

Templars of the Plains

A Publication of the Grand Commandery of Kansas

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Frederick (Fred) R. Kemp, REGC 2025-2026

From the Grand Senior Warden

Sir Knight Andrew G. Mosley, Eminent Grand Junior Warden

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked the current Grand Commandery Officers to write articles each month for this supplement.



Fraternal greetings my brothers. Today I wanted to provide a little more information on an excellent program being offered by our Grand Encampment, the Commissioned Templar Chaplain (CTC) Program. Now first and foremost, to address the main comment I hear: No, you do not need to be a Chaplain or Prelate for this program to be right for you. In fact, you don't even need to be a Templar. This wonderful program is open to anyone, from Masons to ladies organizations members and youth members. Currently we have 5 CTCs in our jurisdiction—you can tell by a specific cross we wear on the right of our templar uniform. The program is at your own pace class with a mix of reading from an excellent book, “*On*

Being A Masonic Chaplain” written by one of the class founders, SK Robert Elsner, and videos featuring a variety of presenters. You use this information, and present and plan different activities in your local lodge or commandery.

Ok, so now that the brief overview is done, let's get into why this program might resonate and assist you in both your Templar journey and your overall journey through life. While the program is aimed at assisting you to become a more effective Chaplain, it provides the tools to increase your ability to speak to groups and make the most of what you have to say, as well as increasing your ability to listen to people around you with improved skill and empathy. We have all been at a masonic meeting or event, and the call for a prayer goes out, everyone looks around and realizes our chaplain is not there. This class will help you formulate a prayer and deliver it with confidence and reverence, so you won't feel dread if they ask you. It touches on the many skills we tend to take for granted our brother chaplains need to have to be successful, all of which translate to important life lessons for everyone.

One unforeseen effect for me, was it allowed me to examine and understand my own faith more clearly. You do not have to be overtly religious or outspoken to be able to help others and yourself to reconnect with faith. I discovered the skills discussed and taught here are many we overlook or forget about in our daily lives. Chaplains in our lodges are many times thought of as an unneeded or place to put a past officer to relax after years of service. This program reminds us of the essential role and benefit we can take on as leaders, mentors, counselors, and spiritual guides inside our groups as Chaplains and Sir Knights. I would urge everyone to look into the program; it is right for all, and I guarantee you will take away far more value than you ever thought possible from it. Curious? Talk to one of us here in our jurisdiction who are a CTC, we will be happy to help in any way. God Bless.

Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage

The Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is a program related to the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America and its mission is to send credentialed Christian Ministers on a Biblical study and historical/cultural immersion experience who would not have the opportunity otherwise. In this program, the various State Grand Commanderies of Knights Templar sponsor Christian Ministers on an expenses paid study pilgrimage in Israel for 11 days.

The purpose of the program is to strengthen Christian ministry by providing an intensive travel and study program for credentialed ministers in the form of a study pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our experience tells us how much the opportunity to 'walk where Jesus walked' can positively affect the preaching, teaching, and spirituality of Christian ministers. It is our plan to immerse the Pilgrim ministers in the land, the sights, the sounds, the history, and the cultures of the Holy Land, past and present.

The various State Grand Commanderies of Knights Templar sponsor Christian Ministers on an expenses paid study pilgrimage in Israel for 11 days and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Kansas participates in this program. Applications to the program are not solicited by the program or the Grand Commandery of Kansas. Local ministers are invited by individual Commanderies of Knights Templar to

consider the possibility and a nomination form is submitted. Each state has its own process for selection. Selection of sponsored ministers from each state must be registered by September 30 of the preceding year for the program trip. This is a fully packed itinerary and a physically aggressive program that involves 5 -7 miles of walking many days, often uphill or up steps and on uneven surfaces The Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage for Christian Ministers takes place in February of each year.

If you would like to support the Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage, you may give directly using their website, or visit the Kansas Grand York Rite website at www.kansasyorkrite.org. The money you give provides a Christian minister with the opportunity to walk in Jesus' footsteps and see where Jesus was.

The Very Eminent Dennis Taylor jewel is available for a cumulative donation of \$250. It is a handsome jewel which can be worn on your Knight Templar Class A uniform. The jewel is available for purchase on the Kansas Grand York Rite website.



Grand Commander's October Schedule

The Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Kansas, Sir Knight Fred R. Kemp, is continuing to make his official visits to the various Commanderies within Kansas. The Grand Commander's tentative schedule for October, 2025 can be found below.

Kingman Commandery No. 34	October 8, 2025	Kingman, Kansas
Aleppo Commandery No. 31	October 13, 2025	Russell, Kansas