

The Grand Lodge of Texas

G. Clay Smith
GRAND MASTER



P. O. BOX 446
WACO, TEXAS 76703

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

July 5, 2023

Brethren,

The Deputy Grand Master; Grand Senior Warden; and, I met with Grand Junior Warden, Jim Rumsey, at his request. Our lengthy discussions have been frank and substantive. I find that Brother Rumsey regrets occurrences that are the basis of specifications and charges pending against him. I have read and considered his letter which is filed along with my decision. His contrition evidences his acceptance of responsibility and his commitment to restore stability within the Grand Lodge of Texas. His signature affirms this and our joining the same demonstrates our mutual commitment to accept nothing less. Masonry often cannot dissuade external challenges. However, we absolutely can diminish those within.

Accordingly, I am dismissing the pending charges against Brother Rumsey.

Sincerely & fraternally,

G. Clay Smith
Grand Master 2023

On December 8, 2022, I was present at an occurrence which I greatly regret. It did not reflect my years of service and dedication to Freemasonry and this Grand Lodge. It was a random event that should not have occurred, and I should have put a stop to it. That is no excuse, nor justification. It is simply my frank acknowledgement of what took place. I should have immediately addressed this situation. Unfortunately, I was unable to do so at the time. And, after several days had passed, it felt awkward to try and go back and try and make amends. So, regrettably, I did not. I want to do that now as I want things to stabilize in the Grand Lodge of Texas.

I sincerely apologize for any disruption that I may have caused the Grand Lodge in the last six months, and I accept responsibility for my role in what has transpired during that time. I want this current state of volatility to come to an immediate halt and for peace and harmony to be restored. For that reason, I want Texas Masons to know where I stand.

On Friday, May 26, 2023, I met with my fellow trustees in Houston. I want to thank each of them for taking the time and agreeing to meet me to discuss the current situation candidly and in a friendly and peaceable manner. We met for about two hours and our discussions were productive and this letter reflects the results of that meeting and our mutual desire to move forward.

I hope all of my brethren will understand that this act of contrition on my part is motivated by a singular desire to promote the best interests of this Grand Lodge. This month I have been a Master Mason for 20 years. My long record of service to the Grand Lodge defines who I am as a Mason; not one poor decision last December. I ask each of you to consider, instead, the longstanding relationships formed during my time with the Committee on Work; serving various offices; and the time that I have spent promoting projects of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

The Trustees of the Grand Lodge and I have met and openly addressed and responded to questions, concerns, and opinions. We emerged from that meeting as a unified Board of Trustees and as Masons committed to each other and to all of you. In the end, the Masons of Texas have placed their trust in each of us to lead the fraternity and to do what is best for all. We all agree that what occurred at the Grand Lodge session in January was not positive for the fraternity and seek to move past it, as it does not represent who we are. It is time for all dissensions throughout the Masons of Texas to come to an immediate end and all this controversy to stop. Let us remember our obligations. We have far too much good work left to do, and the undersigned all agree that we, as a team, must lead by example to see that it is done.

A Clay Ingram
H. Bart Henderson
Phil Reader

Jim Ransy
Justin B. Ditty