



Constitution Of The
Equestrian Secular & Chapterial
Order Of Saint Joachim

Index

Section 1: Name and Purpose	3
Section 2: Governance & Grand Chapter Officers	3
Section 3: Commanderies	11
Section 4: Entry Into The Order.....	13
Section 5: Knights Of Honour	15
Section 6: Oblations, Fees & Fines.....	16
Section 7: Ranks & Advancement	18
Section 8: Insignia & Awards.....	19
Section 9: Other Awards.....	22
Section 10: The Code Of Honour	22
Section 11: Complaints, Discipline & Expulsion	24
Section 12: Voting Procedures.....	26
Section 13: Meetings.....	28
Section 14: Finances	30

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

SECTION 1 – NAME AND PURPOSE

- 1) The Order shall be known as:
“THE EQUESTRIAN, SECULAR AND CHAPTERIAL
ORDER OF SAINT JOACHIM”
or in short form:
“THE ORDER OF SAINT JOACHIM”
- 2) The Equestrian, Secular And Chapterial Order Of Saint Joachim (“The Order”) is dedicated to its original founding principles of promoting religious tolerance, charitable care for the widows and orphans of war, the poor and helpless, the sick and dying, those who have served honourably in the military, as well as the mutual support of its members.
- 3) The Order is also committed to the promotion of the ideals of chivalry, namely: Faith, Charity, Justice, Wisdom, Prudence, Temperance, Diligence, Valour, Humility and Hope, which principles are hereby affirmed and shall direct The Order’s actions.

SECTION 2 – GOVERNANCE

- 1) The Order shall be international in its ideals and organization under the leadership of the Grand Master.
- 2) The Grand Master, The Grand Prior, and the Grand Chancellor shall form the Executive Committee of the Order, known as the Grand Council. The Grand Council shall have the power of Grand Chapter in the day to day

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

operation of The Order between meetings of the Grand Chapter.

3) **GRAND CHAPTER**

- a) The Grand Chapter is the governing body of The Order.
- b) Grand Chapter shall consist of, in addition to the Grand Master and Coadjutor, a further nine (9) members appointed to office by the procedures laid down in the constitution. Commanders of National Commanderies shall also sit as ex-officio members of Grand Chapter.
- c) The officers of Grand Chapter shall be of the rank required by the position and the constitution unless varied by death or resignation at which time the Grand Master may nominate a replacement until a new appointee is appointed as laid down by the constitution.
- d) A member of the Grand Chapter may be relieved of his position for dishonourable actions at the will of the Grand Master and by a majority vote of the General Chapter.
- e) The members of the Grand Chapter shall be as described below.

4) **THE GRAND MASTER**

- a) The Grand Master is the titular and de facto head of The Order, and shall have such powers and authority as set out in this Constitution.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- b) The Officers of the Grand Chapter shall work subordinate to the Grand Master under the guidance of the Grand Chancellor.
- c) he Grand Master shall appoint officers of Grand Chapter for their initial terms of not more than five years, but shall thereafter be eligible for re-election under the rules of the Constitution.
- d) The Grand Master is Chairman of the Executive Committee of Grand Chapter, known as the Grand Council, which shall consist of the Grand Master, Grand Chancellor and Grand Prior, which may exercise the all the powers of Grand Chapter.
- e) The Grand Master shall appoint, at his pleasure, a Coadjutor who may be of any nationality.

5) **THE GRAND CHANCELLOR**

- a) The Grand Chancellor is Chairman of the Grand Chapter, and is responsible for the general administrative operations of The Order.
- b) The Grand Chancellor will chair all meetings of the Grand Chapter or deputise the Vice Chancellor or other officer of the Grand Chapter to so do. His responsibilities shall be to organize and control all activities of the Grand Chapter and to ensure the proper organization of the Grand Chapter officers.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- c) The Grand Chancellor will recommend, by the constitution rules, all promotions to the Grand Master, who has the final authority.
- d) All matters pertaining to the governance of The Order will be brought to the attention of the Grand Master.
- e) Nominees for the position of Grand Chancellor shall only be taken from members being Knight or Dame Grand Commander (GCJ).

6) **GRAND VICE CHANCELLOR**

- a) The Grand Vice Chancellor will deputise for and assist the Grand Chancellor in all things and bring to the Grand Chancellor's attention any matters affecting the Order or its members.
- b) Nominees for the position of Grand Vice Chancellor shall be taken only from members being Knight or Dame Commander (KCJ) in a manner under the rules of appointment.

7) **GRAND PRIOR**

- a) The Grand Prior shall be responsible for the spiritual guidance of the Order, to provide such practical guidance in a non-denominational attitude to the benefit of the Order, to liaise with other members of the Order and to lead prayers as appropriate at meetings or functions.
- b) The Grand Prior shall also lead the Order's "Corps of Chaplains", which is open to any and

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

all members of the Order who are of Holy Orders, and may advise and assist him in any way he deems advisable.

- c) Nominees shall only be taken from Knights Grand Commander (GCJ) and shall be of Holy Orders and may be of any denomination at the will of the Grand Chapter.

8) **GRAND MILITARY KNIGHT**

- a) The Grand Military Knight will be responsible for the maintenance of the honourable standards of all members both subordinate and superior rank. He/she will also be responsible for the correctness of all insignia worn in ceremony and for the enforcement of fines for breaches of either etiquette, good order or failure to pay such dues as may be required and for any breaches of the dress code where insignia is worn on any occasion incorrectly.
- b) Nominees for Grand Military Knight shall only be accepted from Knight Commander or higher rank and shall be appointed under the general rules of the constitution. The nominees should also have fought under arms on a field of conflict in the service of the Sovereign or his Nation and hold such honours as may be proven to such service.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

9) **GRAND ALMONER**

- a) The Grand Almoner will be responsible for the Order's charitable undertakings. He/she will be responsible fundraising activities on behalf of the Order as well as recommending charitable projects to receive the Order's funds.
- b) Nominees for Grand Almoner shall only be accepted from Knight/Dame Commander or higher rank and shall be appointed under the general rules of the constitution.

10) **GRAND SCRIBE**

- a) The Grand Scribe will attend all meetings of the Grand Chapter or other meetings of import to the Order. The function will include the minuting of meetings and preparation of reports for the Grand Chapter or any officers thereof. The Grand Scribe will also fulfill the Secretary's duties through the offices of the Grand Chancellor.
- b) Nominees shall hold the rank of Knight/Dame or above and shall be competent in taking notes and the use of or access to word processing facilities.

11) **GRAND AUDITOR**

- a) The Grand Auditor shall keep the accounts in a good and proper order. He/she has the responsibility to produce quarterly and annual reports for presentation to the Grand Chapter and the Grand Master. The Grand Auditor shall keep the records of income and expenditure and

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

prepare such reports as required by the Grand Chancellor.

- b) The Grand Auditor shall, together with the Grand Master, Grand Chancellor, Grand Prior, and Grand Vice Chancellor be the only signatories to the account expenditures of the Order.
- c) The records of collection and distribution of oblations, fees, fines and all other incomes shall be maintained by the Auditor to the needs of the Order.
- d) Nominees shall be from any rank of Knight/Dame or higher, but must also hold a recognized professional qualification in the field of accountancy to the acceptance of the Grand Chapter.

12) **GRAND HERALD**

- a) The Grand Herald will record and verify all titles and qualifications of all members of the Order including those of armigerous Knights. Such investigations as are necessary will be made as to the certainty of any claim and all members are bound in honour to respond to any and all requests.
- b) Nominees for this post shall be taken from members of the Order holding Knight/Dame or higher rank.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

13) GRAND CAPITULAR

- a) The Grand Capitular will be responsible for representing the Knights Grand Cross at Grand Chapter meetings and for organizing the charitable efforts of those Knights Grand Cross who are Knights Errant with no commandery responsibilities. This is to encourage and assist those Knights to attain commandery status for the greater good of the membership.
- b) The Grand Capitular will organize the practical functions and events for the Order and will be responsible for the profitability and promotion together with the Grand Auditor of such events.
- c) Nominees shall only be accepted from members being Knight/Dame or higher rank.

14) GRAND REGISTRAR

- a) The Grand Registrar shall compile and maintain all records of membership of the Order including promotions and payment of fees in liaison with the Auditor General.
- b) All oblations and donations received from members will be recorded in each member's file and any fines notified by the Grand Military Knight will also be recorded.
- c) Nominees for Grand Registrar shall be taken from members with the rank of Knight/Dame.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

SECTION 3 – COMMANDERIES

- 1) The Order shall be organized into national or geographic Commanderies, where, in the judgment of The Grand Master, in consultation with the Grand Prior and Grand Chancellor, numbers warrant the establishment of a Commandery for the good governance and future growth of the Order.
- 2) The Grand Military Knight will be responsible for the practical distribution of members but to the members will where possible.
- 3) All ranks of Knight/Dames must receive allocation to a Commandery, but should a member reside in a jurisdiction that does not have a Commandery, they shall be assigned to the Knight Errant Commandery commanded by the Grand Prior until such time when sufficient members merit the founding a new Commandery in their area.
- 4) A Commandery (excluding the Commandery of Knight Errant) will ideally consist of the following:
 - a) A Commander shall be of the rank of Knight/Dame Commander (KCJ/DCJ) or above.
 - b) The Commander will be supported by one or more Knight/Dame Commanders (KCJ/DCJ) and an additional ten or more subordinate Knights/Dames (KJ/DJ).

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- c) Each Commandery will, therefore, ideally consist a minimum of twelve members of the rank of Knight/Dame or above, with any number of Expectants.
- 5) It will be the duty of every Commander of a Commandery to:
- a) Ensure the growth of the Order within their jurisdiction;
 - b) Receive and review Petitions for Admission from within their area, either directly or when forwarded by Grand Chapter;
 - c) Conduct in the name of the Grand Master and Grand Chapter regular ceremonies of admission and advancement in strict accordance with the ancient ritual of the Order;
 - d) Ensure that the rules, fees, communications, rituals and organization of the Commandery completely conform to those established by Grand Chapter; and,
 - e) Organize local events and functions, and conduct such charitable projects with proceeds passed to the disposal of the Grand Chapter, or as it may direct.
- 6) Each Commander will ensure that records of income and expenses are maintained to the satisfaction of the Grand Auditor or Grand Chapter and shall be open to his inspection at will.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- 7) New Commanderies may only be granted by the Grand Master at the recommendation of the Grand Military Knight with the approval of the Grand Chancellor.
- 8) Commanders shall serve at the pleasure of Grand Chapter.
- 9) The following members of the Grand Chapter may not head a Commandery:
 - a) The Grand Master
 - b) The Grand Chancellor
 - c) The Grand Auditor
 - d) The Grand Prior (who commands the Knights Errant Commandery).

SECTION 4 - ENTRY TO THE ORDER

- 1) Any person who has attained the age of 21 years, regardless of sex, race, colour, nationality or religion, who professes a belief in the Supreme Being and ascribes to the ideals of the Order, may be considered eligible for membership in the Order.
- 2) All prospective members must fully and truthfully complete and submit the Petition for Admission, pledge to adhere to its Code of Honour and sign the Oath of the Order.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- 3) All prospective members must be considered a credit to the Order and have no stain upon their personal honour.
- 4) All persons petitioning for entry to the Order require a sponsor who is a Knight or Dame in good standing of the Order.
- 5) A sponsor shall assure the Grand Chapter that the Petitioner is of good character and that they will, if granted membership, follow the rules and obligations of the Order and its Constitution, and have the required moral aptitude to assist in the charitable aims of the Order.
- 6) The sponsor will, at all times, be held in honour for the conduct of the Petitioner through the membership for all time.
- 7) The sponsor will affix their signature and rank to the Petitioner's Petition for Admission form. The Petition for Admission form will be returned to the Grand Chancellor together with:
 - a) any documents required to support any professional qualifications, awards or decorations, (if requested); and,
 - b) the oblation.
- 8) The Petition for Admission will then be passed to the Grand Master for consultation with the Grand Chancellor, Grand Prior and applicable Commander for review and approval.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- 9) On the recommendation of the Grand Chancellor and by agreement of the Grand Master, expectants may be admitted to the Order at the rank of Knight or above where such admissions shall be considered beneficial to the Order by virtue of other high rank or position of the expectant. All oblations due through the lower ranks shall be due (ie: (Knight, Commander and Grand Cross oblations).

SECTION 5 – KNIGHTS OF HONOUR

- 1) The Grand Master, Grand Chapter, or Commanders of Commanderies may recommend worthy individuals to become Knights (or Dames) of Honour of The Order.
- 2) The bestowal of the rank and title of Knight of Honour of The Order shall be made to such individuals of stature or achievement in recognition of their noble accomplishments in any humanitarian field in furtherance of the principles and ideals of The Order of Saint Joachim.
- 3) Grand Chapter may receive recommendations from any member for the creation of a Knight of Honour, or may nominate individuals themselves. Such nominations shall be accompanied by a detailed explanation of how the individual merits the singular honour.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- 4) Candidates for Knight of Honour shall not be informed of their nomination until and unless Grand Chapter has approved their creation.
- 5) Knights of Honour shall be exempt from the payment of any fees or oblations, and shall be provided with their insignia out of Order funds.
- 6) Grand Chapter may create up to two Knights of Honour in any calendar year.
- 7) In addition, Commanders of Commanderies may recommend to Grand Chapter up to two individuals to be made a Knight of Honour, but only one award will be made by Grand Chapter in each Commandery in any calendar year.

SECTION 6 – OBLATIONS, FEES & FINES

- 1) Petitioners (Expectants) to the Order shall pay an oblation to Grand Chapter as may be determined and published from time to time. This should be paid on application and will be refunded if, for any reason, the application is not successful.
- 2) Promotions from Expectant to Knight/Dame shall pay a further oblation in the amount set out in the Order's regulations, such oblation to include the cost of the basic insignia of the rank of Knight/Dame. The oblation will be paid before the nominees shall be

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

approved and should approval not be given, the oblation will be returned to the member.

- 3) Promotions from Knight/Dame to Knight/Dame Commander or Knight/Dame Commander to Knight/Dame Grand Commander shall pay a further oblation to Grand Chapter in the amount set out in the Order's regulations. The oblation will be paid before the nominees shall be approved and should approval not be given, the oblation will be returned to the member.
- 4) The amounts of each oblation and passage fee shall be determined and published annually, if changed, by Grand Chapter.
- 5) There shall be, in addition to the oblations due for entry or promotion, an annual oblation. The annual oblation shall be decided each year and published by Grand Chapter.
- 6) Annual fees will become due each year on the commencement of the financial year (March 31st), and will be charged to members in advance on the due date.
- 7) Any member joining after September 30th in any year may be excused the annual oblation on the following March 31st.
- 8) Any member not paying the required oblation on request shall have committed a dishonourable act and may be fined and the act noted on the member's record. Any member who has not paid any due fee

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

and/or fine after six months may be expunged from The Order at the recommendation of the Grand Chancellor and by the will of the Grand Master.

- 9) Any act of dishonour, negligence or omission by a member, at the order of the Grand Military Knight, may have a fine levied in an amount determined and published from time by Grand Chapter.
- 10) In the case of financial hardship brought to its attention by a member, Grand Chapter may waive, reduce or defer any entrance, passage or annual fee.

SECTION 7 - RANKS AND ADVANCEMENT

- 1) All members of the Order shall have the right to petition Grand Chapter to advance themselves or any other member of the Order, subject to the approval of the Grand Military Knight or Grand Chancellor.
- 2) Approval of a petition for advancement will depend on several factors at the discretion of the Grand Chapter, including:
 - a) a member's record and length of service;
 - b) that a promotion is necessary to fulfill a functional responsibility;
 - c) that no dishonour has been recorded against the Expectant in the preceding twelve months;

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- d) that when applying for promotion to the rank of Knight Commander (KCJ) the applicant shall, during his term of duty as a Knight, have successfully sponsored at least five Knights or Dames into the Order; and,
 - e) that the current oblation has been submitted.
- 3) No Knight Expectant may submit a petition for advancement to Knight until at least three months have passed since their admission to the Order.
 - 4) The petition will be sent in writing to the Grand Chancellor or his designate by the sponsor together with the oblation for endorsement, then forwarded for approval and endorsement by the Grand Master.
 - 5) All promotions are at the will and approval of the Grand Master on the recommendation of the Grand Chancellor or local Commander of a Commandery.

SECTION 8 – INSIGNIA & AWARDS

- 1) All members of The Order are obliged to wear some badge of the Order in public in an ostensible manner at all times. In cases where they do not, they will be subject to discipline in honour and fined for such omission where reported by a fellow member. In public when no other insignia is worn, the lapel badge should be worn.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- 2) The lapel badge shall be a small replica of the neck cross mounted on an attachment. This badge is presented to all applicants and expectants on first joining the Order.
- 3) Knight/Dame:
 - a) The Badge of the Order for a Knight/Dame is an eight pointed white enamelled gilt cross having, in the centre, within a green border, a figure of Saint Joachim dressed in green and bearing a shepherd's crook, 2.25"/65mm. The cross is suspended by a gilt ring and hangs by a dark green ribbon 1" to 1.5" wide and worn close up at the throat, or as a bow on the left breast as an option for Dames.
 - b) A Knight/Dame is entitled to the use of the post-nominals KJ/DJ.
- 4) Knight/Dame Commander:
 - a) The Badge of the Order for a Knight/Dame Commander is at the neck as a Knight / Dame and in addition a further badge of the Order 3.25"/82mm size to the left breast. This is a star of silver bearing eight points having, in the centre, a green cross pattern on a white ground within a laurel wreath surrounded by a green circle bearing in gilt the words JUNXIT AMICUS AMOR (Love hath united friends).
 - b) A Knight/Dame Commander is entitled to the use of the post-nominals KCJ/DCJ.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- 5) Knight/Dame Grand Commander:
 - a) The Badge of the Order for a Knight/Dame Grand Commander is the Order's cross 3.25"/82mm in size suspended from a 4"/100mm wide dark green cordon (sash), terminating in a bow. In addition, the neck cross may, at discretion, be worn as in Knight/Dame 2M"/65mm and/or the breast cross as in Knight/Dame Commander. Therefore, the Knight or Dame Grand Commander may wear only the neck cross and sash cross alone or the cross and breast badge where the sash cross may be inappropriate to the occasion. The neck cross may be worn alone at discretion.
 - b) A Knight/Dame Grand Commander is entitled to the use of the post-nominals GCJ
- 6) Members may, by choice, wear any insignia/badge of the Order up to their entitled rank.
- 7) The insignia of The Order is always to be worn in precedence to other orders at events of the Order or when representing the Order, and otherwise in accordance with the Rules of the Court of St. James.
- 8) Grand Chapter may make and publish such other rules and regulations for the wear of the insignia of the Order, and shall publish annually the cost of replacement insignia.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

SECTION 9 – OTHER AWARDS

- 1) The Grand Master's Medal may be awarded by the Grand Master to members of any rank who perform a meritorious service to the Order and the Grand Master shall make such award at his discretion. The cost of such medal shall be met from the funds of the Order.
- 2) Grand Chapter may, in its discretion, and with the approval of the Grand Master, create and bestow such other medals and awards as it deems appropriate to mark events, important dates or achievements, and publish regulations to govern such awards.
- 3) Commanders of Commanderies may, solely on the approval of Grand Chapter and at the discretion of the Grand Master, create and award such other medals and awards as it deems appropriate to mark events, important dates or achievements.
- 4) The historic uniform of The Order may be worn by all members of The Order, regardless of rank, such uniform and its wearing to conform to the regulations published by Grand Chapter.

SECTION 10 – THE CODE OF HONOUR

All members are bound in honour and by their Oath to uphold The Order's ancient Code of Honour in word and deed, adhering to both the strict letter and intent, namely:

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- 1) All members shall dedicate their efforts on behalf of charity to further the aims of the Order to assist the poor, the sick and dying, the homeless and any cause which Grand Chapter shall deem worthy.
- 2) All members shall agree to pay such oblations as are notified from time-to-time for either promotion in the Order or annual subscription due.
- 3) All members shall agree to pay such fines as are called for by the Grand Military Knight for any breach of the Code of Honour.
- 4) Members shall at all public and private functions of formal dress, wear the appropriate regalia to their rank as by the order of the Grand Chapter rules.
- 5) Members of all rank shall reply to written requests made in the name of the Grand Chapter with diligence and speed.
- 6) All members should attend, where practicable, at least two charitable functions organized by the Grand Chapter or of any Commandery each year.
- 7) Members of all ranks shall, at the wish of the Grand Master, endeavour to expand the Order by way of word of mouth to recruit Expectants to the Order.
- 8) All members shall, at all times, act in a proper and respectful manner to all officers of the Grand Chapter as an act of faith to the rank held within the Order.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- 9) Members shall agree to abide by all decisions of the Grand Chapter and assist in implementing all matters relating to the Constitution.
- 10) Members shall work to their best ability to achieve the highest rank within the Order when such is available and to assist in the running of the Chapter by service, where possible, in the Grand Chapter.

SECTION 11 – COMPLAINTS, DISCIPLINE & EXPULSION FROM THE ORDER

- 1) Any member of the Order may make complaint of any grievance against any other member or any fine by report to the Grand Military Knight who is responsible for discipline within the Order. Such complaint will always be passed to the Grand Chapter for hearing. The Grand Chancellor shall record the decision in the records of the Order and pass such decision to the Grand Registrar for inclusion in the members personal record. If a grievance should be for the review of a fine or decision of the Grand Military Knight, then that complaint shall be addressed to the Grand Chancellor directly.
- 2) The Grand Military Knight shall have the power to fine any member of the Order for any breach of the Code of Honour. Such fine shall be ratified by the Grand Prior and all fines collected shall be to the

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

charity so chosen by the Grand Prior nominated annually.

- 3) A member, regardless of rank or position, may expelled for cause by Grand Chapter with the consent of the Grand Master. For greater clarity, “cause” shall be defined as:
 - a) any serious or repeated breach of the Code of Honour;
 - b) non-payment of dues or oblations within 12 months of demand, or after two years regardless of demand;
 - c) or any other behaviour, public or private, that causes dishonour to the Order, or harms the reputation of The Order by virtue of the member’s continued association with The Order.
- 4) In accordance with the Oath every member takes on his or her admission to The Order, no member is permitted to resign their membership from The Order, and therefore the only means for a member to cease membership in The Order is by expulsion. Any member expressing their desire to leave The Order shall be deemed to request to be expelled.
- 5) Any member who is expelled from The Order shall have their name published and shall return their insignia and is prohibited from wearing any insignia of The Order, using The Order’s post-nominals or honourific titles, or in any way referring to their past

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

association with The Order in any personal or professional capacity.

SECTION 12 – VOTING PROCEDURES

- 1) Election of the Grand Master:
 - a) On the death or resignation of the Grand Master, the Coadjutor shall assume temporary stewardship of The Order. Should there be no Coadjutor, the Grand Chancellor shall assume temporary stewardship of The Order.
 - b) The Grand Prior is responsible for the procedure for the election of a new Grand Master.
 - c) Following the death of the Grand Master, the Grand Prior shall contact all members of Grand Chapter, Commanders of Commanderies, and all Knights Grand Cross of The Order in good standing (the “Electoral College of The Order”), and request from them nominations for the position of Grand Master. All nominations must have a seconder and be received within 30 days of the Grand Prior’s request.
 - d) Any member of The Order, regardless of rank, may be nominated for the position of Grand Master.
 - e) The Grand Prior shall circulate the list of nominees to all members of the Electoral College

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

of The Order, and collect the ballots from them. All ballots must be received by the Grand Prior within 30 days of being issued.

- f) The nominee with the most votes shall be declared by the Grand Prior to be the new Grand Master of The Order, which position he shall hold for the rest of his natural life, and he shall be installed as Grand Master as soon as practicable thereafter.
- g) In the case of a tie, the Grand Prior shall cast the deciding vote.

2) Appointment to Grand Chapter:

- a) Where any vacancies occur through resignation, death or, at the will of the Grand Master and a majority vote of the Grand Chapter, a new appointee will be nominated.
- b) Any member of any rank may nominate another member of suitable rank to the vacant position. Each candidate must be seconded by at least two other members. Nominations will be called for by the Grand Chancellor as soon as possible after the vacancy is known and nominations must be received within 30 days of asking.
- c) In the absence of any nomination the Grand Master may appoint any person he considers suitable on an interim measure pending a nomination.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- d) All members will be sent a ballot sheet showing the candidates available. If there is only one candidate, this must be shown on the ballot paper. Members must return ballot papers within 14 days of the dated ballot paper being issued. Ballots may be distributed and received by email.
- e) All members shall have an equal vote. In the case of a tie, the Grand Chancellor shall use his Chairman's vote as a deciding vote. The Chairman shall have the Chairman's vote in addition to his own member's vote. All appointments to the Grand Chapter shall be for five years.

SECTION 13 – MEETINGS

- 1) Meetings of the Grand Chapter or Chapter General shall be at the call of either the Grand Chancellor or the Grand Master.
- 2) Given the international nature of The Order, such meetings shall be held with consideration given to the most convenient place for the majority of members attending.
- 3) The Grand Chancellor or Grand Master shall give at least 21 days notice in advance of any meetings of the Grand Chapter.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- 4) The Grand Chapter shall meet annually and such meetings may take place if a quorum of four members of the Grand Chapter are present. The Grand Chancellor may appoint his deputy to chair these meetings.
- 5) Grand Chapter may also conduct business by email or such other telephone or electronic communications as may be available, provided notice is given or waived and quorum is met.
- 6) The Commanderies shall meet at will, as and when the Commander should decide. Commanders shall give notice to the Grand Master and Grand Chancellor of their annual meetings, and shall provide minutes of such meetings to the Grand Chancellor within 21 days following the meeting.
- 7) The Order should call together all members of the Chapter General at least once every two years.
- 8) Social events will take place as and when organized by either the Grand Chancellor or any Commandery.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

SECTION 14 – FINANCES

- 1) All oblations, dues and other fees, including payment by members for insignia, shall be paid to Grand Chapter for the maintenance of The Order and such charitable uses as it from time to time determines.
- 2) Commanderies may charge an annual fee, in an amount approved by Grand Chapter, to their members, such fee to be retained by the Commandery to be used in its maintenance in accordance with the rules of The Order.
- 3) Grand Chapter may make such arrangements for the return to a Commandery any portion of the annual dues, oblations or passage fees attributable to its members.
- 4) All monies raised specifically for charitable purposes, after payment of such reasonable direct expenses as may have been incurred, shall be dedicated solely to such specific or general charitable purposes as Grand Chapter from time to time determines.
- 5) All administrative expenses of the Order shall be met from the general expense account. These shall be kept to a minimum and shall only be those authorized by the rules. Senior officers and members of The Order are expected to support The Order and defray their own minor expenses as their means permit in the performance of their duties.

Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

- 6) Authorized expenses shall be restricted to the following:
 - a) Postage
 - b) Stationery / office equipment
 - c) Printing
 - d) Insignia
 - e) Diplomas / awards
 - f) Function costs
 - g) Legal costs / professional fees
- 7) Ineligible expenses shall include:
 - a) Travel
 - b) Subsistence
- 8) A current account in the name of the Order shall be maintained. All donations, oblations, proceeds of sales of insignia and function proceeds shall be paid into that account.
- 9) The Grand Chapter shall make annual reports as to the achievements and finances of The Order. This account will report oblations, donations and proceeds of profitable activities during the preceding year.
- 10) The Grand Auditor will prepare the accounts and present them for approval to the Grand Chapter for each year period from April 1 to March 31 and these should be presented to the Grand Chapter no later than

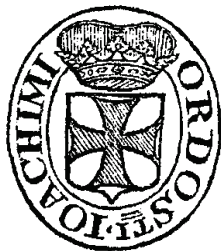
Constitution Of The Order Of Saint Joachim

the last day of May. On approval, all members shall be entitled to a resume of the report.

- 11) The Grand Chapter shall, at that annual meeting, revise and agree on the oblations and insignia charges which will apply from the next financial year to April of the following year.



Revised & Adopted by Grand Chapter
June 19, 2009



H.E. The Chevalier Stephen Lautens GCJ
Grand Master