



# The United Supreme Council

Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry P.H.A.  
Northern Jurisdiction USA, Inc.

## Issues Statement on COVID-19 Epidemic

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2020

**Philadelphia** – The Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Northern Jurisdiction, Prince Hall Affiliation, USC, Inc., Melvin J. Bazemore has issued the following regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

### Effective Immediately

All Consistories, Assemblies, Council of Deliberations, and any other gatherings **are suspended** for the month of **March**; this includes the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. We will provide additional updates regarding April activities as more information is shared regarding this virus.

In cases where you need to conduct business, we authorize fiscal officers to do so virtually, and minimize group interactions to the smallest degree possible, especially with members who are part of the identified “at-risk” group. Please consider the health, safety and well-being of your members

Please see the CDC factsheet on how to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) or by visiting the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov). We pray for you, your families, and your Orients during this international crisis, and ask that you take every precaution to protect those you love.

For ongoing updates click <https://www.uscnjpha.org/>, or contact your Deputy for state-specific information

### USC Annual Session

Currently, fear is outpacing the facts, and it is our hopes to provide factual and timely updates to this body so that we can continue to make informed member-focused decisions. We continue to monitor directives coming from government bodies and officials and continue to review and assess our contractual obligations with hotels and vendors. We are currently moving forward with our Annual Session in May and monitoring report in Ohio as well as across the world.

Yours in the Rite.

Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°  
Sovereign Grand Commander

Attest

Edward M. Brooks, 33°  
Secretary-General, H.E.