

Constitutional Statutes of the United Kingdom Grand Priory of the International Knightly Order Valiant of St George also known as "The Order of St George"

In the name of the Blessed Trinity and under the Patronage of George Saint and Martyr.

In veritate justus sum huic fraternali societati

1. Preamble

- 1.1. The original Order was founded in Hungary in 1326 by King Charles Robert the First as a Military and Hospitaller Order. The current Order is a commemorative confraternity.
- 1.2. The Order of St George is a membership organization with a separate but associated Charitable Trust under the name of The United Kingdom Grand Priory of the International Knightly Order Valiant of St. George. Registered Charity (England) No. 1137397.
- 1.3. The Order of St George is an organization with Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic & Social Council since 2015.
- 1.4. The aims of the Order
 - 1.4.1. Supporting and upholding the Trinitarian Christian faith
 - 1.4.2. Promoting a spirit of Christian fellowship and friendship amongst Trinitarian Christians irrespective of their denomination;
 - 1.4.3. Upholding the code of chivalric values;
 - 1.4.4. Supporting, praying for and assisting the needy and such worthy causes as may be selected by the Grand Council from time to time and as are consistent with the Trust referred to in paragraph i (infra) throughout the world;
 - 1.4.5. The promotion of the welfare of serving and former members of His Majesty's Armed Forces and serving or former members of the Emergency Services in the United Kingdom, the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand and her Majesty's other Dependencies, Overseas Territories and Realms;
 - 1.4.6. Defence and support of Christians facing religious persecution;
 - 1.4.7. Fundraising for and support of the work of the United Kingdom Grand Priory of St George Charity Trust established on the fifth day of January 2010;
 - 1.4.8. Fundraising for and support of the work of registered non profits set up by Grand Council.
 - 1.4.9. Promotion of patriotism and loyalty to the Sovereign or Constitution of the Country in which the Order's members reside.

2. Interpretation

- 2.1. These statutes supersede the statutes promulgated by Dr Vitez Janos Daniel Karaszy-Kulin on the 28th day of March 2002. These Statutes shall be interpreted subject to the Declaration of Trust of the 5th day of January 2010 which shall prevail in the event of any conflict between the statutes and the trust or in any matter in relation to which the statutes are silent. These statutes have been amended to reflect the division of responsibilities between the Grand Priors for the United Kingdom and the Americas and the establishment of the Grand Magistry.

3. Membership of the Order

- 3.1. Membership of the order shall be open to ladies and gentlemen of good character and sound mind who are practising members of the Trinitarian Christian faith who shall have attained the age of 21 years (save for Esquires and Demoiselles[SN1] and who have demonstrated their loyalty to the countries in which they reside and their commitment to nourishing and supporting their communities whether through military service, service in the emergency services or in a voluntary capacity.

4. Admission to the Order

- 4.1. Application must be in the form of a written petition in the format prescribed by the from time to time. Nominations for membership must be sponsored by one or more members of the Order in good standing and submitted to the Grand Prior for the given jurisdiction for approval. Individuals may also self-nominate.
- 4.2. The Grand Prior may have delegated authority on behalf of the Grand Council to approve petitions admission to the Order, unless overruled the Grand Council.

5. The ranks of the Order

- 5.1. The ranks of the Order shall be:
 - 5.1.1. Grand Patron
 - 5.1.2. Patron(s)
 - 5.1.3. Spiritual Protector
 - 5.1.4. Knight Grand Cross (GCStG) / Dame Grand Cross (GCStG)
 - 5.1.5. Knight Commander (KCStG) / Dame Commander (DCStG)
 - 5.1.6. Knight (KStG) / Dame (DStG)
 - 5.1.7. Officer (OStG)
 - 5.1.8. Companion (CStG)
 - 5.1.9. Esquire (EsqStG)
 - 5.1.10. Demoiselle (DemStG)
- 5.2. The above accolades may be conferred on an honorary basis by the Grand Patron on the advice of the Grand Prior.
- 5.3. Esquires OR Demoiselles shall, at their appointment, be deemed to be of equestrian status and must be at least 16 years of age. They shall be in the service of or mentored by a member of the Order with the rank of Knight or Dame or higher and shall remain an Esquire/Demoiselle of the Order for as long as the sponsoring Knight or Dame remains a member of the Order in good standing. On the death, resignation or exclusion of the mentoring Knight or Dame, the Esquire or Demoiselle shall be allocated to another Knight or Dame by the Grand Prior. Esquires and Demoiselles shall be expected to defend the Trinitarian Christian faith and uphold the Chivalric code at all times. If an esquire or demoiselle behaves in a manner which, in the opinion of the Grand Priory is calculated or likely to bring the Order into disrepute, then he or she may be excluded or suspended from membership of the Order or Equestrian status.

6. Order of Merit

- 6.1. There shall be an Order of Merit, which may be awarded both to existing members of the Order or non-members of the Order, by the Grand Council, on the advice of the Grand Prior:-
- 6.2. Who have distinguished themselves by exemplary service to the Order and its growth and/or the fundraising objectives of the Order or the Charity Trust to which it is subject;
- 6.3. Whose contribution to the community or to their countries the Order wishes to recognise.
- 6.4. Ranks of the Order of Merit
 - 6.4.1. Knight of the Order of Merit (KMStG)
 - 6.4.2. Dame of the Order of Merit (DMStG)
 - 6.4.3. Member of the Order of Merit (MMStG)

7. The Grand Magistry

- 7.1. The Grand Magistry serves as the coordinating and consultative body of the International Knightly Order Valiant of St George worldwide. Its purpose is to promote unity of purpose, shared values, and strategic cooperation among the recognized Grand Priories of the International Knightly Order Valiant of St George, while respecting their full legal independence and autonomy.
- 7.2. The Grand Magistry operates within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the UK Grand Priory, the Grand Priory of the Americas, and the Grand Priory of Canada (signed in Atlanta, Georgia, USA on 24 February 2024). Each of the Grand Priories remain legally constituted and independently governed

entities under the charity and other relevant laws of the geographies within their jurisdiction.

8. The Grand Council

- 8.1. The Grand Council is responsible for the general management of the United Kingdom Grand Priory.
- 8.2. The members of the Grand Council shall ordinarily include, but not necessarily be limited to:
 - 8.2.1. The Magisterium Officium of the Grand Magistery (ex officio)
 - 8.2.2. The Grand Prior
 - 8.2.3. The Deputy Grand Prior(s), of whom there may be up to four in number.
 - 8.2.4. The Grand Treasurer
 - 8.2.5. The Grand Chancellor
- 8.3. Such other Officers as the Grand Prior shall appoint as Grand Priory line officers from time to time.
- 8.4. The Grand Priory Officers are appointed by and hold office during the pleasure of the Grand Prior. On completing any period of office, the said officers may, as a courtesy, be designated Past Grand XXX and shall be at liberty to speak at (but not vote upon) deliberations of the Grand Priory.
- 8.5. Deliberations of the Grand Council may be in the form of a meeting, whether face-to-face or virtual or, by consent of the Grand Prior, by electronic communications.

9. Regional Organizations

- 9.1. The Grand Council shall, at its discretion, establish regional groups within the above geographies for the promotion of the Order's mission at the local level.
- 9.2. The geographical scope of the United Kingdom Grand Priory shall, for the time being, be taken to encompass the British Isles, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia and Oceania.
- 9.3. Regional organizations established in the Americas, including the Caribbean, shall ordinarily be regarded as constituent groups of the Americas Grand Priory. This requirement may be varied by agreement between the Americas Grand Priory and the United Kingdom Grand Priory. The Grand Magistery may be called upon to adjudicate should there be a dispute on this point.
- 9.4. Four types of regional organization are recognized:
 - 9.4.1. Preceptories, being informal regional or interest groups, primarily meeting virtually
 - 9.4.2. Encampments, informally organized local groups formed with the expectation that they will develop into Commanderies
 - 9.4.3. Commanderies, being the primary local organizational unit of the Order. These shall be required to adhere to the basic criteria for the establishment of a Commandery, set forth below.
 - 9.4.4. Pories, being a national or international regional groupings of the Order. These shall be required to demonstrate consistence adherence to the criteria set forth below for the administration of Commanderies.
- 9.5. For the avoidance of doubt, regional groups are not empowered to recruit, promote, or invest members separate from the Order's central membership process. Regional groups shall not confer any rank or honour on members without approval from the Grand Council. All funds collected by regional organizations shall remain the property of the UK Grand Priory, with their disbursement subject to agreement with the Grand Council.
- 9.6. Basic criteria for establishing a Commandery
 - 9.6.1. Reasonable expectation of a critical mass of active members in the given region to enable a Commandery to be credible;
 - 9.6.2. Confirmation from Commandery members of their willingness to recruit; expectation that they will each recruit at least 2 members per annum;
 - 9.6.3. Minimum of officers - a Commander, Chancellor, Chaplain, and Treasurer; confirmation of their willingness to serve;

- 9.6.4. Confirmation that funds must ultimately be under the direction of the Grand Council (this is a necessary charitable status control);
- 9.6.5. A bank account;
- 9.6.6. Undertaking to support fundraising and activities in support of the Order's mission statement;
- 9.6.7. Preferably one or more 'adopted' local charities aligned to the Order's mission statement;
- 9.6.8. Set geographical competence - typically a state/county or a region, but could be a specialized interest group;
- 9.6.9. Dedicated "@orderofstgeorge.co.uk" email account;
- 9.6.10. Agreement to organize a minimum of 4 meetings annually;
- 9.6.11. If engaging in youth work likely to require appropriate safeguarding checks;
- 9.6.12. A 'mother church' - need not necessary be a grand church or cathedral but would need to be suitable for local investitures. (Need not be any specific denomination);
- 9.6.13. Constitution agreed with, and acceptable to, the Grand Council;
- 9.6.14. Confirmatory Commandery Charter issued by Grand Prior; renewable after two years (thus ensuring ongoing performance).

10. Grand Patron

- 10.1. The Grand Patron shall hold office until he or she dies or until such time as he or she resigns. The Grand Patron for the time being shall be a member of a regnant Royal Household or a senior Christian Clergyman of the rank of Archbishop or above. The Grand Patron shall be Titular Head of the Order worldwide and shall counsel, warn and advise the Grand Magistery in the pursuit of the Order's objectives, and the Grand Council may consult the Grand Patron for advice.
- 10.2. Appointment of a Grand Patron
 - 10.2.1. The Appointment of a Grand Patron shall only be undertaken by a decision of the Grand Magistery acting in consultation with, and on the advice of, the constituted Grand Priories of the Order.

11. Procedure for the Election of the Grand Prior

- 11.1. Eligibility to Stand
 - 11.1.1. A candidate for election as Grand Prior must hold the rank of Knight or Dame or higher within the Order.
 - 11.1.2. They must be a fully paid-up member of the Order at the time of nomination and election.
- 11.2. Eligibility to Nominate and Vote
 - 11.2.1. The right to nominate or vote in an election for Grand Prior is restricted to members of the rank of Officer and above who are fully paid-up.
 - 11.2.2. Honorary members (i.e. those for whom the Grand Council has waived membership fees) are not eligible to nominate, stand, or vote.
 - 11.2.3. Members of the ranks of Squire or Demoiselle are not eligible to nominate, stand, or vote.
- 11.3. Nominations
 - 11.3.1. Nominations must be supported by no fewer than four eligible nominators (Officer or above, fully paid-up).
 - 11.3.2. Nominations must be submitted using a form (electronic or hard copy) provided by the Order and returned within a nomination period that shall be announced to all eligible members.
 - 11.3.3. The Treasurer shall verify the subscription status of all nominators and nominees. A nomination remains valid if at least four of the listed nominators are fully paid-up, even if more were submitted.
- 11.4. Uncontested Election
 - 11.4.1. Where there is a single candidate, the Magisterium Officium shall consult the Grand Priory after the nomination and interview process. The Magisterium Officium

- shall only recommend the appointment to the Grand Patron with the Grand Priory's approval, and if the candidate is rejected, the selection process shall restart.
- 11.4.2. If two or more valid nominations are received, a ballot shall be held.
 - 11.4.3. Each candidate may submit a statement of no more than 500 words, outlining their qualifications, priorities, and vision for the Order. These will be published in alphabetical order on the Order's website.
 - 11.4.4. Voting shall be conducted by secure electronic or postal ballot. Members eligible to vote shall receive clear instructions and deadlines.
 - 11.4.5. Ballots shall remain sealed or digitally locked until the official count.
 - 11.4.6. A run off election shall be held if one or more candidates have the highest number of votes.
 - 11.4.7. The name of the candidate who receives the most votes shall be submitted to the Grand Patron (or, in the absence of a Grand Patron, by the Patrons), who will, at their discretion, formally declare their election as Grand Prior.
- 11.5. Returning Officer and Oversight
- 11.5.1. The Grand Chancellor (or an agreed delegate) shall act as the Returning Officer may nominate and vote, but shall not be a candidate. (In the event that the Grand Chancellor wishes to stand, an alternative Returning Officer must be appointed by the Grand Council.)
 - 11.5.2. The Returning Officer shall conduct the count at a time and place to be agreed and notified.
 - 11.5.3. The count may be observed by the members of the Grand Council, the outgoing Grand Prior, and the candidates.
- 11.6. Interregnums
- 11.6.1. During any interregnum, where there is no Grand Prior or only one nomination is received and they are unsuitable to be Grand Prior, the Grand Priory may appoint a 'Pro Grand Prior' to act as Grand Prior for a period of 12 months, which may be extended by their formal election as Grand Prior.
 - 11.6.2. The appointment of a Pro Grand Prior shall be limited to the Magisterium Officium, any former Magisterium Officium, any Grand Prior Emeritus, any former Grand Prior Emeritus, the Grand Chancellor of the Order, any former Grand Chancellor of the Order, any former Grand Prior, any appointed Deputy Grand Prior of the Priory or former Deputy Grand Prior of the Priory. The vacation of the office of Grand Prior
 - 11.6.3. The office of Grand Prior shall be vacated:
 - 11.6.3.1. If the Grand Prior resigns in writing;
 - 11.6.3.2. If the Grand Council by a majority vote resolves to remove the Grand Prior from office;
 - 11.6.3.3. If the Grand Patron, having obtained the consent of Grand Council by a majority vote, removes the Grand Prior from Office;
 - 11.6.3.4. On the death of the Grand Prior;
 - 11.6.3.5. On the Grand Prior becoming a patient within the meaning of the Mental Capacity Act as reenacted or amended, then the Deputy Grand Priors (exercising any decision by a simple majority vote) shall perform the duties of and have the powers of the Grand Prior until:-
 - 11.6.3.6. The Grand Prior ceases to be a patient within the meaning of the said Act; or a successor in the office of Grand Prior is elected.
- 11.7. The Grand Prior shall hold office for four years from the date in which they are invested as Grand Prior. The Grand Prior shall be eligible for re-election.
- 11.8. When the office of Grand Prior becomes vacant, a Deputy Grand Prior of the Grand Priory will be appointed by the Grand Patron or Patrons to act as Grand Prior for the interregnum and until a new Grand Prior is in post

12. Appointments to and promotion within the Order

- 12.1. Appointments to and promotions within the Order or to the Order of Merit shall be by the Grand Patron on the advice of the Grand Prior.

13. Insignia

- 13.1. Insignia shall be of such a design as the Grand Council may approve from time to time, acting under the advice and guidance of the Grand Magistry to ensure international consistency.

14. The obligations of Members of the Order

- 14.1. To support and uphold the Trinitarian Christian Faith or, if not Christian, to protect and support those who do.
- 14.2. To pay the annual membership fees. These shall be set by the Grand Prior on the advice of the Grand Council from time to time.
- 14.3. To make an annual contribution to the Order's charitable undertakings, whether through attendance at events organised by the Order, participation in projects approved by the Grand Priory and/or by making an annual donation to the Order's Charitable Funds or designated projects.
- 14.4. To uphold the chivalric code at all times.

15. Disciplinary Measures

- 15.1. Any member who fails to honour his or her obligations or fails to comply with the directions of Grand Priory or who brings the order into disrepute shall be subject to the following:-
- 15.2. In the event of a member failing to pay his or her annual membership fees, that member shall be transferred to the inactive list on the Grand Prior or one of his authorised deputies for these purposes so certifying; whilst on the inactive list, such a member will be prohibited from using the postnominals of any rank of the Order or wearing the insignia of the Order (save for any Orders of Merit which the member has been awarded)
- 15.3. In the event of a member of the Order being convicted of an offence carrying a term of imprisonment, whether suspended or immediate, membership shall cease upon sentence being pronounced;
- 15.4. In any other case a special meeting (which may include representations or submissions in electronic format) shall be convened on not less than seven working days notice to the member being disciplined. All members of Grand Priory shall be entitled to attend or make written or electronic representations, and any determination by the Grand Council as to disciplinary sanctions up to and including expulsion shall be made by majority vote and shall be subject to ratification by the Grand Patron.

16. Application and Investment of Funds

- 16.1. The powers of the Grand Council shall be such as are provided to the Trustees in the Declaration of Trust of the 5th January 2010, or other tax exempt non profit foundation in a Grand Priory's jurisdiction, save that the Grand Priory may engage in expenditure for the purposes of:
 - 16.1.1. Acquiring insignia,
 - 16.1.2. Organizing events;
 - 16.1.3. Arranging publicity for events and its work generally;
 - 16.1.4. The reimbursement of expenses incurred by Grand Priory Officers in the performance of their official duties.
- 16.1.5. Save that such expenditure shall not be to the detriment of the performance of the duties of the Trustees in the Declaration of Trust dated the 5th January 2010.