UNITED GRAND LODGE OF VICTORIA
MOTION
to amend the Book of Constitutions

I move to amend the Book of Constitutions as follows:

That Rules 178 and 239 be repealed.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

Empowerment and self-governing of Lodges have been high on the agenda for some time.

The leadership of Freemasons Victoria has for some time been investigating the issue of allowing Lodges to determine many matters themselves. Questions of routine dispensation will be dealt with in due course in separate statements by the Most Worshipful Grand Master as many do not require formal constitutional amendments.

The rules referred to in this proposed amendment are prescriptive and do not allow for input by Lodges and /or candidates. Time in rank alone is not a good indication of merit or readiness for advancement. Rule 237 preserves the need for a Mason to demonstrate proficiency before advancement.

One effect of COVID-19 lockdowns has been a backlog of degree work and some frustrations by enthusiastic new members, and their Lodges, with their advancement and progression. It is felt that the question of progression through the degrees and the taking of office are matters which ought properly to be left to the good sense of Masters of each Lodge to determine in conjunction with the officers of the Lodge, particularly the Director of Ceremonies.

Whilst it is hoped that Lodges will resist the temptation to progress candidates with undue haste and that the needs and wishes of the candidate will be paramount, we should not be holding candidates back from completing their degrees or taking office by imposing an arbitrary and restrictive time limit.

The Lodges and the individual candidates are in the best position to determine the appropriate time frame, subject of course to the candidate proving his proficiency and having completed the educational modules, as referred to in Rule 237.

If Lodges wish to impose a longer period or a shorter period, then that is a matter for them.

I commend this Motion to you.

Proposed: VWBro. I Upjohn, QC Grand Registrar

Seconded: VWBro. R Brennand, Grand Treasurer