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**MOST WORSHIPFUL
PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
F. & A. M. Jurisdiction of Arkansas
Organized 1873**



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**TO ALL AND EVERY REGULAR AND LEGITIMATE BODIES OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
WHERESOEVER DISPERSED ACROSS THE FACE OF THE GLOBE:**

WHEREAS, on March 6, 1775, in a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the direction of J.B. Batt, Worshipful Master, and attached in a Regiment of the British Army, at or near the City of Boston in the Province of Massachusetts, the following persons of African descent, to wit: Prince Hall, Cyrus Jonbus, Buesten Slinger, Thomas Sanderson, Prince Tayden, Cato Sprain, Boston Smith, Peter Best, Fortin Howard, Prince Rees, John Canten, Peter Freeman, Benjamin Tiber, Duff Buform, Richard Tilley, were initiated, passed and then raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in due and ancient form, and

WHEREAS, on March 2, 1784, the aforementioned brethren did make application to the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) for a warrant of Constitution, and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 1784, the aforementioned petition was received: t he prayer granted and a Warrant of Constitution issued to the above named brethren under the name or title of African Lodge #459 upon the Register of the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns), designating Prince Hall as Worshipful Master, Boston Smith as Senior Warden and Thomas Sanderson as Junior Warden, conveying to them all the rights and privileges of a duly constituted Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons and to hold at the city of Boston, in Massachusetts, and

WHEREAS, the question of extending Masonry arose when Absalom Jones of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an ordained Episcopal priest and Mason who was interested in establishing a Masonic Lodge in Philadelphia, appeared in Boston in 1797, and

"Teamwork unu Brotherhood"

WHEREAS, under the authority of the charter of African Lodge #459 emanating from the Grand Lodge of England, African Lodge #459 did constitute the following lodges in the State of Pennsylvania: African Lodge #459 of Philadelphia (1797), Union Lodge #2 (1810), Laurel Lodge #5 (1811), and Phoenix Lodge #6 (1814), and

WHEREAS, acting in accordance with Masonic custom and tradition, the Past Masters of these four lodges met in solemn convention at Philadelphia on December 27, 1815, and with unanimous consent of the brethren erected the First African Independent Grand Lodge, and

WHEREAS, the First African Independent Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania did constitute the following lodges in the State of Ohio: Corinthian Lodge #17 (1848), True American Lodge #26 (1848), and St. John's Lodge #27 (1848), and

WHEREAS, acting in accordance with Masonic custom and tradition, representatives from these three lodges met in solemn convention at Cincinnati on May 3, 1849 and erected The Grand Lodge for the State of Ohio F&AM (now M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio), and

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Ohio F&AM, did constitute the following lodges in the State of Indiana: Union Lodge #5, King Solomon Lodge #8, Darnes Lodge #15, Britton Lodge #13, and R. Phillips Lodge #17

WHEREAS, acting in accordance with Masonic custom and tradition, representatives from these lodges met in solemn convention 1856 and erected the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Indiana (now Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Indiana).

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge for the State of Ohio F&AM (now the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio), did constitute the following lodges in the state of Missouri: H. McGee Alexander Lodge #8 (1853), Prince Hall Lodge #10 (1854), and Lone Star Lodge #22 (1864), and

WHEREAS, acting in accordance with Masonic custom and tradition, representatives from these three lodges met in solemn convention at St. Louis on July, 1865 and erected the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Missouri (now M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri), and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Indiana did constitute the following lodges in Kansas:Enterprise Lodge #1, Hinton Lodge #2, and Mt. Moriah Lodge #3, and

WHEREAS, acting in accordance with Masonic custom and tradition, representatives from these three lodges met in solemn convention in Leavenworth, Kansas on September 11, 1867

and formed the Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons, and

WHEREAS the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Missouri (now the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri), did constitute the following lodges in the State of Arkansas: J.M. Alexander Lodge (1866) and Jephtha Lodge (1866), and

WHEREAS, The Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge of Kansas Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons did establish the following lodge in the State of Arkansas: Widow's Son Lodge (1872), and

WHEREAS, acting in accordance with Masonic custom and tradition, representatives from these three lodges (2 from Missouri and 1 from Kansas) met in solemn convention at Little Rock on March 31, 1873, and erected the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons (now Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas), and

WHEREAS, there exists within the State of Arkansas another Grand Lodge of legitimate and regular origin, namely, the M.W. Grand Lodge of Arkansas F&AM (erected November 27, 1838 by four just and regular lodges from the states of Tennessee, Louisiana, and Alabama) which holds a seat in the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, Inc., and

WHEREAS, amity and recognition agreements between the various Prince Hall Grand Lodges and the so called "Grand Lodge of State" Grand Lodges (those holding a seat in the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons of North America, Inc.) have existed from as early as the year 1898, and

WHEREAS, to date, all but nine Prince Hall Jurisdictions have some type of amity or mutual recognition agreement with their "Grand Lodge of State" counterparts, and have exhibited that that it is for the good of Masonry in these United States that the two regular and legitimate bodies of Freemasons existing in the various jurisdictions in these United States share their respective territories with their counterparts, while respecting each other's Grand Body's sacred right of sovereignty to rule and govern their craft according to their respective Constitutions and Bylaws, and

WHEREAS, the first recognition between Prince Hall and its counterpart occurred in Connecticut in 1989, by 1995 there were fifteen Regular jurisdictions with recognition, thirty two bodies recognized one another by 2000, thirty eight recognized one another by 2005, the last two Grand Jurisdictions to find mutual recognition were within Kentucky in 2011, and

WHEREAS, our nation has ebbed and flowed through a continuous progression of society permitting all barriers to blend together permitting all but nine jurisdictions of Regular Freemasonry in the United States to develop common unity and an honorable form of brotherly love in just twenty two years, and

WHEREAS, the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas prays that peace and harmony will prevail within the jurisdiction of the State of Arkansas, and

WHEREAS, it is, and has always been the position of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection to any and all regular and legitimate bodies of Freemasons, such that no contention should ever exist, save that "noble contention" known to all Free and Accepted Masons, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that it shall be the policy of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas to recognize and offer to enter into fraternal relations with any all Grand Lodges which (1) hold a seat in the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, Inc. and (2) have entered into an agreement, treaty, or compact of recognition with the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge who is a member of the Conference of Grand Masters of Prince Hall Masons, Inc. in their respective state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that policy shall be made effective 22, February 2014.

Cleveland K. Wilson

Cleveland K. Wilson
Grand Master

Thomas W. Brown

Thomas W. Brown
Grand Secretary

