

**PROPOSED LEGISLATION
2026 ANNUAL CONCLAVE
GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSOURI**

The Templar Jurisprudence Committee of the Grand Commandery of Missouri is pleased to share the following proposed legislative items that will be brought to the floor of the Grand Commandery during the 2026 Annual Conclave.

Note that deletions appear in ~~strike-through~~ and additions appear in underlined.

Item No. 1

**Grand Commandery of Missouri Laws and Regulations - 2026
Proposed Legislation**

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE **LAWS AND REGULATIONS** OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE XII - Endowment Fund

Section 229. Grand Commandery Endowed Membership.

E. Distribution. ~~The net income, minus per capita, from such fund shall be distributed annually to the endowed Commanderies prior to January 1. This is provided that no income shall be distributed on any endowed membership until January 1, of the second (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Recorder. The Grand Commandery shall be entitled to no more of the net income from the endowed membership than the aforesaid per capita (less Grand Encampment per capita), or 50% of the net income (less Grand Encampment per capita), whichever is less. (Amended 05/16/08, Repealed ??/??/??)~~

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this amendment is to clearly define, protect, and strengthen the long-term structure and distribution methodology of the Endowed Membership Fund of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri.

Fraternally Submitted:

SK Donald MacCormick, PC, Kansas City 10

SK Russell S. Hanson, PC, St.Graal 12

Item 2

Grand Commandery of Missouri Laws and Regulations - 2026 Proposed Legislation

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE **LAWS AND REGULATIONS** OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE XII - Endowment Fund

Section 229. Grand Commandery Endowed Membership.

J. Continued Income. ~~Following the death of an endowed member of a Missouri Commandery, 30% of the net income from that endowed membership shall be retained and added to the fund's principal to provide for growth of the fund. The remainder of the net income, minus per-capita (less Grand Encampment per-capita), shall be distributed to the endowed Commanderies. The Grand Commandery shall be entitled to no more of the remaining net income from the endowed membership than the aforesaid per capita (less Grand Encampment per-capita), or 50% of the remaining net income (less Grand Encampment per-capita), whichever is less. (Adopted 05/20/00, Amended 05/16/08, Repealed ??/??/??)~~

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this amendment is to clearly define, protect, and strengthen the long-term structure and distribution methodology of the Endowed Membership Fund of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri.

Fraternally Submitted:

SK Donald MacCormick, PC, Kansas City 10

SK Russell S. Hanson, PC, St.Graal 12

Item 3

Grand Commandery of Missouri Laws and Regulations - 2026 Proposed Legislation

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE **LAWS AND REGULATIONS** OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE XII - Endowment Fund

Section 229. Grand Commandery Endowed Membership.

K. Distribution and Continued Income. The Grand Recorder shall annually remit to the recorders of participating constituent Commanderies, their prorated portion of the earnings of the Endowed Membership Fund minus per capita. This is provided that no earnings shall be distributed on any Endowed Membership until January 1 of the second (2nd) calendar year after such fee, paid in full, is deposited with the Grand Recorder.

The Endowed Membership Fund shall establish as the Base Principal those funds received by the Grand Recorder from constituent Commanderies for the purchase of an Endowed Membership. As new memberships are purchased the Base Principal will increase. At no time shall the fund draw down below this Base Principal.

Distribution of the Investment Growth in the fund shall follow these guidelines. The Investment Committee shall, as soon as practical after January 1 of each year, advise the Endowment Fund Committee the amount of gain or loss in the investments of Endowed Membership Fund. Any gains accrued will be distributed as follows. First, the current Per Capita will be paid for all living Endowed members by the Grand Commandery. Second, from the remaining funds, 30% will be retained in the Endowed Membership Fund to fortify the continued growth of the fund and becomes part of the Base Principal. Third, the remaining 70% will be distributed to the constituent Commanderies on a prorated bases for the total number of endowed members, living and deceased that are/were members of that Commandery.

(Adopted ??/??/??)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this amendment to is to clearly define, protect, and strengthen the long-term structure and distribution methodology of the Endowed Membership Fund of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri.

This proposal formally establishes the concept of a protected Base Principal, defined as all funds received from constituent Commanderies for the purchase of Endowed Memberships. The amendment clarifies that no earnings shall be distributed until after January 1 of the second calendar year following full payment of an Endowed Membership. The amendment ensures that this Base Principal shall continually increase as new Endowed Memberships are purchased and shall never be reduced. This safeguard preserves the perpetual nature of the Endowed Membership Program and protects the integrity of the funds entrusted to the Grand Commandery.

Additionally, this amendment provides a clear and orderly framework for the annual distribution of investment growth. It:

- Establishes the priority payment of current Per Capita for all living Endowed Members to the Grand Commandery.

- Retains thirty percent (30%) of remaining gains within the Endowed Membership Fund to strengthen and fortify its continued growth.
- Distributes the remaining seventy percent (70%) to constituent Commanderies on a prorated basis for all endowed members, living and deceased, affiliated with each Commandery.

Gains Calculation Example:

Commandery Endowment Gains:	\$50,000.00
Total Per Capita: \$38.60	
Number of living Endowed Members: 183	
Total Per Capita for living Endowed Members:	<u>\$7,063.80</u> (\$38.60 x 183)
Remainder:	\$42,936.20
30% of Remainder Retained for Fund Growth:	\$12,880.86
70% of Remainder for Distribution:	\$30,055.34

Distribution Calculation Example:

Total for Distribution: \$30,055.34
 Total Endowed Memberships: 323
 Distribution per member: $\$30,055.34/323 = \93.05

A Commandery with a total of 29 endowed members (living and deceased) would receive: $29 \times \$93.05 = \$2,698.45$

By clearly defining principal protection, distribution priorities, and proportional allocation methods, this amendment promotes financial transparency, stability, and responsible stewardship. It ensures the Endowed Membership Fund remains perpetual, equitable, and beneficial to both the Grand Commandery and its constituent Commanderies for generations to come.

Fraternally Submitted:
 SK Donald MacCormick, PC, Kansas City 10
 SK Russell S. Hanson, PC, St.Graal 12

Item 4**PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE TACTICS AND MANUAL OF ASYLUM CEREMONIES OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri Tactics and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies (1966), Section X pages 62 - 66 addresses the Tactics for opening which may be used by constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Missouri when there are insufficient Knights present to form lines or when there are only nine Knights present. With the amendment of **Section 84. Quorum.** allowing opening of a Commandery business meeting using the Short-Form Opening in the current Grand Encampment Ritual (a.k.a. the page 98 - 99 opening), the Ritual Committee felt that the Tactics and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies needed to be updated to provide instruction for the five to eight Knight opening. Therefore, we propose to add a Section X.1 to the Tactics and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies designated pages 66a, 66b, 66c, etc. entitled ALTERNATE/SHORT FORM TACTICS FOR OPENING WHICH MAY BE USED BY CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSOURI. This additional section will read as below.

Fraternally Submitted:

SK Corey B. Huntsucker, PC, Orient 35

SK Terry D. Coppotelli, PC, Ascalon 16

SK Christopher L. Story, PC, St. John's 20

SK Harold F. Coots, PC, Prince of Peace

Section X.1 ALTERNATE/SHORT FORM TACTICS FOR OPENING WHICH MAY BE USED BY CONSTITUENT COMMANDERIES OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF MISSOURI

For use with the RITUAL OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE UNTIED (INCORRECT ON SOURCE) STATES OF AMERICA, ISSUED 2019 pages 98 – 99, with additional reference pages 100 – 109.

Ritual Committee:

SK Corey B. Huntsucker, Chairman
SK Terry D. Coppotelli
SK William R. Jennens
SK Christopher L. Story
SK William King
SK Stuart English
SK Harold F. Coots, PGC
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri

February 18, 2026

Preface:

In accordance with the **Laws and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri, Section 84: Quorum**, the following Tactics **may** be used for Opening a Commandery when five to eight Sir Knights are present. These Tactics only provide for the (5) five key officers: Commander, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Warder, and Sentinel. If a sixth Sir Knight is present, he will assume the office of prelate, otherwise any additional Sir Knights will remain on the sideline for the purpose of these Tactics. All movements and speaking parts shall be done as if there are (9) nine Sir Knights or more present (Full Form). For the simplicity of the execution of these Tactics, they are to be performed without chapeaus or swords, and without kneeling. However, to build familiarity with the movements it is recommended to "go through the motions" in removal of chapeaus and sword manual in the parries.

The following tactics were extracted from the **Tactics and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies - The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri (1966)**, Section X pages 62 – 66, and amended to supplement the SHORT FORM ritual of the **Grand Encampment Ritual, 2019** pages 98-99, with references from pages 100-109 (example: some of the C.G. lines and manual in the FULL FORM have been reassigned to the E.Com. in the SHORT FORM) while maintaining the content, integrity and format of the established Tactics and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri.

For any manual, movement or tactic not covered by the Tactics and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies, the **Manual of Knights Templar Tactics and Asylum Ceremonies of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America** and the **Drill Regulations of the Grand Encampment of knights Templar of the United States of America** were used as reference for uniformity and clarity.

It should be the aspiration of all Sir Knights and commanderies to elevate the performance of the Sir Knights to the standard of the ritual as opposed to diminishing the ritual to a lower standard. Keeping in mind that newly created Knights should at once be taught marching, drill and sword manual. Ease and grace can only be acquired by frequent exercise. Attention to minor details is essential in order to avoid the forming of awkward habits or taking incorrect positions." (Committee on Drill Regulations 1958-1968, 1978)

Any detailed explanation of the movements shall be instructed by the Grand Lecturer or Assistant Grand Lecturer(s) in accordance with the Master Ritual of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri.

Always perform as much of the ritual as possible, do not diminish the ritual to accommodate less Sir Knights or Sir Knights unable to kneel. If the officer is present, he does his part. If he is not, move forward without his part.

A uniform is not required for the opening or closing of an asylum of Knights Templar. Having the Sir Knights present, and learning is preferred over expecting them to be outfitted with all uniforms, equipment, and decorations.

A copy is to be maintained by the Grand Recorder for reference

A. Preliminary

The Altar is attended to by the Prelate. The altar is placed in the Northeast corner of the asylum, out of the line of travel and set up as follows: the Bible is opened, the left sword goes on first, the right sword goes on

second (on top of the Bible). Left hand sword diagonal from the bottom left-hand corner of the left page to the top right corner of the right-hand page, the right-hand sword goes on top of the left, diagonally from the bottom corner of the right-hand page to the top left corner of the left page. Then the cross goes on the right-hand page first (think this, we were Christians before we were Templars) then the square and compasses go on the left page (set up as for the Master Masons lodge). The tools and swords come off the Bible in exactly reverse order.

"The chairs or stations of the S.W. and the J.W. are placed a little west of a point midway between the station in the east and the stations in the west, no more than thirty (30) inches from the side lines. In purging and returning to their stations, the S.W. and the J.W. will march between their chairs or stations and the Tri. or the center of the Asy., close to the middle of their chairs." Adjust the chairs or stations or the Wardens, while maintaining an equilateral triangle, to the limits of the room.

When the hour has arrived for the opening of the commandery, the officers (Commander, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Prelate (if present), Warder and Sentinel), should be in the asylum, but not at their stations.

E.Com.: (at his station and at attention) **Rit. Page 98, C1.1 & 1.2.**

B. Purging

E.Com.: **Rit. Page 98, C1.** (after H.S., E.Com. is seated) (E.Com. will return appropriate hand salutes while seated).

(S.W. rises, takes one step forward and (H.S.) (S.W. (H.S) (E.Com. (H.S.))

S.W.: (S.W. faces north) **S.K. J.W.** (J.W. rises, takes one step forward, faces S.K. S.W. or south and (H.S.)). **Asctn i a prst o t N a Ks. T.** (J.W., (H.S.), S.W. (H.S.)).

The wardens march to the East, about face, and proceed to the West, the S.W. examines those on the South, and the J.W. those on the North.

The wardens proceed to the West, and post beyond the station of the Std.Gd., face each other, and the J.W. reports:

J.W.: (H.S. and holds while reporting) **S.K. S.W., A l o t N a Ks. T.** S.W. (H.S.).

The wardens face the East, return to their stations and the S.W. salutes (H.S.) the E.Com., and reports (See instructions 26).

S.W.: (H.S.), **E.Com.;** **Rit Page 98, S.W. 1** E.Com. (H.S.)

Wardens are seated simultaneously.

E.Com.: **S.K. W.;** (W. rises, takes one step forward (H.S.)), **Rit. Page 98, C2.** W. (H.S.), (E.Com. (H.S.)). (W. goes to the rear of the Std.Gd.).

W.: **S.K. Sen.** (Sen. H.S.). **The E.Com. is abt t op [Standard] Com. No. [101] you will take your post and guard accordingly** or **A Com. of Kgts. Tem. is about to be opened, you will take your post and guard accordingly.** Sent. (H.S.) W. (H.S.) (See note after C2, rit.).

W.: (H.S.) **E.Com.;** **Rit. Page 98, W1.** E.Com. (H.S.)

There is no Reception of the Commander for these Tactics.

E.Com.: *rises*, and commands: **Prepare for Rehearsal; Officers, Forward, MARCH.** The E.Com. will march directly to his post at the head of the lines. The E.Com. post is three paces East of the center of the interval between the lines; (wardens move straight forward and halt about (70) seventy inches from each other). The J.W. will Constitute the First Division and the S.W. will constitute the Second Division. The words are then communicated. **Rit. Page 102 to COMMUNICATE ACROSS THE LINES.**

Note: When executing the P.W.W., P.P.W. and I.W. all movements will be done per the 2019 Grand Encampment Ritual; P.W.W. page 124. The P.P.W and I.W. pages 147 and 148, but without swords or kneeling. Still do the commands, sword movements, foot and hand placements and words. I.W. "advance the right foot about twenty-eight inches".

E.Com.: Rit. Page 98, C3. Officers, Form, TRIANGLE. Officers form Triangle together, as follows:

The W. moves forward one pace and halts, then left steps, one step (10 inches).

The Prel. (if present) moves forward and halts between the Wardens and faces about.

S.W. faces half left; and the J.W. faces half right.

The E. Com. moves forward one pace and halts.

When the Triangle is formed:

E.Com.: Rit. Page 104, C6.

At the command "kneel" all at the Triangle except the E.Com and the Warder, step back twenty-four inches with the left foot. The Prel. (if present) steps back with the officers.

If the Prel. is present, then **E.Com.: Excellent Prelate, lead our devotions**. E.Com. then kneels. If the Prel. is not present, then the E.Com leads the devotion (prayer as worded **Rit. Page 104, P1**).

E.Com.: S.Kgts., RISE.

The E.Com then directs:

E.Com.: Together with the signs; P.S. (done) G.S. (done). (In the format as described in the **Rit. Page 147, Para 2 through Page 148**).

All S.Kgts. in the Asy. give the signs and the W. faces half right, without command.

At the completion of the G.S. all face front without command.

E.Com.: 1. **About**, 2. **FACE**, 3. **Reduce Triangle**, 4. **Forward**, 5. **MARCH**.

All officers except the E.Com. and the Prel. Face about. At the third command "reduce triangle." The Prel., if present, takes a post to the left of the E.Com., heels in line, facing East. W. right steps, one step (10 inches).

At the command "Forward" the E.Com. faces about; at the Fifth command "MARCH" all officers move forward to their stations and halt, and at the command of the E.Com., face about.

E.Com.: 1. **About**, 2. **FACE. BE SEATED**.

E.Com.: remains standing while declaring the Commandery open **Rit. Page 98, C4 cont'd to Page 99**. The Prel. (if present) attends the altar without command and returns to his station.

W.: **Rit. Page 99, W1**. (See note after W2, rit.).

W.: **Rit. Page 99, W2**.

E.Com.: **Rit. Page 99, C1** (E.Com. is seated).

References

Committee on Drill Regulations 1958-1968. (1978). Drill Regulations of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America (Seventh ed.).

Ritual of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America. (2019).

Tactics and Manual of Asylum Ceremonies. (1966). Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Missouri.

Key to Tactics

1. Due to some manual and motions being executed at the same time, the directions listed in this tactic do not reflect the order of execution.
2. The dash "---" represents a pause to allow the officer or Sir Knights being addressed to respond and/or prepare for the command of execution.
3. *Italicized* words are preparatory commands.
4. CAPITALIZED words are the command of execution. Should be given loud and forceful.
5. Drill movement or motion in parenthesis is to be executed without command.
6. C1 = Commander's First Part in ritual, C2,3,4,5. Same with S.W.1, W1,2,3, or paragraphs 1 – 9, in either [bracketed lines, sentences, and paragraphs] are not counted.
7. Officers not equipped with swords will hand salute. Officers without chapeaus will mimic the movements.
8. When the junior officer is addressed, there is no verbal response, only H.S. (Section III, 10).