

**BY-LAWS OF
HIRAM LODGE NO. 50, F.&A.M.
Madison, Wisconsin**

ARTICLE I

Name, Warrant, Members, Communications,
Order of Business, Fiscal Year

Section 1. Name -- The name of this Lodge shall be Hiram Lodge No. 50, F.&A.M.

Section 2. Warrant -- The warrant of this Lodge is a Charter granted on the 14th day of June, A.D. 1854, A.L., 5864, by the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin, to the Constitution, Laws and Edict whereof the most explicit respect and obedience shall ever be paid by this Lodge and its members.

Section 3. Members -- The members of this Lodge shall be those named in its Dispensation or Charter, Master Masons who have been admitted by regular or plural affiliation, and those who have been raised as Master Masons by or for this Lodge; provided, that membership and all the rights thereto shall have been attained in accordance with the By-Laws of this Lodge and the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of the Grand Lodge.

Section 4. Stated Communications -- The Stated Communications of this Lodge shall be held on the first and third Mondays of the months of October through May and the third Monday of the months of June through September at 7:30 o'clock P.M., except as provided in the Masonic Code of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

Section 5. Annual Communication -- The Annual Communication of this Lodge shall be the first Stated Communication in December. The annual election of Officers of this Lodge shall be held at the first Stated Communication in November and a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for election. The five ranking Officers of this Lodge and Trustees shall be individually elected by written ballot.

Section 6. Special Communications -- Special Communications shall be convened at the pleasure of the Worshipful Master, but no business shall be transacted except that stated in the call.

Section 7. Order of Business -- The order of business at all Stated Communications, subject to change by the Worshipful Master, shall be:

1. -- Opening
2. -- Reading of Minutes
3. -- Reading & Referring petitions and reports thereon
4. -- Balloting on petitions
5. -- Reports of committees
6. --Inquiries in regard to sick Brothers
7. --Miscellaneous business
8. --Conferring of Degrees
9. --Closing

Section 8. Fiscal Year -- The fiscal year of this Lodge shall be from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

**ARTICLE II
Officers, Trustees and Bond**

Section 1. Officers -- The Officers of this Lodge, their election, their term of office and their duties shall be such as are prescribed by the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

Section 2. Compensation -- The Secretary, Treasurer, and Tiler shall receive such compensation for their services as shall be determined and fixed by the Lodge at the Annual Communication.

Section 3. Compensation for Attending Grand Lodge -- Each Warden, or his proxy, attending the Grand Lodge Annual Communication as a representative of this Lodge, shall be paid by this Lodge an amount equal to that paid by the Grand Lodge to the ranking representative of this Lodge. However, no representative shall receive such compensation from the Grand Lodge if, by becoming an Officer of the Grand Lodge or the ranking representative of this Lodge because he receives such compensation from the Grand Lodge.

Section 4. Trustees -- This Lodge shall have three (3) Trustees elected by and from the members for terms of three (3) years. Their duties are such as are or shall be prescribed by the Laws of the State of Wisconsin, The regulations of the Grand Lodge and the regulations of this Lodge. Only one trustee shall be elected at the Annual Election of the Lodge Officers. In the event of a vacancy, the Office of a Trustee will be filled as prescribed by the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

The representative to the board of the Madison Masonic Center Foundation Inc. from Hiram Lodge No. 50, F.&A.M. shall make a verbal report to the Worshipful Master of this Lodge as soon as is practical after a meeting of the Foundation. This report shall include, but not be limited to, all matters acted on or considered by the Foundation at such meeting, with special emphasis on those items related to the interests of this Lodge. He shall also make available to this Lodge a copy of the minutes of all meetings of the Foundation for the Lodge file. The Worshipful Master shall make a report to the Lodge, after receiving the verbal report from the representative, and shall determine if he should appear before the Lodge with an additional report.

The Trustees shall conform to the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge by meeting together, completing an annual inventory of all Lodge property, and making reports to the Lodge of all their meetings and official acts. They are referred to Chapter 60 of the Masonic Code of Wisconsin for additional duties and information.

Section 5. Officer Bond -- The Treasurer and Secretary shall be covered by a surety bond in the penal sum of such amount as shall be prescribed by the Lodge. The surety company shall be approved as surety by the Worshipful Master. The bond shall be conditioned for the faithful performance of their respective duties. The expense of such bond shall be paid by the Lodge and the bond or bonds when approved shall be filed with the Lodge Secretary.

ARTICLE III
Candidates, Petitions, Fees and Dues

Section 1. Candidates -- Qualifications of candidates for the degrees shall be accordance with the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

Section 2. Petitions -- Petitions for the degrees or for affiliation as regular or plural members shall be in such form and content as prescribed by the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

Section 3. Fees and Dues -- The fees for degrees and dues shall be in such amount and payable at such times and in such manner as the Lodge shall by resolution determine, at the first Stated Communication in May, but there shall be no proposed increases which exceed five (5) percent. When a proposed increase exceeds five (5) percent or occurs on any date other than the first Stated Communication in May, it must be at a Stated Communication, and then only after due and proper written notice has been given to the membership of this Lodge at least ten (10) days prior to the date designated for such action on the resolution.

Section 4. -- When a person becomes a member by affiliation with, or by being raised in the Lodge during the year, he shall pay dues prorated at the time of his affiliation or raising computed from the beginning of the month in which he affiliates or is raised, plus all Grand Lodge assessments for the year.

Section 5. -- No part of the dues for the current year shall be refunded to a member who is granted a Certificate of Transfer from this Lodge.

Section 6. -- No member of this Lodge shall be permitted to hold any office in the Lodge unless all his dues, including the current year, are paid in full.

ARTICLE IV
Standing and Special Committees

Section 1. -- The Charity Committee of this Lodge shall be a standing committee consisting of the Worshipful Master and Wardens and it shall be the duty of this committee to investigate all cases of charity and administer such relief as in the discretion of the committee it may be found necessary to alleviate the distress of any member of this Lodge or those who by Masonic derivation have any claims upon the Lodge, within the limits fixed by Masonic Law or the By-Laws of this Lodge.

Section 2. -- The Finance Committee of this Lodge shall be a standing committee and it shall consist of the Worshipful Master and Wardens. It shall be the duty of this committee to examine all bills, claims and accounts which may be presented to the Lodge and report thereon and no accounts shall be allowed or paid by the Lodge until the same shall have been audited and approved by the Finance Committee. It shall also be the duty of this Finance Committee to examine the books and vouchers of the Treasurer and Secretary from time to time and report thereon to the Lodge. The Finance Committee shall annually present a budget to the Lodge for its consideration prior to the fixing of dues for the ensuing year.

Section 3. -- The Committee on Discipline shall be a standing committee of this Lodge and shall consist of the Worshipful Master and Wardens. The duties of this committee shall be such

as are or may hereafter be prescribed by the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

Section 4. Special Committees -- As the Worshipful Master is absolute in the government of his Lodge, he has the power, right and prerogative to appoint any and all special committees and designate the personnel of any and all such special committees he may appoint.

ARTICLE V
Miscellaneous

Section 1. Worshipful Master's Hat -- The Lodge shall present each succeeding Worshipful Master, upon installation, with a "Top Hat".

Section 2. Past Master's Apron and Jewel -- The Lodge shall present each retiring Worshipful Master with a Past Master's Apron. At the option of the Past Master, the Lodge shall also present him with a Past Master's jewel, watch or ring, not to exceed \$100.00 in cost.

Section 3. Membership Roster -- The Lodge shall publish every third year a complete roster of its members, together with the names of its members holding 50-year Grand Lodge Certificates, the names of all living Past Masters of the Lodge, a list of current year Officers, the Worshipful Master's Message and other Lodge activities as determined appropriate by the Worshipful Master.

Section 4. Use of Lodge Property -- No Jewels, ornaments or paraphernalia, or other property of this Lodge shall be taken from or used outside the Temple, except on Masonic occasions or for the purposes of repair, refurbishing or maintenance.

ARTICLE VI
Amendments

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at any Stated Communication.

Section 2. Any proposed amendment shall be presented in writing at a Stated Communication, recorded upon in the minutes of the Lodge and shall lie over to a designated subsequent Stated Communication for vote thereon. At least ten (10) days prior to the date designated for action on the proposed amendment, written notice shall be given to the membership of this Lodge.

Section 3. All amendments to these By-Laws hereafter adopted shall be submitted to the Grand Master and shall be of no force or effect until he has approved the same.

Section 4. Any law hereafter enacted by the Grand Lodge which changes any provisions of these By-Laws operates as an amendment thereof without action by the Lodge.

Adopted by Hiram Lodge # 50, F.&A.M. Oct. 5, 2002
Approved by Most Worshipful Grand Master James H. Olson
Nov. 20, 2002