



# *Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia*



## **Executive Order No. 2 2025-2026**

**TO BE READ IN ALL SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER  
THAN THE DECEMBER 2025 STATED CONVOCATION**

**WHEREAS several subordinate Royal Arch Chapters (hereafter referred to as Chapters) holden under the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia are having difficulties opening and holding stated Convocations due to lack of attendance of nine members, and;**

**WHEREAS the newly amended Section 97 of the Digest of the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia (Digest) removed the requirement to hold 12 stated Convocations per year and allows subordinate Chapters to set the dates and hours of their stated Convocations in their By-laws as directed by the membership, and;**

**WHEREAS Section 115 of the Digest states subordinate Chapters in Virginia are required to hold their annual Convocation in September of each year and section 117(a) requires three additional convocations to prevent the arrest of the Charter, and;**

**WHEREAS the term “Ample Form” currently applies only to the opening of the Grand Council of Select and Royal Masters, and the opening of the Grand Chapter for the Constitution of a new Royal Arch Chapter. It is not referenced in the Digest for use by subordinate chapters and will be defined here as “the opening of a regular Royal Arch Chapter with less than nine companion Royal Arch Masons present using the prescribed ritual approved by the Committee on Work” and is distinct from a Chapter opened in “Solemn Form” with nine or more Royal Arch Masons Present, and;**

**WHEREAS authorized ritual created in 2025 for opening a Royal Arch Chapter in Ample form currently exists, and maintains conformity with Section 95 of the Digest. This ritual will be attached to this executive order.**

**NOW THEREFORE, I Kyle William Strickland, by the power in me vested as The Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the Commonwealth of Virginia, do hereby issue this Executive Order authorizing and empowering Subordinate Royal Arch Chapters to open a Chapter in Ample Form for the transaction of such business as specified below. There must be a minimum of five and a maximum of eight Royal Arch Masons present, one of whom must be a regularly elected and duly installed dais officer. The authorized ritual as approved by the Committee on Work, appended to this executive order shall be followed for the opening of a Royal Arch Chapter in Ample Form. Opening in Ample Form is not an option if there are nine or more companions present. Under those circumstances, the Chapter must be opened in Solemn Form.**

**FURTHER, the following conditions shall be met by each Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction to maintain conformity with all applicable sections of the Digest.**

- Nothing in this executive order shall relieve the duty of each Chapter from holding their annual Convocation in September each year as prescribed in Section 115 of the Digest. The Annual Convocation shall be opened in Solemn Form with at least nine Companions present in conformity with the provisions of Section 97 of the Digest.**
- Each Chapter shall hold at least 3 additional convocations each year in conformity with the provisions of Section 117(a) of the Digest.**
- Each Chapter shall report on the type of meeting held, Ample or Solemn Form, to the Grand Secretary as part of the Monthly activity report.**

**FURTHER, this executive order shall permit/restrict the following business to be conducted in a Chapter opened in Ample form.**

- Voting on petitions for membership of any class (Regular or Honorary) shall be allowed in a Chapter opened in Ample Form provided the provisions of Section 97 of the Digest are satisfied, and at least five members of the Chapter are physically present.**
- Changes in By-laws may be presented at a Chapter opened in Ample form for consideration by the membership but may only be voted on in a regular Chapter opened in Solemn Form at a stated convocation as specified in the By-laws of the particular chapter.**
- Regular financial business that may come before the Chapter may be disposed of in a Chapter open in Ample Form. (i.e. payment of bills, per capita tax, et cetera)**
- All other business not specifically addressed above that does not require a vote of the Chapter may be conducted in a Chapter opened in Ample Form.**

**FURTHER, I direct the Grand Lecturer, through the members of the Committee on Work, to ensure this Executive Order and the approved ritual for opening and closing a Chapter in “Ample Form” is disseminated to all Chapters and instruction be given as to its contents, forms, and usages.**

**This executive order is effective immediately and is to be read at the next Stated convocation.**


**Given under my hand and the Seal of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons in Virginia at the City of Chesapeake, this 23rd day of November, A.D. 2025, A.I. 2555 and in the Two-Hundred and Eighteenth year of our Grand Chapter.**



  
**Kyle William Strickland**

**Grand High Priest**

**Attest:**

  
**Wayne H. Anderson**  
**Grand Secretary**