

April 30, 2016

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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 90 Ordained Christian Ministers on the 34th Holy Land Pilgrimage in February / March 2017

TO: Grand Recorders and Grand Commandery Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairmen

Gate 1 Travel Agency has reserved places for one (1) group of 45+- people each for the 2017 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. The dates are: **February 13 – February 23, 2017.**

- Travel date preference will be honored on a first come, first served basis, keeping the groups balanced. In the event that there are not enough to put 20 pilgrims on each flight, the trip will be reduced to only 1 group.
- The costs this year are now approximately \$3,290.00 from JFK in New York. 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.** 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.

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 October 15.

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. The minister must be in good enough physical condition in order to be able to walk up and down stairs and hills as well as 3 miles a day at times.

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

In His name, S. K. Emmett W. Mills, Jr., KCT, PGC, Chairman, Holy Land Pilgrimage

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.

Please take careful note, the guidelines have recently changed.

Ministers to be considered should:

- Have **never traveled to the Holy Land** before.
- 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.
- 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 of **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.
- 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.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINISTERS / NOMINATION FORM 2017

1. FULL 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 13 to Feb, 23, 2017**? _____

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

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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28. Recommending Commandery: _____ Commandery No. _____

29. Recommending Commander's Signature: _____

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



To be completed and signed by the Grand Recorder and the Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairman
PILGRIM CERTIFICATION – Due with Fees and Nomination Form by October 15 to
Emmett Mills, PGC; 1713 Bentrillo Ct.; The Villages, FL 32162 CUAEWM@aol.com

This is to confirm that the Grand Commandery of

_____ (state)

is certifying the following pilgrim minister as their selection to fully fund for participation in the upcoming Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Pilgrim Minister's Name: _____

Primary mailing address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Mobile phone: _____

Church served by this pastor: _____

- It is understood that the full fee for the current year must accompany this form and the nomination form (**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINISTERS / NOMINATION FORM**) (for 2017 - \$3,290.00, check made out to "HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE, INC.)
- It is understood that fees may not be transferable, so that if your pilgrim does not travel at the reserved time, the sponsoring Grand Commandery may lose any money already spent on travel reservations and arrangements or there may be additional fees.
- It is understood that the pilgrim minister has cleared travel on this Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage with their denomination and local congregation (if necessary).
- It is understood that the pilgrim minister and the local congregation served by the pilgrim minister have made necessary contingency plans so that participation in the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage will not be impeded.

Signature of Grand Recorder: _____

Phone and email: _____

Signature / State Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairman: _____

Phone and email: _____

This form must be accompanied by the completed Nomination Form and Total Fees.