



Troy A. Mock
Grand Commander

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June 1, 2026

From the Desk of the Grand Commander

To: Elected and Appointed Grand Officers; Past Grand Officers; Division Commanders; Officers and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER TWO

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

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

Sir Knights,

One of the more important programs we participate in is sending Ministers on an 11-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land 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(s).

While it is unclear if this pilgrimage will happen due to the current hostilities in the region, it is important that we have a list of potential ministers for the trip. Of course, the ministers that had their trip cut short in March will be given priority if they are available and would like to try again.

To be considered for the 2027 Holy Land Pilgrimage, Ministers must meet the attached criteria and **nomination forms must be received no later than September 1, 2026**. 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.

Given over my hand and seal of the Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Pennsylvania on this first day of June, in the year of our Lord 2026, and A.O. 908.

Yours in Templary,

Troy A. Mock
Grand Commander

Attest:
Mark G. Mattern, PGC
Grand Recorder



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

EMMETT MILLS. P.G.C., KGC
1713 Betrillo Ct.
The Villages, FL 32162

CUAEWM@AOL.COM
(248) 217-7132 Cell
(248) 541-1757 Fax

May 18, 2026

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 41st Holy Land Pilgrimage in February 2027

TO: Grand Recorders and Grand Commandery Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairmen

Gate 1 Travel Agency has reserved places for two (2) groups of 30+ people for the 2027 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. The dates are:

Group A: February 15 – 25, 2027

Group B: February 1 – February 11, 2027

Travel date will be honored on a first come, first served basis There will be 2 groups, B & A

It is our intention to fill Group A (The Later Date) FIRST and if full, then Group B (The Early Date).

- The cost this year has increased and is **\$5,000.00** from EWR in Newark NJ to Tel Aviv, Israel. This includes three meals daily, entrance fees, standard tipping, and travel insurance. (Also included: fuel surcharge and the airport tax.) The increased cost is primarily due to greater airline expenses. **This fee does not include domestic flights from your area to EWR (which are the responsibility of either the Grand Commandery Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund or The Sponsoring Commandery).** Each state is encouraged to make domestic flight arrangements to coordinate flight schedules.
- In order to expedite communications, please send your email addressed to 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 Holy 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

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINISTERS / NOMINATION FORM 2027

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 affect 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 not, do you foresee any difficulty in obtaining one? _____

26. If chosen, will you be able to travel on the dates, **Feb. 15 – Feb. 25, 2027** ? _____

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):

