

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Iowa

Series 2016 - 2017
General Order No. 8
October 12, 2016



Wade E. Sheeler, REGC



Holy Land Pilgrimage

To: All Past Grand Commanders, current Grand Officers, Committee Members, Officers and Sir Knights of all Constituent Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Iowa

I am pleased to announce that the Grand Commandery of Iowa will resume the Holy Land Pilgrimage in 2017. It has been many years since we have participated in this program by sending a pastor to the Holy Land. Sir Knight Gene R. Hatfield, PGC worked very hard during his year as Grand Commander to raise the money to reinstate this program.

The mission of the Holy Land Pilgrimage (sponsored by the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the USA) is to send ordained Christian ministers on a biblical study experience in the Holy Land that will enable these ministers to enhance their preaching, teaching, and spirituality.

The 2017 "In the Footsteps of Jesus" pilgrimage will be held November 6-16. Participants will fly out of JFK International airport in New York City to Israel. They will be in the Holy Land nine days. There are various requirements that must be met to apply for participation in this program:

- Never traveled to the Holy Land before;
- Ordained Minister (a copy of the ordination certificate must accompany the application);
- Served at least one year in active ministry and have at least ten years remaining in ministry;
- Be of good physical health;
- Be willing to travel with in a program sponsored by the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of USA (an appendant organization of Freemasonry);
- Have cleared their participation in this program with their denomination and local congregation;

- The minister must show proof of a valid passport at the time of their selection;
- The minister selected must be willing to give a presentation at the Grand Conclave session;
- The minister must be willing to sign an agreement that in the event he/she does not go on the Pilgrimage once the monies have been paid by the Grand Commandery, the minister will provide reimbursement to the Grand Commandery.

Each constituent commandery is eligible to nominate a minister. The attached paperwork that is required for a nomination is attached to this General Order. The Iowa Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee will review the nominations and select one pastor to participate in this program.

The Grand Commandery will provide up to \$500 for travel expenses to New York City for departure and return to Israel. The balance and associated lodging expenses in New York City shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring commandery, the selected pastor, and his/her congregation.

Nominations must be received by the Grand Commander prior to February 15, 2017 at the above address to be considered. Sir Knights, this is an important program in fulfilling our mission as Christian Knights of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of Knights Templars.

In Templar Service,

Wade E. Sheeler

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Attested:

Rusty L. Hill

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In the Footsteps of Jesus:

A Pilgrim's Journey For Sir Knights, Ladies, Friends and Guests

Sponsored by the Knights Templar
Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee of the
Grand Encampment Knights Templar
of the United States of America.

November 6 – 16, 2017

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

DAY 1, Tuesday

Depart JFK, late evening flight

DAY 2, Wednesday

Arrive Tel Aviv – Ben Gurion Airport
To Hotel in Tel Aviv for one night

DAY 3, Thursday

Joppa (Joffa)
Simon the Tanner's house, etc.
Caesarea Maritima
Aqueduct
Mt. Carmel

Lunch

Tel Megiddo
Mt. Tabor (Transfiguration)
Arrive at Kibbutz Nof Ginosar,
on the Sea of Galilee for two nights

DAY 4, Friday

The ancient boat at Nof Ginosar
Boat ride across the Galilee
Mount of the Beatitudes
Chorazin
Capernaum (Peter's house & synagogue)

Lunch (St. Peter's Fish)

Tabgha (the multiplication)
Migdal (Magdala)
Yardenit (Jordan River, baptismal renewal)

DAY 5, Saturday

Cana (first miracle)
Nazareth
Church of the Annunciation
Workshop
Church of the Synagogue
Mt. of the Precipice

Lunch

Beit She'an
On to Jerusalem
Jerusalem overlook and welcome
Arrive at King Solomon Hotel
For the balance of the pilgrimage

DAY 6, Sunday

Group Worship Service at Station 7
(with Communion)

Personal visit to the tomb area inside the
Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Lunch on your own

Afternoon of exploration in Jerusalem

DAY 7, Monday

Mt. of Olives
Ascension Chapel
Pater Noster Church (The Lord's Prayer)
Palm Sunday route
Jerusalem overlook

Dominus Flevit Chapel (the Lord wept)

Garden of Gethsemane
& The Church of All Nations *or*
Church of the Agony

Lunch in Bethlehem

Bethlehem
Shepherds Fields
Church of the Nativity

DAY 8, Tuesday

Enter the Old City via the Dung Gate
Western Wall (Wailing Wall)
Temple Mount (Haram esh Sharif)
Dome of the Rock & al Aqsa Mosque
Stephen's Gate (Lion's Gate)
St. Anne's Church & Bethesda Pools

Via Dolorosa (The Way of Sorrow):

1. Jesus is condemned
2. Jesus receives the cross
3. Jesus falls the 1st time
4. Jesus meets his mother
5. Simon of Cyrene assists Jesus
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls the 2nd time (city gate)
8. Jesus speaks to the daughters of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls the 3rd time

Inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher:

10. Jesus is stripped
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies
13. Jesus is removed from the cross (unction)
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb (Edicule/Aedicule)

Lunch in the old city

See the Cardo

Mt. Zion

Dormition Abbey (Roman Catholic)

Cenacle / Cenaculum (Upper Room)

Tomb of David

Church of St. Peter Gallicantu

Ancient steps from upper city to Kidron Valley

DAY 9, Wednesday

Dead Sea

Ein Gedi

Massada

Lunch

Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls & Essenes)

Dead Sea Swim / Float

AIRLINE

Flight from JFK to Tel Aviv and return

EL AL Airlines

World standard for safety and security

DAY 10, Thursday

The Garden Tomb

Israel Museum

Model of Jerusalem (at 2nd Temple time)

Shrine of the Book

Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial

Lunch

Group Closing at Southern Plaza Overlook

Group Dinner at the Hotel

To Ben Gurion Airport for 1:00 a.m. flight

DAY 11, Friday

Return to USA via JFK

This itinerary is a MAX load list of possible sites. We will adjust and adapt the number of sites to the capability of the group and make arrangements for individuals that may have special needs as possible.

PASSPORT

Apply for your passport as soon as possible. We will need your passport information to complete your registration.

US citizens require a passport valid for six months beyond travel dates. For this trip, your passport must be valid until May 2017.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The regular travel package price is based on two persons to a room. If you want your own private room, there is a single supplement fee in addition to the regular price. Single accommodation are subject to availability and are limited to 10% of the number of people traveling in the group. This supplement charge must be paid by the traveler.

(Reminder – you will be responsible to arrange your own domestic flights to and from your local airport and New York)



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINISTERS / NOMINATION FORM 2017

1. FULL NAME: _____

2. HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE: _____

3. TELEPHONE: area code (_____) home: _____ work _____ mobile: _____

4. AGE: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____ Email: _____

5. Spouse's name, if married: _____ Number of years married: _____

6. Children's name(s) and age(s), if any: _____

7. HIGHER EDUCATION - give name of school, years attended, and degrees achieved:

8. Type of ordination and name of body conferring ordination (***please attach a copy of your ordination certificate***):

9. Name of Church you currently serve and its complete address (including city, state & zip) and **office phone**:

10. Number of years in **full time** ordained ministry: _____

11. List other churches, years served and positions held:

12. Have you ever been to the Holy Land? _____ If yes, give the date(s) and the single most inspiring site visited:

13a. Why would you like to travel to the Holy Land? _____

13b. Upon your return, how might this experience effect your ministry? _____

14. Masonic affiliation, if any: _____

15. Why did you elect to become a minister? _____

16. **Please obtain a signature** from the Chair of your Personnel Committee, Church Board, District or Regional Supervisor, etc. If selected to be a Pilgrim Minister on the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage, this pastor will be granted leave to participate.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Printed Name and Contact information: _____

17. Are you willing to travel to the Holy Land as a guest of the Knights Templar? _____

18. Are you willing to travel to the Holy Land WITHOUT your spouse (this is not negotiable)? _____

19. Are you willing to be a part of a traveling group made up of members of many other denominations? _____

20. Do you know of any Knights Templar in your church? _____

If so, please list name(s): _____

21. Are you aware of any health problems which would prevent or limit your participation in this strenuous trip? _____

22. Do you require medication? _____

23. What is the size of your congregation? _____

24. Number of ministers serving the congregation: _____

25. Do you hold a valid passport for travel to Israel? _____

If no, do you foresee any difficulty in obtaining one? _____

26. If chosen, will you be able to travel on the dates, **Feb 13 to Feb 23, 2017?**

27. Has your name ever been submitted as a Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage nominee in the past? _____

I commit to clearing my personal calendar and making the necessary arrangements with the church to facilitate my full participation and travel with the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage if selected.

Minister's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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28. Recommending Commandery: _____ Commandery No. _____

29. Recommending Commander's Signature: _____

30. Recommending Commandery— Contact person for info, details, and arrangements (name, address, phones, & email):
