

## **Understanding the Candidate Selection Process**

As an individual seeking further information and a possible life in Freemasonry it is important that you understand how this process works. In the past, almost any man who approached Freemasonry came well recommended and well known by another Freemason. They were family members, a long time friend, a workmate, or a neighbor. You might well be in that same category. Each of these men knew a Freemason who could vouch for his character based on knowing him for a long time. This may also be the case for you but in today's world a man might come to Freemasonry in very different ways. Many men now find us by contact through the Internet, social media, books or movies and they have no personal relationship with a Freemason.

No matter what path you have travelled to this point, in the State of New York any man that petitions a Lodge must have his petition signed by a Master Mason who is a member in good standing of the Lodge in which the petition is being presented. The Master Masons signing this petition must be able to vouch for your good character and intentions. The purpose of these meetings will be for both you and the Lodge to learn more about each other prior to your potential entrance into the Fraternity.

As well as needing to get to know each other, it is critical to both you and the Lodge that you know what we stand for and why Freemasonry is so special to its members. We need to know what your expectations are for us and you need to know what our expectations are for you.

We now have had one meeting with you and the process has begun. We will schedule a series of three in person meetings with you that will assist us both in evaluating your desire to become a Brother among us. We would also like to invite you and your family to a social event so that we can get to know you in a more relaxed environment. We will arrange our last meeting at your home with your family present. We would like to show you and your family a short video giving you more information about the Craft and answer any last questions your family or you may have.

At that point, if all goes well, we will give you the opportunity to *ask* for a petition. The rest is totally up to you.

Are you ok with this approach? If yes initial your assent here \_\_\_\_\_.

Our next **INFORMAL** meeting will be on Date May 1, 2018 after 7:00pm, at the Masonic Social Club 40A Marble Loop. Park anywhere on the street, ring the bell on the door to the left, we will buzz you in.

Our next **LODGE** meeting will be held on Date May 8, 2018 at dinner 6:30pm, meeting to follow as 8:00pm, at the Tottenville Masonic Temple 236 Main Street Tottenville. If you're on Amboy Rd, headed toward NJ, pass Main St. make the next right turn into our parking lot, you can walk in the back (white) door of the building.

# First Meeting Questionnaire

To be returned at our next face to face meeting

One of the first things you should know about Freemasonry is that it is not for everyone and it is to both our mutual benefit to find out if it is suitable for you. If you are not suited to be a Brother among us, it is in your and our mutual best interest to know it before you have spent your valuable time, money and energy. The statements about Freemasonry listed below and your answers to them are the first step in helping us understand your mindset and intentions. We are aware that some of the questions might be hard to answer but at the very least we hope they cause you to reflect carefully on our fraternity and its values.

**1** – If your interest in Freemasonry is at all an attempt to tap into a large membership base for the purpose of furthering your career or business you will be immediately disappointed. Freemasons do not support this type of activity.

*Do you understand this point? Yes / No (Circle)*

**2** – Becoming a Freemason is not an event; it is not something that you decide to do on a Monday and it's done by Tuesday. Being a Freemason is a lifelong process, and therefore takes time. The process takes both mental and physical effort and it also costs money. It requires a great commitment on your part and also on the part of the Lodge when it receives your petition.

*Do you understand this point? Yes / No (Circle)*

**3** – Freemasonry teaches no secret truths. You must be able to search for and find enlightenment in your own mind and heart. Many Brothers feel that our Ritual, a soaring group of ideas that make up the initiation degrees of Masonry, is a tremendously effective vehicle that focuses us all on our search for enlightenment.

*Do you understand this point? Yes/No (Circle)*

**4** – As a Freemason it would be expected that you should attend your Lodge regularly. There is no point in joining if you do not attend as regularly as you can. In most Lodges this would require a minimum of two meetings per month, generally nine or ten months a year – ***excluding business, health, and family needs. Your family must always come first.*** Lodges in this area meet throughout the month. This Lodge meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Tottenville Masonic Temple. The Temple/Lodge is located at 236 Main St. Staten Island N.Y.

*Are you ok with these expectations? Yes / No (Circle) If not, try to find out why and what his concerns are.*

**5** – Freemasonry costs money. There will be an initiation fee of \$ 250.00. There are also yearly dues that are payable by the end of January each year. In this Lodge dues are currently \$120.00 per year. In addition, Freemasonry encourages its members to be charitable and we would hope that you could participate in Masonic charity as well.

*Would these financial requirements be a problem for you? Yes / No (Circle) If yes, try to find out what his circumstances are.*

**6** – The members of the Lodge will want to meet your family, if possible, and answer their questions as well. We want your significant other, or spouse and family to support your pursuit of Masonic membership. If not you should seriously reconsider your decision.

*Do you understand this important point? Yes / No (Circle)*

**7** – During the course of getting to know you, we will ask you to attend some of our social functions or to attend “public” Lodge meetings and activities so you can meet more of the members. This will give you a chance to determine whether you feel comfortable with the Brothers and if they feel comfortable with you. Harmony is a key element of the Masonic experience and our Brothers work hard together and like one another.

*Are you okay with this approach and concept? Yes/No (Circle)*

**8** - We expect that you are seeking not only to improve yourself but also humanity through service to the community and to others. Our Fraternity is dedicated to service.

*Are you interested in both self-improvement and community service? Yes/No (Circle)*

**9** - You will be expected to comply with high moral standards when dealing with others, particularly with your Brothers in Freemasonry. Masons take obligations not to wrong, cheat, defraud, lie or refuse to help Brothers in need.

*Does this fit in what you want to exemplify in your life? Yes/No (Circle)*

**10** - We want candidates to be fully informed when they join us. We want them to know exactly what it is that they are getting involved in. We will tell you what we can but this will also require some active investigation on your part. We will guide you to reputable sites to assist you.

*Are you interested enough to do this research? Yes/No (Circle)*

**11** – If you are accepted into the Fraternity you will be expected to commit a series of questions and answers to memory between each degree and do that with a high degree of accuracy. You must be able to repeat them from memory. The Lodge will provide you a Success Coach in this endeavor but it will take time and energy on your part. We understand that this requirement can cause anxiety. We expect you to make your very best effort to learn these questions and answers.

*Are you okay with this requirement? Yes/No (Circle)*

**12** – Freemasonry requires that you have a belief in a supreme being and a belief in the immortality of the soul.

Does this fit with your beliefs? Yes/No (Circle)

I attest that all of the answers given above are a true reflection of my feelings.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Prospects Signature)

My contact information is: (please circle your preferred method of communication including text)

Name\_\_\_\_\_Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (circle:  
call/text/both)\_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember to return this document at our next face-to-face meeting.**