lewis. Detailed information on all of the events for this celebration is forthcoming. Please make sure that you make all arrangements to be in that number as we celebrate the tenure of our leader!

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

HAGGAI AWARD: For all companions exalted over the last 12 months and working towards the Haggai Award, you will need to submit the award tracking form prior to December 1, 2025. The tracking form can be found attached below. The Haggai Award is our designated new member retention program.

COMPANION OF THE YEAR AWARD: We will award one deserving Companion the "Charles T. Maxwell Companion of the Year" Award. The recipient of this award will be afforded free registration to all HRAM

events for the year that they hold the award and will be exempted from Grand Chapter head taxes for the year that they receive the award.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS: We will award one Chapter of the Year Award for a small chapter (20 Companions or less) and a large chapter (20+ Companions). The rubric for Chapter of the Year can be found in each local Chapter's Google Drive folder. Those Chapters who believe they are eligible for Chapter of the Year (either small or large) should submit their completed rubrics to the Grand Secretary no later than December 1, 2025.

GRAND CHAPTER BOOK OF MARKS

The Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter has adopted an Official Book of Marks for Companions of the Jurisdiction to have their official mark left in perpetuity amongst the archives. Every Companion in attendance can have their mark placed in the Grand Chapter Book of Marks on a first-come-first-serve basis at a cost of \$20.00.

In closing, I ask for your continued prayers of intercession for me as I go to the Supreme High Priest of Heaven and Earth in intercession for you. Let "Holiness to the Lord" be engraved upon all your thoughts, words and actions.

This communication is to be read in its entirety during each meeting before the York Rite Workshop and a copy made available to each member via email or regular mail.



UNDER THE LIVING ARCH I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Most Excellent Union Grand Chapter to be affixed.

Most Ex. Dr. Elton L. Lewis, KCT KYGCH
Grand High Priest of all Capitular Masonry

ATTESTED,

Rt. Ex. Darryl V. Smith
Grand Secretary





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A TESTIMONIAL CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF

DR. ELTON L. LEWIS, KCT, KYGCH 18th Most Excellent Grand High Priest

August 7, 2025

"Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts."

Haggai 2:4

Dear Companions, Friends, and Esteemed Guests,

With jubilant hearts and reverent spirits, we extend to you a distinguished and colorful invitation to a truly extraordinary celebration:

A Bahamian-Styled Testimonial Honoring the Life and Leadership of Most Excellent Grand High Priest Dr. Elton Leonard Lewis, KCT, KYGCH.

Dr. Lewis has served with unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and inspiring grace throughout his tenure as Grand High Priest. His commitment to excellence and fellowship has not only upheld the noble traditions of Prince Hall Royal Arch Masonry, but has also illuminated the path of unity, service, and brotherly love.

To honor his profound contributions, we are hosting a celebration unlike any other infused with the warmth, rhythm, and joyful spirit of the Bahamas. This evening will feature heartfelt tributes, lively music, dancing, laughter, and camaraderie—a true blend of Masonic dignity and cultural vibrance.

We invite you to come dressed in your best vibrant Bahamian colors and prepare for a night where tradition meets expression and reverence meets revelry. This is more than a banquet—it is a living tribute to a remarkable man who has led with soul, sincerity, and vision.

Below you will find details on how to participate with us and join in the celebration!

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Grand Chaplain

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TESTIMONIAL DETAILS

Date & Time:

Saturday, January 10, 2026

7:00 PM – 11:00 PM (*Doors will open at 6:30pm*)

Location:

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Orlando at SeaWorld

10100 International Drive

Orlando, FL 32821

Banquet Theme Colors and Dress:

Formal Vibrant Bahamian Colors

Ticket Cost:

- General Public – \$75.00
- 2026 Convocation Registered Companions – *Included in Registration*
- Non-Florida Jurisdiction – Registration is \$75.00 – *for price of meal*
- Sitting Most Excellent Grand High Priests – *FREE*
- Exempt Registered Companions– Registration is \$75.00 – *for price of meal*

Souvenir Journal Advertisement Pricing:

- 1/2 Page Color Ad – \$75.00
- Full Page Color Ad – \$125.00
- Inside Rear Cover (Color Only) – \$200.00
- Outside Rear Cover (Color Only) – \$200.00
- All ads must be emailed to rahim.a.christian14@gmail.com
- ***All ads should be print-ready upon receipt. If further details or specifications for ads is needed, please email rahim.a.christian14@gmail.com for more information.***

Payment Instructions:

Please make all checks payable to: **MEGUC Holy Royal Arch**

Memo Line Options:

- Testimonial Tickets
- Testimonial Ad
- Testimonial Donation

Mail All Payments To:

MEUGC

Post Office Box 26834

Jacksonville, Florida 32226

