

# “CORNERSTONE” PROJECT



2009 - 2010



Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada  
In the Province of Ontario

363 King Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 1B4  
Canada

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Phase One

# “CORNERSTONE” PROJECT

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## Introduction

The concept of the cornerstone is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. It is important because all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position and strength of the entire edifice.

The cornerstone is also symbolic to Freemasons because it provides the basic tools for understanding and growing the larger intellectual edifice. So we may endeavour to *“raise a super structure perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder.”*

As the proper placement of the cornerstone ensures a solid foundation upon which to build any structure, so too does it teach our lodges the important lesson of having innovative and vibrant programs to ensure that our lodges are strong, *“until time shall be no more.”*

Just as the newly Initiated EA symbolically represents the cornerstone of the lodge and thereby its future; so too does the lodge symbolically represent the cornerstone of The Grand Lodge and its long-term sustainability. Each of the constituent lodges have their own unique challenges, but we all stand together with one common goal, that of ensuring the sustainability of the Craft.

Excerpts from a paper published in the Reflections Newsletter; of the Committee on Masonic Education, Volume 23, Number 4, written by L.L. Walker Jr., P.M. Anson Jones Lodge, Fellow in Masonic Research of the Texas Lodge of Research, entitled *“The Little Lodge That Couldn’t”* remind us of some of the challenges our lodges must overcome.

*“Once there was a Lodge that started out little years ago; it grew larger like many other lodges did at that time and then it got little again.*

*The members were all good fellows. There wasn't a bad thing to be said about any of them. They attended lodge regularly because it was a pleasant way to spend an evening. The coffee was good, you sat in the same seat, and you always knew how things were going to come out. You never had to worry about surprises, or strange ideas.*

*In time, a lot of the members moved away and there were names on the roll that only those with the longest memories could remember. But these Brethren paid their dues and that helped keep the Lodge going.*

*There wasn't much Work because petitions were few and far between. But when the Work was there, there wasn't always a full slate of experienced men to fill the chairs. The Worshipful Master seldom had to worry too much about actually running the Lodge because the Secretary and some of the Past Masters saw to that.*

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*The years went by and nothing changed and nothing happened. The coffee was still good, but there were more vacant seats at every meeting. Then one day the members began to talk about selling the old property and re-locating. But to many a to move would somehow violate tradition. So no decision was made and the Lodge didn't move because it couldn't.*

*Finally, with dwindling membership, a lack of petitioners and much-reduced funds, the Lodge was forced to make a painful decision. When the Brethren gathered to decide the Lodge's fate they suddenly realized the financial truth as many said, "We can't make it." And sure enough, they couldn't."*

The CORNERSTONE Project has been developed to assist lodges with these many challenges. Its primary purpose is to encourage and recognize lodges that plan, implement and manage a well rounded yearly lodge program that promotes lodge activities, brotherhood, charitable work and involvement in the community.

Although good planning and strong management is a vitally important component to the overall success of your lodge, it must never be forgotten that in order to maintain the momentum in your lodge the members must have a compelling idea of where the lodge needs to go, what type of members it will attract, what benefits it can provide, and how the organization needs to be perceived in the community if it is to thrive.

### **Value Added Benefits**

When a lodge makes the decision to participate in this program they acknowledge their desire to increase the value of the experience that they provide to their membership. Participation will bring many *value added benefits*.

- Increased lodge vitality
- Enhanced teamwork
- Increased sense of pride in the lodge
- Greater sense of accomplishment
- And, the use of the designation of “Cornerstone Lodge 2009 - 2010 and/or subsequent years” on the Lodge Summons, Newsletter, Letterhead or other such lodge material.

### **Program**

The CORNERSTONE Project *is not* a stand-alone initiative, but rather a program that should be used in conjunction with other Grand Lodge, Lodge Resources programs as each is designed to build upon one another to achieve the overall success and a sustainable future for the lodge.

The Grand Lodge through the Lodge Resources Committee administers and evaluates the program. This program is not a one-time event. It is an award that is

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presented on a yearly basis and should a lodge choose to participate, a “Letter of Intent” must be submitted each and every year a lodge chooses to participate.

To qualify for the **CORNERSTONE** designation the individual lodge must fulfill one of two Mandatory requirements, complete five (5) of the major standards and six (6) of the basic standards. Lodges that meet the qualification requirements will be recognized at the Annual Grand Lodge Communication where the Worshipful Master and his lodge will be presented with this award.

To begin the process of qualification the Worshipful Master of each lodge must appoint a **CORNERSTONE Project Coordinator**. This person will serve as the liaison between the lodge and the Grand Lodge, Lodge Resources Committee. This information must be communicated in writing by mailing the **Lodge Letter of Intent** (See Appendix A) to the Grand Lodge office **by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

*Please note: For purposes of the Phase One introduction, the CORNERSTONE Project commencement date will be retroactive to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 so that participating lodges can utilize any activities prior to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to meet the qualifying standards and will be active for a period of 10 ½, ending May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.*

### **Program Application**

In order to be considered for the CORNERSTONE designation a lodge must submit the **Project Application** (See Appendix B) to the Grand Lodge, Lodge Resources Committee detailing their activities. **This application must be submitted no later than June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

To confirm the application’s accuracy and completeness, it must be reviewed and signed by the Worshipful Master and the Lodge Secretary affixed. **Documentation of the lodge’s activities must be included in order to make the application complete.**

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## **Acknowledgement**

The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Utah for providing permission for our Grand Lodge to use their lodge recognition program, the “Master Builder Program”, as the foundation and blueprint in the development of this new lodge initiative the CORNERSTONE Project.

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## LODGE ACTIVITY PACKAGE

Pages 7 to 15

(must be submitted with the Lodge Application)

### ***Mandatory Requirement:***

A Lodge must implement one of either the Friend to Friend or Mentor Programs and have them entrenched as an integral part of their lodge operating plan.

#### *Friend to Friend Program:*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Potential Candidates present: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of applications received: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Please include a copy of the Friend to Friend Event Agenda with the application package.*

#### *Mentor Program:*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Candidates mentored: \_\_\_\_\_

Elements Conducted	Dates
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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### **Major Standards:**

*If sufficient space is not provided for the lodge's response to each standard, please provide additional sheets noting the appropriate standard chosen.*

- 1) Three (3) lodge delegates must participate in the current year GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION. **Note:** Two (2) of either the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden or proxy carrier, must be present to qualify.

PRINT NAMES:

Worshipful Master: \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Warden: \_\_\_\_\_

Junior Warden: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Lodge Members in attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) Establish a yearly operating budget and have it presented to the membership at the first regular business meeting following the installation of the ensuing year's lodge officers.

Meeting Date Budget was Presented: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Date Budget was Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Establish a Lodge Officers Mentorship Program that involves Past Masters regularly mentoring an assigned Officer.

Program Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No. of Mentorship Sessions: \_\_\_\_\_

Results Achieved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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- 5) Conduct at least three (3) Masonic Education programs during the year. At the Worshipful Master’s discretion, these programs may be part of either a stated or special meeting.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of members present: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Description of Educational Feature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of members present: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Description of Educational Feature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of members present: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Description of Educational Feature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 6) Ensure that at least two (2) of the three (3) degrees of Masonry are conducted during the year. **Note:** In the absence of actual candidates the lodge should perform the degrees with ***a representative candidate:***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Conducted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Conducted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree Conducted: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Please include a copy of the Lodge Summons, for that degree night, with the application package.*

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- 7) At least four (4) lodge members, including at least two (2) elected officers, must visit a tiled meeting of another lodge. (*Official Visit of DDGM does not qualify*)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Members Present: \_\_\_\_\_

Elected Officers: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 8) The Lodge must distribute at least three (3) written communications (such as newsletters and flyers) to its entire membership reporting on Lodge activities and upcoming Lodge events.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Communication: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Communication: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Communication: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Include copy of the flyer, insert or newsletter page with the application.*

- 9) At least five (5) lodge members, including at least two (2) elected officers, must participate in a District Masonic Workshop. **Note:** A minimum of two (2) of the following officers must attend; Senior Deacon, Junior Warden, or Senior Warden.

Total number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Officers Attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 10) Conduct a Lodge Survey for the purpose of determining the views of the membership on the operation of the lodge. This survey will provide a look at the strengths and weakness of the lodge.

Date circulated: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of responses: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summarize feedback: \_\_\_\_\_

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Summarize the action plan developed: \_\_\_\_\_

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- 11) At least in a perfect number, seven (7) lodge members, including at least two (2) elected officers, must participate in a District Traveling Gavel or a similar type of District Visitation Program. **Note:** A minimum of two (2) of the following officers must attend; Senior Deacon, Junior Warden, or Senior Warden.

Total number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Officers Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Basic Standards:**

*If sufficient space is not provided for the lodge's response to each standard, please provide additional sheets noting the appropriate standard chosen.*

- 1) Invite and host a meeting for at least one other lodge. Note: Co-hosting by more than two Lodges for multiple Lodge events do not count. This could however include workshops, seminars, Masonic discussion groups, etc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Invited Members: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Host Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) Hold a social event to which the member's ladies and deceased member's widows are invited with or without families. Such event could include Ladies Night, Wives and Widows Night, dinners, picnics, ice cream socials, dances, etc .

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Social: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Invited Members: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Host Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Recognize Masons, such as Past Masters, Fifty (50) Year members, etc. at a Lodge meeting or other special event such as a dinner:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Recognized: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Recognized: \_\_\_\_ No. Members present: \_\_\_\_\_

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Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 4) At least four (4) lodge members, including at least two (2) elected officers, visit a Job’s Daughters, Rainbow Girls or DeMolay meeting – OR - hold a meeting with them in which they may present a program about their activities or ritual presentation -OR- the Lodge may entertain them. **Note:** This does not include attendance at installation for the youth groups or the Lodge. If no Masonic related youth groups, as herein mentioned, are available in the community, then other youth groups may be substituted such as Boy/Girl Scouts, 4-H, scholastic clubs, sports clubs, etc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

No. Members Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Elected Officers:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Assist five (5) shut-ins or widows during the Masonic year with such things as lawn mowing, house painting, shopping, medical needs, etc. (May be Masonic or non-Masonic)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Service: \_\_\_\_\_

- 6) Conduct a “Rusty Masons Event” or any other such event that encourages non-attending members to join their brethren in a comfortable atmosphere to reacquaint themselves with our Ritual.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Members Present: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Please include a copy of the event agenda with the application package.*

- 7) Conduct a dinner to honor new lodge members who have been raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason within the last year or to recognize new brethren who are working on their proficiency at this time.

Date of Dinner: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of new Members: \_\_\_\_\_ Total No. of Members present: \_\_\_\_\_

- 8) At least four Lodge members, including children if available, attend as a group a church service of their choice.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Members present: \_\_\_\_\_

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- 9) Implement a Lodge Banquet program that is held on regular meeting nights/days, where proper Protocol & Etiquette is observed and Fellowship abounds.

No. of Banquets Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Average attendance: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the benefits achieved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 10) Hold a Lodge of Discussion at a regular meeting of the lodge; choosing a topic that will assure interaction between the lodge members.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion results: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## **Appendix A – Lodge Letter of Intent**

*(must be submitted prior to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009)*

*see note on page 5*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Grand Lodge of Canada  
In the Province of Ontario  
363 King Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 1B4

### **RE: Masonic CORNERSTONE Project**

Dear Lodge Resources Committee Chairman,

The purpose of this letter is to notify the Grand Lodge, Lodge Resources Committee, of our Lodge’s intention to participate in the CORNERSTONE Project this year.

The members are firmly committed to the continued success of our Lodge and its programs by dedicating themselves to long range planning, cooperative implementation and supportive action to perpetuate our Masonic ideals and the Mission of Freemasonry within our community.

**As Worshipful Master of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, I have appointed \_\_\_\_\_ Brother \_\_\_\_\_ (may be the Worshipful Master) to serve our Lodge as our CORNERSTONE Project Coordinator, and have asked him to be your contact for the ensuing Masonic year.**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(E-mail address is essential for communication purposes)*

Fraternally,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Worshipful Master

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## Appendix B – Award Application

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### CORNERSTONE Project Application Form

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Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario, has completed the requirements of the CORNERSTONE Project . Attached for your review is the Lodge Activity Package (pages 7 to 15) and all other supporting documentation.

Worshipful Master's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

ATTEST: Lodge Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**LODGE SEAL**

(if available)

This application form must be completed and returned with the Lodge Activity Package included; by **JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010** to:

**Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario  
Lodge Resources Committee  
363 King Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 1B4**