



## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

Thomas C. Helm  
Grand Commander

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May 22, 2023

TO: Elected and Appointed Grand Officers; Past Grand Officers; Division Commanders; Officers and Members of the Constituent Commandery's of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania:

### GENERAL ORDER NUMBER TWO

### KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

One of the more important programs we participate in is sending Ministers who have not been to the Holy Land before; on an 11-day pilgrimage to help them better serve the Spiritual needs of their congregations. Your Grand Commandery pays for at least one pilgrim each year, and others may be paid for by a Commandery or other donor. To be considered for the 2024 Holy Land Pilgrimage, Ministers must meet the attached criteria and **nomination forms must be received no later than September 1, 2023**. Your Eminent Commander is required to sign the bottom of the attached two-page nomination form, affix the Commandery seal, and forward both pages to:

**SK Mark G. Mattern, PGC, GR**  
**129 Doreen Drive**  
**Hummelstown, PA 17036-2725**

Sir Knights, your Commandery should strongly consider nominating a worthy Minister. This can take some time to plan for so please do not wait until September to start the process.

This General Order is to be made available at the next Stated Conclave and all Stated Conclaves prior to the deadline and entered in full in the records.

Given over my hand and seal of the Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Pennsylvania on May 22, 2023, in the year of our Lord 2023, and A.O. 905.

Yours in Templary,  
*Thomas C. Helm*  
Grand Commander

Attest:  
Mark G. Mattern  
Grand Recorder



# KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

EMMETT MILLS. P.G.C.  
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April 21, 2023

**Our Mission:** To send Ordained Christian Ministers on a Biblical study and historical / cultural immersion experience who would not have the opportunity otherwise.

**Our Goal:** To send 60 Ordained Christian Ministers on the 42nd Holy Land Pilgrimage in February 2024

**TO: Grand Recorders and Grand Commandery Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairmen**

Gate 1 Travel Agency has reserved places for two (2) groups of 25+ people for the 2021 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. The dates are:

**February 1 – February 11, 2024 and February 15 – February 25, 2024**

- Travel date will be honored on a first come, first served basis There will be 2 groups, A & B.
- The cost this year has increased and is **\$4,000.00** from JFK in New York to Tel Aviv, Israel. This includes three meals daily, entrance fees, standard tipping, and travel insurance. (Also included: fuel surcharge and the airport tax.) **This fee does not include domestic flights from your area to JFK (which are the responsibility of either the Grand Commandery Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund or The Sponsoring Commandery).** Each state is encouraged to make their domestic flight arrangements with Gate 1 Travel to coordinate flight schedules.
- In order to expedite communications, please send your email addressed to [cuaewm@aol.com](mailto:cuaewm@aol.com).

Enclosed is a copy of the **Nomination Form** to be filled out for each pilgrim minister you select. (It would be useful for you to use this form for all ministers nominated in your state.) Also included in this mailing are the **Guidelines for Selection of Ministers, and a new Certification form**. When you submit the materials for your pilgrim ministers, you will need to include three items: Certification Form (signed by the Grand Recorder and the State Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairman), the Nomination Form (filled out completely by the pilgrim minister), and the full fee (check made out to **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE, INC**). **All of these items are due by September 30.**

Please note that this program is for ministers who might not otherwise have this opportunity. Any minister who has previously traveled to the Holy Land would not meet this criterion. The Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is intended for **first time pilgrims**, those who have not been to the Holy Land before. This pilgrimage is an 11 day program that covers as much ground as possible in the touring days (we average 5 – 7 miles of walking many days, often uphill or up steps and on uneven surfaces). Make sure your pilgrims are physically capable of fully participating in this trip.

Thank you so much for your continued prayerful support of this very important Christian Knights Templar program.

In His name,

*Emmett W. Mills, Jr.*

S. K. Emmett Mills, KCT, PGC, Chairman  
Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage  
Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, USA

# Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage

## GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF MINISTERS

The following are the selection criteria suggested for use in choosing ministers for the Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. Please carefully consider these guidelines before inviting ministers to apply. Ministers to be considered should:

- Have **never traveled to the Holy Land** before.
- Be in **good physical health** (if the idea of walking a brisk mile or more – uphill, non-stop, with steps - is a concern, this may not be the program from which this person would benefit). This is a physically rigorous program. We average 5 – 7 miles of walking each day. Many surfaces are uneven, unpaved, with steps and some steep inclines. This is an important consideration. A person who is unable to fully participate will miss valuable parts of this experience. *(We do offer a Senior Pilgrimage in the Fall of even years for those with mild mobility issues.)*
- Be serving in some form of **Credentialed Ministry** (Ordained, Certified, Licensed, etc.) A copy of the minister's credentials (certificate or letter) is to accompany the nomination form.
- Be currently serving in a **leadership ministry**, with regular preaching responsibility. This means that they are employed by the church in a leadership role and that ministry is considered their primary source of income.
- Be mindful of the value of including **women and minority pastors** for consideration.
- Have **served at least one year** in full time ministry in a primary leadership role as pastor / minister.
- Have **at least ten years of full time service** remaining in their active ministry. This opportunity is intended to enhance the ongoing preaching, teaching and overall biblical understanding of the participant, and in turn, benefit those they serve.
- Be willing to travel with an **ecumenical group** of other ministers from many denominations and religious groups, both male and female ministers, and maintain a professional and courteous attitude toward all.
- Be willing to travel in a program sponsored by the **Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA**, an Appendant organization of **Freemasonry**.
- Be willing to travel **without their spouse**. This is non-negotiable.
- Have the understanding that this is a **strenuous educational and spiritual study seminar / historical & cultural immersion experience** and not a vacation trip.



1. FULL FIRST MIDDLE & LAST 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. 1 – 11, 2024 or Feb. 15 – 25, 2024**?

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

**I understand that this pilgrimage is an 11 day program that covers as much ground as possible in the touring days (we average 5 – 7 miles of walking many days, often uphill or up steps and on uneven surfaces) and I am physically able to fully participate.**

**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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**I recommend this individual for participation in the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage and attest that they are fully informed of the necessary time and physical fitness requirements of this program.**

29. Recommending Commander's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

28. Recommending Commandery: \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery No. \_\_\_\_\_

30. Recommending Commandery– Local contact person for info, details, and arrangements (name, address, phones, & email): \_\_\_\_\_