

Form for Opening and Closing a Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees

(Officers positioned as in a Craft Lodge, no candles used.)

Opening

SM - * Officers, take your stations. Brethren, be seated.

SM - Brother Senior Warden, are all present brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees ?

SW - Sovereign Master, all present are brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees (except the candidates.)

SM - *** "No man should enter upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity."
Brother Chaplain, lead our devotions.

Chaplain - "Almighty God, Thou hast promised that where two or three are gathered together in Thy name Thou wilt be in the midst of them and bless them. Grant, we beseech Thee, the petitions of Thy servants as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen."

SM - I now declare _____ Council No. ____, Allied Masonic Degrees, duly opened.

SM - Brother Junior Deacon, inform the Tyler.

SM - Brother Senior Deacon, attend at the altar. (done)

JD - Sovereign Master, the duty is performed.

Closing

SM – Closing the Council:

SM - Brethren, is there anything further to come before this Council?

SM - Brother Secretary, read the minutes. (Read and approved)

SM - *** Brethren, before I declare this Council closed, let us invoke the blessing of Deity. Brother Chaplain, lead our Devotions.

Chaplin - (gives a benediction)

SM - Brother Senior Deacon, attend at the altar. (as the SD arrives at the altar he, together with the brethren, gives sign after which the Holy Bible is closed.)

SM - Brethren, I now declare this Council duly closed. Brother Junior Deacon, inform the Tyler. (done)

JD - Sovereign Master, the duty is performed.

Special Procedures

SM - (If the meeting is held at table with the ladies present, the SM simply declares the meeting open, has the Holy Bible opened without S & C, and the Chaplain offers a prayer. **No signs are used.** If there are proposals, initiations or election of officers, the ladies are to be excused. The closing is done as the opening except in reverse order.)

(If it is necessary to go from "labor to refreshment" for any reason, the procedure used by the Grand Lodge in whose jurisdiction the Council is chartered shall be observed, making the appropriate changes in wording.

This may not be done with the ladies present.)