

## **ACADEMY OF REFLECTION**

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

#### **Mission**

The Academy of Reflection offers encouragement and instruction to Scottish Rite Masons interested in the pursuit of inner work such as meditation and silent prayer.

#### **Rationale**

Scottish Rite Freemasonry is inherently holistic in its approach to the moral, social, and spiritual development of its members. It offers beautiful and inspiring ritual, profound and stimulating literature, and appendant bodies for men with callings and interests of many sorts. However, despite our ritual and literature consistently referring to the importance of meditation and prayer in Masonic life, prior to the Academy of Reflection there was no organization within the Rite specifically dedicated to such pursuits. Men with these interests have been forced to seek light elsewhere, typically in non-Masonic organizations. The Academy of Reflection therefore offers such men opportunities to pursue contemplative interests within the rich context of the Rite's symbolism, ritual, and literature, and to associate with brothers of like mind. The Rite in turn benefits from their increased sense of loyalty and attachment. Perhaps more importantly, the deeper insights that naturally come from inner work flow out into the Rite, enriching the experience of all members and enhancing the Rite's potential to assist with the transformation of their lives, their families, and their communities.

#### **Membership Benefits**

Access to the curricula of the Academy.

Participating in the social media and social gatherings of the Academy

Wearing the Academy of Reflection badge at Masonic Functions

Actively Participating in the business of the Academy

## **Membership Application Process**

Before submitting your application for membership to the Academy, please be aware that you must be at least a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason in good standing within the Valley of Santa Barbara. The Valley of Santa Barbara need not be your mother Valley. Plural affiliations from any other Valley, Orient, or Jurisdiction are acceptable. Secondly, you must have attended at least three (3) group sessions of contemplative practice provided by the Academy. These most often take the form of meditation sessions scheduled during the Spring and Fall Reunions. Your attendance will be verified using our records, so be sure that you sign in at each session you choose to attend. Thirdly, it is expected that each applicant will maintain an upright character and refrain from discrimination or any other activity that would reflect poorly on the Academy, the Valley of Santa Barbara, the Scottish Rite, or Freemasonry in general.

Keeping these requirements in mind, to begin the process, complete the attached Contact Information Form or provide the required information contained on that form in your application E-mail message. You must also include a personal statement concerning contemplative practice. Please see the attached Personal Statement Guidelines for more information regarding the expectations for this statement. Submit all of your application materials by E-mail with the subject "Membership Application" to the Academy's Superintendent at [cr.dunning@yahoo.com](mailto:cr.dunning@yahoo.com) . Once the Academy has reviewed your application, the Superintendent will contact you with his feedback and/or decision. If your application is accepted, the Academy will arrange your formal induction at the next available opportunity.

# Contact Information Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

First

Middle

Last

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

Month

Day

Year

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_

City

State

Zip

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDARY \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BLUE LODGE \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER MASONIC AFFILIATIONS

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## PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDELINES

You must submit a personal statement of between 1000 and 2000 words as part of your application for membership in the Academy of Reflection. This statement must express your personal views on the significance of contemplative practice to each of the following:

Your understanding of self

Your relationships with others

Your experience and appreciation of Freemasonry

Your relationship with the Divine

There are no correct or incorrect answers to these matters. What is most important in writing this statement is its authenticity. The Academy is specifically looking for introspection and sincerity, not academic or historical analysis. The format or structure of your statement is left for you decide. You may feel free to include any details of past experiences with contemplative practice that may be relevant to your statement. However, the Academy is as much for those who are completely new to contemplative practice as those who have extensive experience. Your individual perspective and insights are more important for this statement than your history of practice. Finally, the content of your statement will only be shared with the Academy's instructors for the purpose of assessing your application. Statements that are deemed to be potentially beneficial to the membership at large might be shared with the larger group, but only if you provide us with your permission to do so. Unless that permission is specifically requested by the Academy and granted by you, you may be certain that the content of your statement will be held as strictly confidential among the Academy's Instructors.

If you have any questions, or for further information, please contact the Superintendent at [cr.dunning@yahoo.com](mailto:cr.dunning@yahoo.com).