

Grand Council Constitution Young Men's Institute

ARTICLE I YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

Section 1 **NAME:** This Order shall be known as the Young Men's Institute.

Section 2 **MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission of the Young Men's Institute is to provide for the mutual aid and good will, the moral, intellectual and social improvement of its members, devotion to the Catholic Church, and loyalty to our country in accordance with its motto: "Pro Deo – Pro Patria, For God – for Country". To achieve this mission, this Order dedicates itself to the education of its members in things Catholic, in things American, and in all things that will lead all men to their ultimate salvation.

Section 3 **MEMBERSHIP:** Applicants for membership in any Council of this Order must be practicing Catholic men as defined by the Roman Catholic Church, who are of good character with temperate and industrious habits. Any member of this Order who fails to remain a practicing Catholic shall forfeit his membership in the Order, and any and all claims, benefits, and obligations of the Young Men's Institute made available to him and his heirs shall immediately become null and void.

ARTICLE II GRAND COUNCIL

Section 1 **NAME:** This body shall be known as the Grand Council, Young Men's Institute.

Section 2 **MISSION:** Its mission is the uniform administration of the privileges, honors, and benefits of the Young Men's Institute in accordance with the provisions of this Grand Council Constitution and the Grand Council By-Laws.

Section 3 **COUNCILS:** All Councils organized and operating under the name of the Young Men's Institute shall be under the jurisdiction of this Grand Council and shall share in the complete program of Grand Council including the Death Benefit and Educational Benefits, and are subject to the Per Capita Tax.

ARTICLE III COMPOSITION OF GRAND COUNCIL

Section 1 **HOW COMPOSED:** Grand Council shall be composed of the Delegates duly elected by the Councils, the elective incumbent Grand Officers, all Past Grand Presidents who have retained a continuous membership in the Order and whose Councils are entitled to representation in Grand Council, and the District Deputies.

Section 2 **COUNCILS REPRESENTED:** All Councils shall be entitled to representation in Grand Council when all moneys due and payable to Grand Council, and when all reports required by Grand Council have been remitted to and received by the Grand Secretary as provided for in this Grand Council Constitution and the Grand Council By-Laws.

Section 3 **ELECTIVE OFFICERS:** The elective Grand Council Officers shall be: Grand President, Grand First Vice President, Grand Second Vice President, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Grand Marshal, Grand Inside Sentinel, Grand Outside Sentinel, and a Board of Eight Grand Directors.

ARTICLE IV

GRAND COUNCIL SESSIONS AND BUSINESS

Section 1 **REGULAR SESSIONS:** Grand Council shall convene at least one regular Session each year and during the Session may consider and accept invitations for the sites and dates of future Grand Council Conventions. If no site is selected for the next succeeding Grand Council Convention, or whenever between Sessions of Grand Council it appears advisable to convene the regular Session at a site or date other than the one selected by the previous Grand Council, the Board of Grand Directors, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall select a site and date for the Session, and the Grand President shall then appoint any Special Committees necessary to prepare for the Session.

Section 2 **BUSINESS AT REGULAR SESSION:** Each regular Session shall continue from day to day until the business of Grand Council is completed. The reports and returns of all Councils, Grand Officers, the Board of Grand Directors, and the Grand Council Committees shall be presented and acted upon. The Grand Officers for the ensuing year shall be elected and installed. The Per Capita Tax to be levied on the Councils, based on the estimates of the Grand Council Budget Committee, shall be presented and acted upon; and such other business transacted as may be deemed necessary by Grand Council.

Section 3 **QUORUM:** A representation from one-third (1/3) of the Councils entitled to representation in Grand Council shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may adjourn to a later specified date and site.

Section 4 **VISITORS TO SESSIONS:** Catholic Clergymen, introduced by any member of Grand Council, and all members of the Order in good standing shall be admitted to the Sessions, but shall not participate in the proceedings except by the consent of Grand Council.

Section 5 **SPECIAL SESSIONS:** Special Sessions may be set by Grand Council, or called by the Grand President upon the written petition of at least 51% of existing Councils (excluding Council #900). Such call shall be issued by the Grand President within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the petition, but the Special Session shall not convene for at least fifteen (15) days nor more than sixty (60) days after the issuance of the call. No business shall be transacted at a Special Session other than the particular business for which it was called, except by unanimous consent of Grand Council.

ARTICLE V

POWERS OF GRAND COUNCIL

Section 1 **POWERS AND JURISDICTION:** This Grand Council shall have jurisdiction over all Councils and of making laws for the government and support of all Councils, subject to the

provisions of the Grand Council Constitution and the Grand Council By-Laws. It shall have the right and power to receive and hear the appeals and grievances from all Councils and their members, to redress and adjust all such appeals and grievances, and to levy the Per Capita Tax and Assessments on Councils for the maintenance and support of Grand Council.

Section 2 BY-LAWS AND RULES OF ORDER: This Grand Council, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, may enact or amend such By-Laws or Rules of Order as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Grand Council Constitution, to regulate the proceedings of its Grand Officers and Committees, and to provide for the safety and security of its funds and property.

Section 3 EXPULSION OF MEMBERS AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS: Any member of Grand Council may be expelled, or any Grand Officer removed, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Grand Council, provided he shall have had a fair and impartial trial upon charges fully specified and served upon him at least five (5) days before the hearing, except during a Grand Council Session when one (1) day's notice shall be sufficient. No Grand Officer shall act in Grand Council during the time of his trial. The Grand Secretary shall immediately notify all Councils of any such expulsions or removals.

Section 4 REMOVAL BY GRAND PRESIDENT: The Grand President, subject to the approval of the Board of Grand Directors, may remove any Grand Officer, who neglects to perform the duties of his office, from office. All vacancies caused by such removal shall be filled by appointment of the Grand President, governed by the eligibility requirements found in the Grand Council By-Laws, and the approval of the Board.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

Section 1 AMENDMENTS: This Grand Council Constitution may be amended when the amendments are received from the State of the Institute Committee at a regular Grand Council Session by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Grand Council members present and voting. Any Council, or any member of Grand Council, may propose amendments to the Constitution by submitting them to the State of the Institute Committee at least ninety (90) days prior to the regular Session of Grand Council. The Committee shall examine and consider the proposed amendments, may revise the proposed amendments, and shall report to Grand Council concerning those proposed amendments it deems necessary for the well-being of the Order. Grand Council, however, may call for a report on any proposed amendments not reported on by the Committee. All amendments to this Grand Council Constitution adopted by Grand Council shall take effect immediately, unless otherwise provided for by Grand Council.

CONSTITUTION UPDATED AS APPROVED, NOVEMBER 2024.
REFLECTING CHANGES ADOPTED AT THE GRAND COUNCIL CONVENTION IN JUNE 2024.