

Minutes, September 22, 1925

Special meeting of the Knights of Malta, held on Tuesday, September 22, 1925 at 6:00 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.

Meeting called to conduct the regular business of the Order and to discuss a special proposal.

Chairman-Lieut. Grand Master: Dr. W. S. Bryant.
Secretary-Grand Chancellor: Dr. J. G. B. Bulloch.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read many incoming and outgoing letters and communications of interest to the meeting. The Secretary also read a letter of suggestions and instructions received from the Grand Master.

The Committee of Finances submitted a report which was approved.

A motion by Prince Victor Napoleon and seconded by the Duke de Richelieu, that a recess be called and all members repair to the dining room for dinner. Motion passed.

Meeting called to order by the President at 9:00 p.m.

The Chairman asked the Secretary to submit to the meeting a cumulative motion concurred in by many of the past and present ecclesiastical members, and seconded by other prelates and chaplains of the Order as follows:

For the motion:

James Mills Thoburn, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
Beverley D. Tucker, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
Henry McNeal Turner, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
Stephan Kaminski, Bishop of the Polish Catholic Independent Church.
Diomedes Falconio, Archbishop & Apostolic Delegate to Canada & U.S.
Donatus Sbarretti, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church.
John Scarborough, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
Adolph Spaeth, D.D., Pres. General Council Evangelical Lutheran Church.
Wm. Hargrove Fouke, Bishop of the United Evangelical Church.
Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines.

Seconded by:

Samuel Fallows, D.D., Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
Wilson T. Hogue, Bishop of the Free Methodist Church.
John T. Hamilton, D.D., Bishop of the Moravian Church.
Rt. Rev. Harry Vere White, Bishop of Limerick.
Cardinal Verdier, Archbishop of Paris.
Archbishop Apollinary, Leader, Russian-Orthodox Church in N.Y.

Upon motions and seconds by the above named,

"Resolved that the Knights of Malta or the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, is, ever has been, and shall be defined as a general Religious Body or an Ecclesiastical Tribunal originating in antiquity, and that the civil courts accept as final the decision of its highest ecclesiastical tribunal to which any dispute has been carried within that general religious organization, on all questions of discipline, faith or ecclesiastical rule, customs, or laws, and that the civil courts will not inquire into the justice or injustice of its decrees as between the parties before it.

"Resolved that the officers, prelates, chaplains and knights, or the religious body which the highest judiciary of the said body recognizes, the civil courts will recognize.

"Resolved that whom that religious body expels or cuts off, the courts will hold to be no longer members of that religious body."

Motion by Vicomte de Fronsac and seconded by Count Saltikov that the proposed resolution be amended to read: "Resolved that this Resolution be made a part of the Constitution and By-laws of the Order." Motion passed by majority vote.

Motion by Count Cyril Narishkin and seconded by Count Dmitri Boutourlin that the complete Resolution with amendment as proposed be accepted by the members. Motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Prince Alexander Lopouhin-Demidov and seconded by Prince Michael Cantacuzene, the list of names and ranks submitted by the Membership and Credentials Committees be accepted and recorded. Passed by majority vote.

The Chair called upon Archbishop Apollinary to lead the members in prayer.

There being no further business at hand, and upon a motion by Count Orlovski, the Order adjourned its meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



(Signed) Wm. Sohler Bryant,
President.

(Signed) J. G. B. Bulloch,
Secretary.