

**BY-LAWS**  
**TRANQUILITY LODGE NO. 2000 A.F. & A.M. ®**

**ARTICLE I**  
**NAME OF LODGE**

The Lodge was created by the Grand Lodge of Texas during the Grand Annual Communication on December 2-4, 1999, and shall be known by the name and style of Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (hereinafter referred to as the Lodge), whose see is in the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon of the Planet Earth, now sitting in Waco, Texas. The purpose of the Lodge is to promote, encourage, conduct, and foster the humanitarian principles of Freemasonry, and to assist in promoting the health, welfare, education and patriotism of children, subject to the following regulations and restrictions:

Section 1. The Lodge shall at all times be under control of the Grand Master and the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. It shall be subject to all provisions of the Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Lodge, and operate under the provisions as specified in Article 201a, which pertain only to officers, dues, dues cards, fees, and assessments of Grand Lodge, jurisdictions over degrees, Masonic charges, trials, funerals, aprons and granting of demits, certificates of good standing, suspensions for non-payment of dues and reinstatement.

Section 2. The Lodge shall not have the power to receive a petition for or confer any degrees in Masonry and shall have no authority to receive charges for un-Masonic conduct, conduct any Masonic trial, or conduct any Masonic funeral.

Section 3. The Lodge is a special Lodge and membership in it shall in no way effect the Masonic status of its members.

Section 4. The Lodge shall have no authority to grant demits or certificates of good standing. Membership shall automatically terminate upon suspension or expulsion by a regular Lodge or at the end of the period for which dues are paid and such expiration shall not be reported as suspension for nonpayment of dues. Reinstatement of membership may be accomplished by payment of current year's dues, provided the petitioner meets the other requirements for membership.

Section 5. The Lodge may adopt By-Laws and may change same from time to time, provided such By-Laws are consistent with the purposes for which the Lodge was established, as stated above. By-Laws and amendments to By-Laws must be submitted in writing as prescribed in Article 218 of the Grand Lodge Laws, and if adopted, must be submitted to the Grand Lodge Trustees for final approval.

**ARTICLE II**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. **Regular Membership:** A Master Mason, who is a member in good standing of a regular Texas Lodge or a regular Lodge of any jurisdiction in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Texas, may become a member of the Lodge. Membership shall continue only so long as

the member remains in good standing in a regular Texas Lodge or in a regular Lodge in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Section 2. **Endowed Membership:** In accordance with Article 318a Endowed Membership, a Master Mason may purchase an endowed membership in the Lodge at the cost of **\$700.00 (Seven hundred dollars)**. Irrevocable, nonrefundable, and cannot be transferred to another Lodge. Any member of the Lodge, who is the top line signer on the petitions of **fifteen** new members, shall be awarded an endowed membership.

Section 3. **Astronaut Membership:** An Astronaut, who is a Master Mason in good standing in any regular Lodge in this jurisdiction, or in any jurisdiction in fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Texas, may become a member of the Lodge without the payment of a matriculation fee or annual dues. A member of the Lodge who has landed on the Moon or other space location shall be designated as an Honorary Past Master of the Lodge.

Section 4. **Honorary Past Masters:** Brother and Dr. Edwin E. Buzz Aldrin is the first designated Honorary Past Master of the Lodge.

Section 5. **Membership Cards:** Forms prescribed by the Grand Secretary may be issued by the Lodge to its members, but such cards shall not serve as an avouchment of good standing for the purpose of visitation or membership in a regular Lodge.

### **ARTICLE III FEES AND DUES**

Section 1. **Joining Fee:** A one-time fee of \$100.00 is required to join the Lodge. The Joining Fee will be waived, if at time of joining, the Applicant purchases an Endowed Membership.

Section 2. **Annual Dues:** Each member of this Lodge shall pay dues at the rate of **Thirty-Five Dollars** per year, which must be paid to the Secretary on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January of each year. Members who have purchased an Endowed Membership in the Lodge are exempt from dues. Fifty year members, after paying the joining fee, are exempt from paying dues.

### **ARTICLE IV MEETINGS OF THE LODGE**

Section 1. The Lodge shall have at least four stated meetings held annually in such places and at such times as the Worshipful Master (or in his absence or inability to serve by the Senior Warden, or in the absence of both Master and Senior Warden by the Junior Warden) may deem necessary or to the interest of the Craft, except the meeting for the election and installation of officers shall be held as close as practical, to July 20th in the Memorial Temple of the Grand Lodge or other suitable location, in Waco, at a time and date which does not conflict with activities of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Section 2. Called meetings of the Lodge may be held within the Jurisdiction of Texas as the Worshipful Master (or in his absence or inability to serve by the Senior Warden, or in the

absence of both Master and Senior Warden, then by the Junior Warden) may deem necessary or to the interest of the Craft.

Section 3. Notice of called meetings of the Lodge shall be mailed by the Secretary to all members of the Lodge, at their last known address, at least 15 days prior to the date of the called meeting. No business shall be transacted at a called meeting of the Lodge except such as specified in the call.

## **ARTICLE V OFFICERS OF THE LODGE**

Section 1. The officers of the Lodge shall be: Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Marshal, Master of Ceremonies, Musician, and Tiler.

Section 2. Only members of Texas Lodges may serve as Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden of the Lodge. However, any member of the Lodge may hold any other elected or appointed office.

Section 3. All Officers of Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 shall be duly installed on or before September 1 of each year.   **\*\* 7 April 2011**

## **ARTICLE VI SELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Section I. The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present. The other officers shall be appointed as follows:

a) The Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Marshal, Musician, and Tiler shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master.

b) The Junior Deacon and Master of Ceremonies may be recommended by the Senior Warden and shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master. (Revised 2025)

c) The Senior Steward and Junior Steward may be recommended by the Junior Warden and shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master. (Revised 2025)

Section 2. In the election of officers, should only one name be placed in nomination, the vote may be taken without the ballot, but should more than one Brother be nominated, the members shall prepare ballots, which shall be taken up and counted at the Secretary's desk, and the number of votes received by each Brother reported to the presiding officer who shall declare the Brother receiving a majority of all votes cast duly elected.

Section 3. In the event no Brother has such majority; the ballot will be repeated until such result is obtained. Blank ballots shall not be considered as votes cast.

## **ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

The officers of Tranquility Lodge shall perform the duties required by the Installation Ceremony, the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and the By-Laws of Tranquility Lodge, except only as modified by the approved By-Laws of Tranquility Lodge.

Section I. **Worshipful Master:** In addition to the duties required by the ceremony of installation, the Worshipful Master shall see that the other officers attend to their duties, to prepare and make reports as are required of him, and appoint such committees as he deems necessary to conduct the affairs of the Lodge and shall be ex-officio chairman of all such committees.

Section 2. **Senior Warden:** To perform the duties of the Worshipful Master in his absence, and to act as Chairman of the Time and Place Committee.

Section 3. **Junior Warden:** To perform the duties of the Worshipful Master in the absence of that officer and the Senior Warden, and to act as Chairman of the Goals and Activities Committee.

Section 4. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall hold all financial property of the Lodge as directed in the ceremony of installation and report the correct financial condition of the Lodge at such times as directed. For his services, he shall be exempt from payment of dues.

Section 5. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall make accurate records as required in the ceremony of installation. In addition, he shall:

- a) Authenticate all official papers and documents of the Lodge with the seal of the Lodge.
- b) Notify all Brothers elected or appointed to office if they were not present at the time of election or appointment.
- c) Issue all notices as he may be directed, to make out and transmit to the Grand Secretary the annual returns of the Lodge and perform all other duties relating to his office. For his services, he shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

Section 6. **Marshal:** To serve on the Time and Place Committee, and assist in arranging for and providing proper locations for the Lodge to hold meetings in areas within the Masonic Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas or others as assigned by the Worshipful Master and perform other services as requested. For his services, he shall be exempt from payment of dues.

Section 7. **Tiler:** The Tiler shall perform the duties required by the installation ceremony. He shall be punctual in his attendance to strictly guard the outside of the door during a meeting of the Lodge, to see that the lodge room is in proper order, that various articles of furniture are in place and perform other services concerning his office. He may appoint one or more assistants. For his services he shall be exempt from payment of dues.

## ARTICLE VIII STANDING COMMITTEES

Section I. **Audit:** It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master soon after his installation each year to appoint a committee of three qualified members, a Certified public accountant, or a

public accountant, whose duty shall be to audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary and make prompt written reports to be read to the Lodge in open meeting.

Section 2. **Nominating:** Removed 4 Dec 2017

Section 3. **Membership:** The Worshipful Master may appoint as many committees on membership as desired, and in any location within the Jurisdiction of Texas where three or more members of the Lodge may reside. The duties of this committee shall be to recruit members for the Lodge, and to perform such other duties as prescribed by the Worshipful Master.

Section 4. **Time and Place:** To arrange for and provide proper locations for the Lodge to hold meetings within the Masonic Jurisdiction of Texas, under the direction of the Senior Warden, assisted by the Marshal.

Section 5. **Goals and Activities:** To function under the direction of the Junior Warden, to propose goals, activities and projects for the Lodge, which goals, activities and projects fall within the scope for which the Lodge was chartered.

Section 6. **Financial Assistance:** Composed of five members appointed by the Worshipful Master, preferably from different areas of the State, whose terms shall expire consecutively. No member of this committee shall succeed himself, regardless of the duration of the term served. This committee will evaluate all applications for financial assistance of any kind. Such applications must be initiated by the individuals seeking assistance and forwarded to the Secretary of the Lodge. The Secretary shall advise the Lodge of such applications at the next meeting of the Lodge subsequent to receipt of the same. The applications will then be referred to the Financial Assistance Committee, which will make its recommendation at the next meeting of the Lodge. When the Lodge is not in session, and in extreme humanitarian emergencies, the three principal Officers of the Lodge, upon unanimous vote, may authorize the expenditure of up to \$5,000.00 in assistance and report the same to the Lodge at the next meeting.

Section 7. **Investment:** The investment Committee shall consist of (1) the following elected officers: Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer, and (2) Three duly elected members of Tranquility Lodge approved by vote of the lodge membership at its annual meeting, such members shall be appointed for staggered three-year terms. At the outset, one elected member will have a term of one year, the second elected member will have a term of two years and the third member will have a term of three years. Subsequent terms will be for a three-year term each.

This committee is responsible for (1) developing the asset allocation strategy and overseeing its implementation, (2) preparing the statement of investment policy, (3) monitor and supervise the implementation of the investment policy, which includes review of the performance of outside investment managers, (4) review investment management costs and establish accounting and investment review procedures, and (5) make periodic reports to the Lodge not less than twice annually. The Committee shall act by majority vote. Decisions by

the committee must be submitted to the lodge for vote to approve those decisions made.  
(Revised 2025)

## ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

Section 1. No amendments to these By-Laws, either by alteration or addition, shall be made, unless in the following manner:

Section 2. The proposed amendment must be in writing, signed by the proposer, and presented and read at a stated meeting of this Lodge, at which time it may be discussed and amended, if necessary.

Section 3. At the next stated meeting of this Lodge, it shall again be considered and voted upon without further amendment; and if approved by a majority of the votes of the members present, shall become a part of these By-Laws, upon compliance with the other provision of this article.

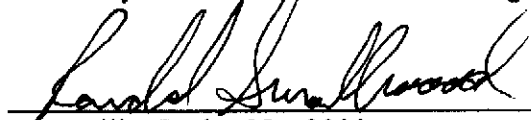
Section 4. All amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted to the Grand Lodge Trustees for their approval before they take affect, except the following:

- (1) Fixing, raising or lowering the one time fee for becoming a member and the Annual dues.
- (2) Adopting its own regulations as to payment of its Treasurer, Secretary, Marshal and Tiler.
- (3) This Lodge is required to perform such charitable work or public service, which will enable the Lodge to qualify for exemption from Ad Valorem Taxes, as provided by the Laws of Texas.

## ARTICLE X

Section 1. The above By-Laws having been approved by the Trustees of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, A.D. 2002, for adoption: this is to certify that Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 A.F.& A.M., has on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, A.D. 2002, adopted the same.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Lodge.

  
Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Randal Smallwood, Secretary

The above By-Laws having been approved by the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY A.D. 2026.

(Grand Lodge Seal)



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. B. [unclear]", is written over a horizontal line.

Grand Secretary

*Changes were approved by majority vote of the members present at the Lodge Stated Meeting on October 18, 2025*

Amended 31 July 2010 Approved by Grand Lodge Board of Trustees

Amended 7 April 2011 Approved by Grand Lodge Board of Trustees

Amended 4 Dec 2017 Approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees Removed Art 8 Section 2

Changed dues 19 Dec 2019 no approval required.

Amended 16 October 2021 Approved by the Grand Lodge Board of Trustees

Amended 4 April 2025 adding Investment Committee Approved by the Grand Lodge Board of Trustees

Amended 18 October 2025 changing endowment to \$700 and annual dues to \$35 Approved by the Grand Lodge Board of Trustees 14- January 2026