

Program of the Month

Throughout this Masonic year your Lodge will receive a **Program of the Month**. This Program is created for you to utilize in your Lodge.

If your lodge already has a program similar to the program that is contained in this brochure, by all means continue your efforts. If however, you are not conducting this type of program please utilize this procedure.

These programs are created to help your lodge retain your members and it is specifically tied to our Renewal Effort.

Be sure to let us know how this program is working in your Lodge.



Program of the Month

If you need assistance with this program,
Please call:

Robert Conley
Member Services Grand Lodge of Michigan
800-632-8764
renewal@gl-mi.org

Grand Lodge of
Michigan

Five Points of Fellowship Program



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Five Points of Fellowship Program

From earliest times, Freemasonry has considered fellowship to be a fundamental duty of every Mason. The importance of this is illustrated by the fact that the five points of fellowship are demonstrated at the conclusion of the Master Mason degree. Recognition of this basic premise should be a constant reminder that we are encouraged to demonstrate, not only to our Brothers, but by the practice of this admonition. Those who are not members of our gentle Fraternity may become aware of the benefits of the Masonic organization.

The 28th President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, is quoted as saying: "We are not here to merely make a living. We are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with a greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. We are here to enrich the world, and we impoverish ourselves if we forget the errand".

As we travel this life as Masons, let us never forget that we, both individually and as Lodges, can make a great and positive difference in the world around us, if we will but remember to practice these five points of fellowship. We should remember our duties as Masons include working to improve the lives of those around us, and to make our communities, state, and nation better places in which to live.

Specifically, the Five Points of Fellowship are:

(1) To serve - Masons are taught to constantly serve those with whom they come in contact. This includes their family, their Masonic brothers, friends, and even strangers when a need is identified. Often, a man must put aside his own priorities to serve another. Service to others may take many forms, and opportunities for service can present themselves in numerous ways. Sometimes, serving others can be nothing more than spending some quality time with a spouse, attending a ballgame or a piano recital with a child, helping a parent get to that doctor's appointment, changing a light bulb for that elderly neighbor, or simply lending an attentive ear to that co-worker who is undergoing a difficult time.



(2) To pray - for strength and peace, for both others and ourselves. Through our acknowledged belief in a Supreme Being and our recognition of our dependence on the Source of all wisdom and strength, Masons realize that prayer can be a very powerful weapon. The word PRAYER as used in the largest sense includes all forms of communion with God; it embraces worship, praise, thanksgiving, supplication and intercession. The importance of prayer can be accurately measured only by the prominence given it in the scriptures. There are over 33,000 promises in the Bible that we can claim only through prayer.

(3) To keep the secrets -

The third point may be defined in at least two ways. First, we are admonished to keep the secrets of our Fraternity from those who criticize us and downgrade the organization. This group of detractors includes both those who demean the fraternity and its members out of ignorance, and those who suffer from obsession. Second, we are committed to maintaining the confidence of those who share sensitive information with us. One author has eloquently stated, "A Brother's secret, delivered to me as such, I will keep as I would my own, because if I betray the trust which has been reposed in me, I might do him an irreparable injury; it would be like the villainy of an assassin, who lurks in darkness to stab his adversary when unarmed and least prepared to meet an enemy.



(4) To support - those who work to make the lives of themselves and those around them better. Masons have long been recognized for providing vernal,

active, and financial encouragement to individuals and organizations that focus on making the lives of those around us better. Support for community betterment, educational improvements, and improved access to health care services are but a few areas on which Masons have focused. Masons have actively supported those who serve in the legislative processes of our communities, states, and nation. They have openly encouraged those who serve to keep our communities safe. From an historical perspective, the Masonic Fraternity, has actively supported the educational system and those who devote themselves to teaching.



(5) To counsel - in other words, sharing knowledge and understanding. Masons may counsel others in many ways. To our newly-initiated Brothers in the Fraternity, we spend the necessary time and share our knowledge to teach them the esoteric work. And afterward, as they demonstrate their desire for more information, we willingly share other information, such as opening and closing the Lodge, certain lectures, etc. However, this can be considered only a narrow interpretation of this point of fellowship. Masons should stand willing to assist their Brothers in other ways. A Mason should be always willing to share any special training, expertise, or knowledge he may have to benefit another.



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