

Minnehaha Lodge No. 5
Ancient Free & Accepted Masons
520 South First Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104



BYLAWS

Revised and Passed: **September 4, 2025**

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Preamble

WHEREAS, on July 15, 1873, the Grand Lodge of Iowa issued a dispensation for a new Lodge in Sioux Falls, Dakota Territory, under the designation “Minnehaha”;

WHEREAS, on July 3, 1874, the Grand Lodge of Iowa issued a charter to Minnehaha Lodge;

WHEREAS, on July 21, 1875, Minnehaha Lodge of Sioux Falls, St. John's Lodge of Yankton, Incense Lodge of Vermillion, Elk Point Lodge of Elk Point, Silver Star Lodge of Canton, and Mount Zion Lodge of Springfield, did duly and lawfully organize create and constitute the Grand Lodge of Dakota, which on June 12, 1890 became the Grand Lodge of South Dakota under which this Lodge is now holden, and;

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of this Lodge represent and duplicate many of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota, they being the model for such Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, this Lodge desires to conform to section 3-01 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota:

NOW THEREFORE this Lodge hereby adopts the following Bylaws for its governance in accordance with section 3-01 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota:

BYLAWS OF MINNEHAHA LODGE NO. 5

ARTICLE I

Lodge Name

SECTION 1

The name of this Lodge is Minnehaha Lodge No. 5 A.F. & A.M. of Sioux Falls, SD.

ARTICLE II

Lodge Seal and Lodge Logo

SECTION 1

The following is hereby adopted as the seal of this Lodge:



SECTION 2

The following is hereby adopted as the logo of this Lodge:



- High Polished Silver Metal
- Black
- Yellow 123C
- Red 7607C
- White
- Blue 285C

SECTION 3

The following is hereby adopted as the secondary logo of this Lodge:

[Logo with white Square and Compasses and other changes as adopted]

ARTICLE III

Stated Communications

SECTION 1

The Stated Communication of this Lodge shall be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM.

SECTION 2

The Stated Communication on the 1st Thursday will be held as a business meeting. The Stated Communication on the 3rd Thursday will be held for the conferral of Degrees and to dispose of any business that was carried over from the previous Stated Meeting or has come before the Lodge since the previous Stated Communication.

SECTION 3

By a majority vote of those present, the Lodge may call from labor during two months of any year.

ARTICLE IV

Trustees

SECTION 1

The Board of Trustees shall be elected from the body of the Lodge. One Trustee shall be elected for a term of one year, one Trustee shall be elected for a term of three years, and one Trustee shall be elected for a term of five years. The election shall be held at a Stated Meeting when the annual Lodge elections are held, as each of the several terms of the incumbents expire, and thereafter.

SECTION 2

Any vacancy in the Board of Trustees, if filled before the next Stated Meeting when the annual Lodge elections are held, shall be filled through appointment by the Master from a

list of not less than three nominees submitted by the Board of Trustees, such appointment to serve until the next Meeting of the Lodge when a Trustee shall be elected for the unexpired portion of the term. No member of the Trustees shall be eligible to be elected for more than three consecutive one-year terms, or two consecutive terms of three or 5 years, and no more than ten years overall.

SECTION 3

No sitting Master of the Lodge or Past Master of the Lodge may be elected or ~~serve~~ **appointed** as a Trustee until he has been a Past Master for at least three years which is equivalent to three Masonic Terms – July 1 of the current year to June 30 of the following year would be one year. ~~The single exception to this will be for the year 2024 to allow those most knowledgeable about the Lodge's recent financial changes to run for the Trustee position.~~

SECTION 4

The Trustees of the Minnehaha Lodge shall be the Trustees of all Lodge funds, including charitable funds and operating funds.

SECTION 5

The Trustees shall have the authority to invest such portion of the Lodge's funds and all other funds of the Lodge as may from time to time be set aside from said Funds for the investment by action of the Lodge membership. It is recommended but not required that investment of such funds be done with the consent of the Lodge in accordance with the Investment Goal Strategy Plan as adopted by consent of the Lodge. The Investment Goal Strategy Plan is a document created by the Trustees and presented to the Lodge for approval, describing the investment goal strategy for each fund under the Lodge's purview.

SECTION 6

The Trustees shall have authority, and it shall be their duty in the name of the Lodge to prosecute and defend all actions, and take all necessary legal steps in relation to the investment and collection of the funds under their control.

SECTION 7

The Trustees shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties, as authorized by a vote of the Lodge, to be paid out of the operating fund of the Lodge.

SECTION 8

In addition to the powers and duties elsewhere set forth, the Board of Trustees shall have power, and it shall be its duty:

1. Subject to the directions of the Lodge, to exercise general management, control, and supervision over the property and fiscal affairs of the Lodge, including the making or authorizing the execution and acknowledgment of all necessary conveyances, agreements, and other instruments by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, to be attested by the Lodge Treasurer and Secretary.
2. To act as a Cabinet to the Master in the general administration of the Craft in this Lodge.
3. To designate one of its members as a Chairman and another as a Vice-Chairman, and to appoint a Secretary to preserve the minutes of its deliberations.
4. To hold at least one meeting every six months at a time to be fixed by notice in writing by the Master, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, or any two members of said Board.
5. To designate depositories for the funds of the Lodge.
6. To institute legal proceedings in the name of the Lodge.
7. To make a report of their actions throughout the year at each July Stated Meeting.

ARTICLE V

Initiation Fees

The fee for conferring the degrees shall be \$100.00 of which \$50 shall accompany the petition, \$25 shall be paid before receiving the Fellow Craft Degree and \$25 before receiving the Master Mason Degree.

SECTION 1

The initiation fee for conferring the Degrees shall be equal to the current annual dues amount for one year, all of which should accompany the petition unless special arrangements are made with the Lodge Secretary.

SECTION 2

The fee shall be apportioned according to the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota and the Budget of the Lodge.

ARTICLE VI

Annual Dues (Option 1)

The annual dues of each member shall be \$100.00, payable in advance on or before the last day of December payable by cash, check or bank ACH. The \$100 payment may be scheduled quarterly if paid by bank ACH.

Should an increase in per capita dues be duly voted on and approved in the Grand Lodge of South Dakota or the Masonic Building Association of Sioux Falls South Dakota, the annual dues for each member will be automatically increased to accommodate the per capita increase.

SECTION 1

The annual dues for each member shall be \$150.00, payable in advance on or before the last day of December. The dues for each member shall increase by 5% each year.

SECTION 2

If there is a duly voted on and approved increase in per capita dues in the Grand Lodge or Masonic Building Association, the per capita increase will be deducted from that year's 5% increase. If the per capita increase is larger than the automatic increase, then the automatic increase will be suspended for that year. Any total increase that is not a whole dollar amount will be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount.

SECTION 3

The dues for each member raised or affiliated during the year shall be prorated by the following formula: $\frac{1}{12}$ of the annual dues stipulated in Article VI, Section 1 for each month left in the calendar year on the date of being raised or affiliated. If that amount is not a whole dollar amount, it will be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount.

SECTION 4

Any member whose dues shall not have been paid at least to the beginning of the current year may be suspended by a majority vote of the members present. In no case shall the Lodge carry a delinquent member for more than two years as per Grand Lodge By-Laws, Section 4-84.

SECTION 5

The Lodge may remit the dues of a member by a majority vote of the members present under Grand Lodge By-laws Section 4-85.

ARTICLE VI

Annual Dues (Option 2)

The annual dues of each member shall be \$100.00, payable in advance on or before the last day of December payable by cash, check or bank ACH. The \$100 payment may be scheduled quarterly if paid by bank ACH.

Should an increase in per capita dues be duly voted on and approved in the Grand Lodge of South Dakota or the Masonic Building Association of Sioux Falls South Dakota, the annual dues for each member will be automatically increased to accommodate the per capita increase.

SECTION 1

The annual dues for each member shall be \$130.00, payable in advance on or before the last day of December.

SECTION 2

If there is a duly voted on and approved increase in per capita dues in the Grand Lodge or Masonic Building Association, the dues will automatically increase by that amount. Any total increase, which is not a whole dollar amount, will be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount.

SECTION 3

The dues for each member raised or affiliated during the year shall be prorated by the following formula: $1/12$ of the annual dues stipulated in Article VI, Section 1 for each month left in the calendar year on the date of being raised or affiliated. If that amount is not a whole dollar amount, it will be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount.

SECTION 4

Any member whose dues shall not have been paid at least to the beginning of the current year may be suspended by a majority vote of the members present. In no case shall the Lodge carry a delinquent member for more than two years as per Grand Lodge By-Laws, Section 4-84.

SECTION 5

The Lodge may remit the dues of a member by a majority vote of the members present under Grand Lodge By-laws Section 4-85.

ARTICLE VII

Longevity Membership Dues Discounts

SECTION 1

In recognition and appreciation of long-standing service, dedication, and fidelity to the Craft, the Lodge shall provide annual dues discounts for longevity members as follows:

SECTION 2

Annual dues discounts shall be available to members in good standing whose years of continuous Masonic membership, regardless of Lodge, are as follows:

1. 50-Year Members: Full Masonic membership of fifty (50) years or more.
2. 60-Year Members: Full Masonic membership of sixty (60) years or more.
3. 70-Year Members: Full Masonic membership of seventy (70) years or more.

SECTION 3

Eligible members shall receive the following discount on their annual Lodge dues:

1. 50-Year Members: Fifty dollars (\$50.00) off annual dues.
2. 60-Year Members: Sixty dollars (\$60.00) off annual dues.
3. 70-Year Members: Seventy dollars (\$70.00) off annual dues.

SECTION 4

1. Members attaining eligibility must notify the Lodge Secretary and provide documentation or confirmation of their Masonic longevity, if not already recorded by the Lodge.
2. The Lodge Secretary shall annually verify longevity member eligibility and apply the applicable discount to the member's dues statement.

SECTION 5

In recognition and appreciation of long-standing service, dedication, and fidelity to the Craft, the Lodge shall provide annual dues discounts for longevity members as follows:

SECTION 6

This section shall apply to dues assessments for the calendar year following the adoption of this section. Retroactive dues discounts are not permitted.

ARTICLE VIII

Budget

SECTION 1

Each year, after the elected line officers (Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary) are voted upon, but before they are installed, they shall create an annual budget for the Lodge and vet it with the current Trustees. The Budget will be based on 80% of that year's current dues-paying members. The Trustees will review the Budget and, if found reasonable, assent to the budget prior to it being proposed to the Lodge membership for approval.

SECTION 2

This Budget shall be presented for approval by the Lodge membership at the first Stated Communication after the installation of its officers. The Budget shall be balloted upon with any amendments at the first Stated Communication after installation.

SECTION 3

Any budget surpluses will be moved to the next annual budget as a surplus amount line item and will not impact the 80% of members calculation.

SECTION 4

Life Members will be assessed any annual increases, including any per capita increases, beyond the total dues amount of \$122.50, which was established at the beginning of 2025. Any total increase that is not a whole dollar amount will be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount.

ARTICLE IX

Assessments

SECTION 1

This Lodge has the power to levy assessments upon its members for extraordinary expenses, over and above those mentioned in Articles VI and VIII.

SECTION 2

Motion for such assessment must be made at a stated communication, then lie over until the next stated communication, thereafter, for final action.

SECTION 3

Due notice shall be given as provided in 4-12 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota. When an assessment is voted, the assessment becomes due, is charged against the members, and collected under the penalties of non-payment of dues.

ARTICLE X

Committee on Charity Good Works Committee

SECTION 1

The **Worshipful** Master and Wardens shall, unless otherwise ordered, be ex-officio members of the **Committee on Charity Good Works Committee**, and shall have power during recess of the Lodge to draw orders on the Treasurer for any sum not exceeding **\$100 \$250** for the relief of any one applicant.

ARTICLE XI

Funerals and Other Occasions

SECTION 1

The **Worshipful** Master may divide the membership of the Lodge into as many equal parts as he desires to represent the Lodge at funerals and other occasions.

ARTICLE XII

Treasurer

The treasurer shall make a report to the Lodge had stated communication in February of each year, showing receipts, disbursements, and financial condition for the year ended the previous December 31.

SECTION 1

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer or his proxy to make a report to the Lodge at each first monthly Stated Communication showing receipts, disbursements, and the financial condition of the Lodge.

SECTION 2

The Treasurer or his proxy shall make an annual report on the financial condition of the Lodge to the Lodge at the last Stated Communication of the current term.

SECTION 3

The Treasurer will complete any income tax returns or reporting on or before the filing or request date thereof.

ARTICLE XIII

Secretary

SECTION 1

The Secretary shall make a report to the Lodge at its Stated Communication in February of each year, showing a summary of work done by the Lodge during the ~~previous year~~ **current Masonic term**. A statement of the present condition of its accounts with the officers and members, and to perform such other services as are required by Section 4-27 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota, and to make such reports as are required by Section 4-05 of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota.

ARTICLE XIV

Order of Business and Degrees

SECTION 1

When the Lodge is opened on a Stated Communication **on the 1st Thursday of the month**, the following order of business shall be observed:

1. ~~Reading the minutes;~~ **Approving the minutes and reports of committees as communicated;**
2. ~~Reading and approving the current bills;~~ **Reading and approving current bills that are not otherwise approved for payment in the Budget;**
3. Reading of correspondence;
4. Reading and referring of petitions;
5. ~~Receiving reports of committees;~~
6. Balloting upon applications for initiation or affiliation;
7. Receiving and considering resolutions and communications;
8. Considering unfinished business;
9. Disposing of such other business as may come before the Lodge;
10. Conferring degrees **as designated by the Worshipful Master.**

SECTION 2

The Stated Communication on the 3rd Thursday of the month will be held for the conferral of Degrees and/or the disposition of any business that has come before the Lodge since the previous Stated Communication. This includes but is not limited to reading and referring of petitions, and balloting on applications for initiation or affiliation.

SECTION 3

Provided, that Matters of charity shall always claim precedence.

ARTICLE XV

Assent to the Bylaws

SECTION 1

Any Brother becoming a member of this Lodge shall express his assent to these Bylaws by subscribing his name thereto.

ARTICLE XVI

Amendments

These Bylaws shall be amended as follows:

SECTION 1

The proposed amendment shall be in writing and submitted at a Stated Communication of the Lodge, and shall be laid over until the next Stated Communication, held on the same Thursday meeting the following month thus allowing for a layover of as close to 30 days as the calendar allows, when action thereon shall be taken, and two-thirds vote of the members present in favor of the amendment shall adopt.

SECTION 2

If the amendment refers to the time of a meeting, or the fees or dues, it shall be of full force and effect immediately upon adoption by the Lodge.

SECTION 3

Amendments relating to any other matter shall be in effect only after adoption by the Lodge and submission and approval by the Grand Master.

ARTICLE XVII
Bylaws Review

SECTION 1

The Bylaws of this Lodge shall be reviewed biannually by a committee appointed by the Worshipful Master prior to the first meeting in July. The purpose of this review shall be to:

1. Ensure continued compliance with the Constitution, Regulations, and Edicts of the Grand Lodge;
2. Identify any inconsistencies, outdated provisions, or necessary amendments;
3. Recommend any proposed changes to the Lodge for discussion and approval in accordance with proper procedures.

SECTION 2

The committee shall consist of not fewer than three Master Masons in good standing, one of whom shall be a past elected officer of the Lodge. The Trustees shall vet a written report of the committee's findings and then present it at the first stated meeting in August. Any proposed amendments shall be handled in accordance with the amendment procedures outlined in these Bylaws or the Grand Lodge Constitution and Bylaws.

SECTION 3

Failure to conduct the biannual review shall not invalidate the Bylaws, but shall be reported at the next stated meeting and corrected at the earliest opportunity.

ARTICLE XVIII
Grand Lodge Bylaws Control

SECTION 1

In all matters not specifically covered herein, the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota shall govern.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025

(SEAL) _____

Worshipful Master

ATTEST: _____

Secretary

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2025

(SEAL)

Grand Master

ATTEST: _____

Grand Secretary