

# Cornerstone Program – Helping to build strong Lodges

The Cornerstone program is a Working Tool for engaging your Lodge through meaningful activities based upon Masonic Principles. Of TDV's 21 Lodges, precisely one half are engaged in the Cornerstone program. While this is commendable, we need to raise the bar.

## Program Benefits

- by setting goals and enjoying the resulting rewards from their achievement and engaging your brethren to participate on a united front. **All for one and one for all**
- increased Brethren participation, from the Entered Apprentice to the experienced Master Mason and Past Master
- generating a greater purpose
- better community awareness of your Lodge
- Creating a greater focus on the future as opposed to maintaining the status quo

## Core Components

To obtain your Lodge's Cornerstone certificate and join the ranks of other Cornerstone Lodges, the following Standards are pursued over a two-year period:

- 1 of 4 Mandatory Standards
- 5 of 15 Major Standards
- 6 of 16 Basic Standards

Standards are not difficult to achieve, and likely your Lodge has already met several of them. Each two-year cycle runs from June 30<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>. **For participation in the cycle commencing June 1, 2025, submission must be received by December 31, 2025.**

## How to Get Involved

To join the Cornerstone Program, select a representative from your Lodge and have him contact the DCR (District Cornerstone Representative), V.W. Bro. Bill Kinnear at [TDVCornerstone@gmail.com](mailto:TDVCornerstone@gmail.com). We are here to help you join the ranks of other Cornerstone Lodges in our District and across the province.

## A Guide to the Cornerstone Program

June 2025

### What is The Cornerstone Program?

- A working tool to enable Lodges to evaluate their proficiency in their Lodge Activities/Business
- A self evaluation, discovery, and accomplishment process
- An effective TEAM building process
- Can be used as a template to help struggling Lodges improve their viability, engage the members, becoming known and valued in the community and generally creating a happy and healthy environment for the brethren

### Cornerstone, a Designation or Working Tool?

- **Primarily, the purpose of the Cornerstone Program is a Working Tool to engage the Lodge and (most importantly) its brethren through meaningful activities. This is the fundamental focus of Cornerstone**
- Cornerstone **Designation**, on the other hand, is achieved on completion of **ALL** selected Standards
- It is our hope that your Lodge will, when ready, achieve that Cornerstone Designation
- NEVER confuse the two, the importance of participation, brethren working together for a united goal and creating an enjoyable and productive environment **MUST** be the primary goal

### How does the Cornerstone Journey benefit a Lodge?

- You will set goals, work towards completion of those goals and achieve great things, by engaging the brethren to participate on a united front. **All for one and one for all**
- You will have increased Brethren participation, from the Entered Apprentice to the experienced Master Masons and Past Masters
- Your Lodge will generate a greater purpose
- Your community will be more aware of the Lodge and value and admire its members
- Your Lodge (more importantly) now has a greater focus on the future as opposed to maintaining the status quo.

Has your designation lapsed?

- Why and what were the circumstances?
- Why have you **NOT** re-engaged the Lodge in this program?
- Hopefully the following presentation shall encourage you to seek re-accreditation

**Cornerstone will return to the Grand Lodge original intent starting June 1<sup>st</sup> 2025. The DDGMs will no longer be responsible for the administration of the program and the start/end dates shall return to June 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> of any given 2-year cycle.**

The Standards

- Mandatory 1 of 4
- Major Standards 5 of 15
- Basic Standards 6 of 16

The District Cornerstone Representative (DCR)

- The DCR is a new and expanded role for the current District Cornerstone Representative
- The role of the DCR is to act as a direct link between each District and the Grand Lodge Cornerstone Committee (GLCC)
- His role will be to record lodge enrollment within their respective District, monitor progression, receive, evaluate and approve Standard submission (assisted by the GLCC)
- Record progression and update the GLCC, upon request, of that progression (DCR Tally Sheet)
- Inform the GLCC of Standard Completion and Designation (see separate Guide for DCR)

The Qualification Period

- **Two Year Program**
- Qualification dates starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, shall be June 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> of any given 2-year cycle (for example June 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 thru May 31<sup>st</sup> 2027)
- As of June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2025, all lodges enrolled in the program shall work within this window.

## Designation and Certificate

- Designation is achieved upon completion within the 2-year cycle period.
- You will be designated a Cornerstone Lodge for the 2-year period following your completion date.
- This means if you started on June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2025 and completed May 31<sup>st</sup> of 2027 you will be a Cornerstone designated lodge from **June 1<sup>st</sup> of 2027 through May 31<sup>st</sup> of 2029**
- You would now have that 2-year period of 2027 thru 2029 to maintain your concurrent designation
- **Once you have achieved designation as a “Cornerstone Lodge” your District Cornerstone Representatives shall inform the Grand Lodge Cornerstone Committee, who shall prepare your certificate for presentation to your DDGM and the lodge achievement shall be recognised at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in July**
- **The newly elected DDGM will present the Certificate at the first opportunity proceeding the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in July**

## The Process

- The Lodge convenes a Cornerstone Committee
- That Committee reviews the Standards utilizing the Cornerstone Workbook fillable pdf (available on Grand Lodge Website)
- That committee, using the Workbook, selects the Standards they wish to participate in, assign the brethren to assist in the completion of those Standards (**Team Building**) and begin working towards designation in the window of June 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> of any given 2-year cycle
- **This is not a one-man operation but is essential the brethren work as a TEAM towards achieving their goals**
- The Lodge Cornerstone Chairman contacts the District Cornerstone Representative (DCR) and informs him of the Lodge's intent to proceed with the program and the dates they will operate within
- **If there are any issues contact the Cornerstone Committee directly at [glcornerstoneinfo@gmail.com](mailto:glcornerstoneinfo@gmail.com)**
- The Lodge is now ready to proceed
- The DCR MUST record this information (DCR Tally Sheet) and inform the Grand Lodge Cornerstone Committee that the Lodge is now enrolled
- The Lodge will now work towards completion of those chosen Standards (**Remember that some Standards require completion in both years**)
- As each individual Standard is achieved. An email including the completed Cornerstone Workbook, and any proof, as required, is communicated with the DCR
- The DCR will either approve, seek more information or reject this submission based on the Standards Criteria

- When the application for approval is submitted, the lodge should save the document as the date of submission. As an example, **Battlefield 61 5.10.26**
- If approved the DCR shall inform the Lodge as soon as possible. Date in appropriate area and save the Workbook (lodge name/number date). As an example, **Battlefield 61 6.1.26**
- **This will act as a live document back and forth till completion. This becomes the most recent Workbook, and this new version will be sent to the DCR on the next submission until the Workbook is complete and signed off**
- This process of saving the Workbook (and applying submission date) is repeated until all Standards are achieved
- The DCR will inform the Grand Lodge Cornerstone Committee of progress and completion of any lodge within the program
- Once the lodge has received designation, they may now use their Cornerstone Designation on Summons, Letter Head and/or any other correspondence including websites **for the proceeding 2 years and thereafter concurrent designation.**
- **If designation lapses you may no longer use this designated status**

If Cornerstone Designation is achieved what now?

- You are now a Cornerstone Designated Lodge
- Designation lasts for 2 years (in these 2 years you will seek requalification/designation)
- Enjoy and be extremely proud of your achievements
- Your Lodge should feel revitalized, engaged and on a stronger path for success
- As you begin the new cycle of Cornerstone Qualification, it is highly recommended that your Lodge consider the challenge of those Standards not attained in the previous qualification period.
- If necessary, use those Standards you know are achievable as your alternate plan

**It has been proven since the inception of Cornerstone, that Lodges who engage in this program reap the benefits greatly. Cornerstone is the foundation of your success!**

Should you require any further information in regards The Cornerstone Program, feel free to contact the Cornerstone Committee at [glcornerstoneinfo@gmail.com](mailto:glcornerstoneinfo@gmail.com)

## Cornerstone Fillable PDF Documents

The Cornerstone Committee have created 5 documents, in which we feel confident, will make the process of recording and evaluating much more streamlined

They are:

1. The Cornerstone Workbook (June 2025 for lodge and DCR use)
2. DCR 20 Lodge Tally Sheet (June 2025 for DCR use)
3. A Guide to the Cornerstone Program (June 2025)
4. A Guide for the Newly Appointed District Cornerstone Rep (June 2025)
5. A Users Guide for Workbook Completion (June 2025)

These fillable PDFs shall be available on the Grand Lodge Website at <https://ontariomasons.ca> sign in, select Members/Education Pillar/Cornerstone to download at your convenience or contact the Cornerstone Committee at [glcornerstoneinfo@gmail.com](mailto:glcornerstoneinfo@gmail.com) and we will supply these for your use