

WHERE TO FROM HERE? **FREEMASONRY IN THE 6TH MILLENNIUM A.L.**

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“What is the reason for [publishing videos about Freemasonry]? No disrespect intended, I’m a humble person but I don’t get it. What purpose does this serve? Is nothing sacred anymore? Will there be masonic quiz sections in newspapers next? Maybe I’m old and I don’t understand what this world is becoming”.

YouTube Channel comment posted May 2024

“Can a lodge really be considered tyled if a Brother brings a mobile phone into a meeting?”

YouTube Channel comment posted February 2022

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the current perceptions and future trajectories of Freemasonry through a comprehensive survey distributed among the global community of “From the Quarries.” Engaging over 2000 respondents across 68 countries, this research leverages both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to paint a detailed portrait of the Masonic institution’s role in contemporary society and its potential evolution.

The survey responses reveal key themes such as the relevance of Freemasonry, membership challenges, the adaptation of rituals, and the organization’s role in community and global issues. While the majority of respondents find Freemasonry highly relevant, significant challenges such as membership decline, and public perception persist. Respondents emphasize the importance of preserving traditional practices while also advocating for enhanced educational programs, increased transparency, and greater global collaboration.

This paper provides actionable recommendations based on the survey findings, aiming to balance the preservation of core values with the need for modernization. These recommendations include enhancing educational initiatives, increasing public engagement,

fostering global unity, and adopting more inclusive membership policies. The study concludes that addressing these challenges and contradictions is crucial for Freemasonry to remain relevant and impactful in the 21st century.

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Introduction

Freemasonry has experienced notable changes in membership throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. At its peak in the late 1950s, the Craft in the United States boasted nearly 4 million members. This period of growth was characterized by a post-war boom in civic and fraternal organizations, which aligned with the values and social structures of the time.

However, from the 1960s onwards, Freemasonry began to see a steady decline in membership. Several factors contributed to this trend, including changing societal values, increased individualism, and a shift away from traditional social organizations. By 2000, membership in the U.S. had fallen to approximately 1.8 million, and this downward trend continued into the 21st century. As of 2023, membership numbers have further decreased to around 869,429,

marking the lowest total in nearly a century. This decline is attributed to various factors, including the aging demographic of current members and the organization's struggle to attract younger generations in a rapidly changing social landscape.¹

In the United Kingdom, the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) has also seen a significant decline in membership. The UGLE has taken steps to modernize its image and increase transparency, including publishing annual reports to provide insights into its activities and financial health. Despite these efforts, the membership decline mirrors the trends observed in the United States, with societal changes and competition from other social and professional networks playing significant roles.²

The decline is not uniform across all regions. For example, Freemasonry in some European countries and parts of Asia has remained relatively stable, thanks to strong cultural traditions and active community engagement. The diversity of these trends highlights the importance of local contexts in shaping the success and challenges faced by Masonic lodges globally.^{3 4}

Efforts to reverse the decline have included emphasizing Freemasonry's historical and philosophical significance, enhancing community involvement, and leveraging modern technology to engage potential members. Despite these initiatives, the overall trend suggests that Freemasonry must continue to adapt to the evolving social and cultural landscape to sustain its relevance and appeal.⁵

While Freemasonry continues to face significant membership challenges, its resilience and ongoing efforts to modernize suggest a potential for renewal and adaptation in the future. The organization's ability to balance tradition with contemporary relevance will be crucial in navigating these changes.

Purpose of study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the contemporary perceptions and anticipated future trajectories of Freemasonry among its members and broader audience. Conducted through a survey of the global community of the "From the Quarries" Masonic YouTube channel, this research aims to understand the multifaceted attitudes towards the institution's relevance and evolution in modern society. By engaging with over 2000 respondents from 68 countries, the study employs both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to paint a detailed portrait of Freemasonry's current status and potential paths forward.

This research is particularly significant given the historical context and current challenges facing Freemasonry. The institution has seen fluctuating membership numbers and varying degrees of public perception over the past century. By analysing responses to a set of ten structured questions, the study seeks to uncover patterns in the respondents' views on how Freemasonry should adapt and evolve to maintain its relevance and appeal.

Moreover, the study aims to explore the balance between maintaining traditional Masonic values and embracing necessary innovations. This balance is crucial for the Craft's sustainability and growth, particularly in light of societal changes and technological advancements.

¹ <https://msana.com/services/u-s-membership-statistics/>

² <https://www.ugle.org.uk/about-us/annual-reports>

³ <https://freemasonscommunity.life/researching-freemasonry-in-the-21st-century-opportunities-and-challenges/>

⁴ <https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/article/20230221st-century-freemasonry-a-sign-of-the-times/>

⁵ <https://freemasoninformation.com/masonictraveler/so-what-the-dynamic-of-masonic-membership/>

The inclusion of a 13% response rate from non-Masons adds an external perspective, enriching the study's findings and providing a more comprehensive view of public attitudes towards Freemasonry. This dual perspective is essential for understanding the broader societal implications and potential outreach opportunities for the Craft.

In essence, this study aims to provide a robust framework for discussing the future of Freemasonry, ensuring that it remains a vital and dynamic institution well into the 6th Millennium Anno Lucis.

Survey Statistics and Participant Demographics

Platform

The study was conducted using the "From the Quarries" YouTube channel. The survey, comprising ten questions, was distributed through the channel's community page, leveraging its engaged and diverse audience to gather quantitative and qualitative data. This platform provided an effective medium for reaching a broad spectrum of individuals interested in Freemasonry, ensuring a representative dataset for the study.

Dataset

From the approximately 7500 channel subscribers at the time the survey was conducted (March to April 2024) 2007 responses were received. Participants were also invited to add additional comments or observations for each question. A total of 138 comments were received.

Sex

The respondents were predominantly male, accounting for 94.1% of responses, with females making up 5.8% and unspecified 0.1%.

Age

The majority of respondents are aged 35-44 (28.1%), followed by those aged 45-54 (24.0%), 25-34 (19.4%), 55-64 (14.8%), and 65+ (10.7%). Younger respondents, aged 18-24, constitute 2.9%, while there are no respondents in the 13-17 age group.

Location

Geographically, the largest portion of the respondents are based in the USA (48.5%), followed by the UK (9.5%), Canada (3.3%), Australia (2.9%), and the Philippines (1.2%), with the remaining 34.7% spread across 63 other countries.

Viewing Device

57.1% of respondents view their YouTube content on mobile phones, 20.2% on televisions, 16.6% on computers, and 7.3% on tablets.

Methodology

Distribution

Questions were posted bi-weekly on the From the Quarries YouTube 'Community Page'. Copies of these questions were also posted to approximately 500 additional Website, Email and Facebook subscribers, but all responses were collated through YouTube. Participants were provided with 4 responses to each question, with a fifth 'other' response inviting feedback in the form of comments.

Tyling respondents

As it is not possible to successfully 'tyle' online participants in a study such as this, a second series of general Masonic quiz questions was used to help estimate the percentage of cowans who became involved.

Before and during the study over 80 of these questions were posted, each dealt with basic Masonic topics. They were composed in a manner that any practicing Freemason would not find them too challenging (although some did!), while cowans would be making selections based on pure guesswork.

Cumulative analysis of these questions indicates that approximately 13% of respondents are not Freemasons.

Comment Moderation

The world of online comments is a wild and untamed frontier. Under the shield of anonymity, people take advantage of the freedom to post the most extraordinary comments and claims either because they are consequence free, or simply to stir up a reaction. Such trolling is a daily part of content moderation on From the Quarries.

In general, the comments posted on From the Quarries can be divided into five (not necessarily mutually exclusive) categories:

The serious and considered who have a logical point to make.

The Ill informed who have been diverted by pop-culture stories of the Illuminati and Freemasonry's 'Secret Agenda for World Domination'™.

The religiously motivated who see anything not aligning to their belief structure as inherently evil ('Repent now!').

The strange and occult who quote reams of illogical nonsense (usually in ALL CAPS) to make some point about their possession of secret knowledge.

The trolls, who are just looking to pick a fight. Their comments are usually littered with profanities.

For the purposes of this paper, I have redacted the obscene and/or irrelevant comments. Fortunately, this was quite a small number.

Analysis

Overall Summary of Findings

Participants in the study responded to 10 survey questions:

What is your perception of Freemasonry's relevance in today's society?

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Freemasonry today?

In what ways do you think Freemasonry can adapt its rituals and ceremonies to be more engaging for the modern member while still preserving its core principles?

How important do you think the maintenance of the secrecy and purity of the rituals of Freemasonry is from a 21st-century perspective?

What do you think that Freemasonry's role in contributing to community and global issues in the 21st century should be?

How do you think Freemasonry can improve its public image and communication with the general public?

What role do you think technology and digital platforms should play in the future of Freemasonry?

How do you think Freemasonry should play a role in promoting intercultural dialogue?

Which of the following is your preference for the future of Freemasonry?

What changes or evolutions do you think will be necessary for Freemasonry to flourish over the rest of the century?

The survey responses provide a wide-ranging overview of the current perceptions and future trajectories of Freemasonry, reflecting a diverse range of opinions from members across the globe. The findings highlight several key themes and contradictions that provide pointers for understanding the organization's role and evolution in the 21st century.

Key Themes

A number of key themes emerged from the responses:

Relevance of Freemasonry

The majority of respondents find Freemasonry highly relevant in today's society. This is supported by both the quantitative data and qualitative comments, which emphasize the importance of the organization's historical and philosophical significance.

There is a noted generational gap, with older members finding greater relevance and younger members facing challenges in understanding and engaging with the craft.

Membership Challenges

Membership decline is identified as the most significant challenge facing Freemasonry.

Respondents express concerns about the sustainability of the organization due to an aging membership and difficulties in attracting younger members.

Public perception, influenced by misinformation and conspiracy theories, is another major concern, affecting the ability to attract new members.

Adaptation of Rituals and Practices

Enhancing education within Freemasonry is the most favoured adaptation, with a strong emphasis on learning, memorization, and bonding through Masonic activities.

Incorporating technology and updating language are also seen as important, though there is a desire to preserve traditional methods and rituals.

Shortening ceremonies is suggested by some as a practical adaptation to fit modern schedules.

Role in Community and Global Issues

Leading charitable and educational initiatives is viewed as the primary role for Freemasonry in the 21st century. This aligns with the organization's values and offers opportunities for members to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Promoting peace and intercultural dialogue is also considered important, though there is significant support for maintaining a neutral and apolitical stance to avoid conflicts.

Public Image and Communication

Holding regular public events and open houses is seen as an effective way to improve Freemasonry's public image. This approach aims to demystify the organization and engage with the broader community.

An active social media presence and forming partnerships with social enterprises are also highlighted as critical strategies for modernizing communication and enhancing visibility.

Technology and Digital Platforms

Technology is viewed as primarily useful for educational purposes and enhancing global Masonic collaboration. There is also support for modernizing communication through digital platforms.

However, there is a strong sentiment to preserve traditional methods, with some respondents advocating for a minimal role for technology to ensure the integrity of Freemasonry's core values and rituals.

Future Preferences and Necessary Changes

The most favoured preference for the future is the maintenance of traditional practices without significant changes, reflecting a desire to preserve the core identity of Freemasonry. Enhancing global collaboration, increasing transparency, and adopting more inclusive membership policies are also identified as important changes to ensure the organization’s growth and relevance.

Contradictions

The study returned some contradictory findings:

Preservation vs. Modernization

There is a clear tension between the desire to preserve traditional practices and the need to adapt to contemporary societal changes. While many respondents emphasize the importance of maintaining rituals and core values, others advocate for modernization through technology and updated practices.

Public Engagement vs. Secrecy

The balance between improving public image and maintaining secrecy is another point of contention. Some respondents believe increased transparency and public engagement are essential for combating misconceptions, while others feel that the secrecy of rituals is integral to Freemasonry’s identity.

Inclusivity vs. Exclusivity

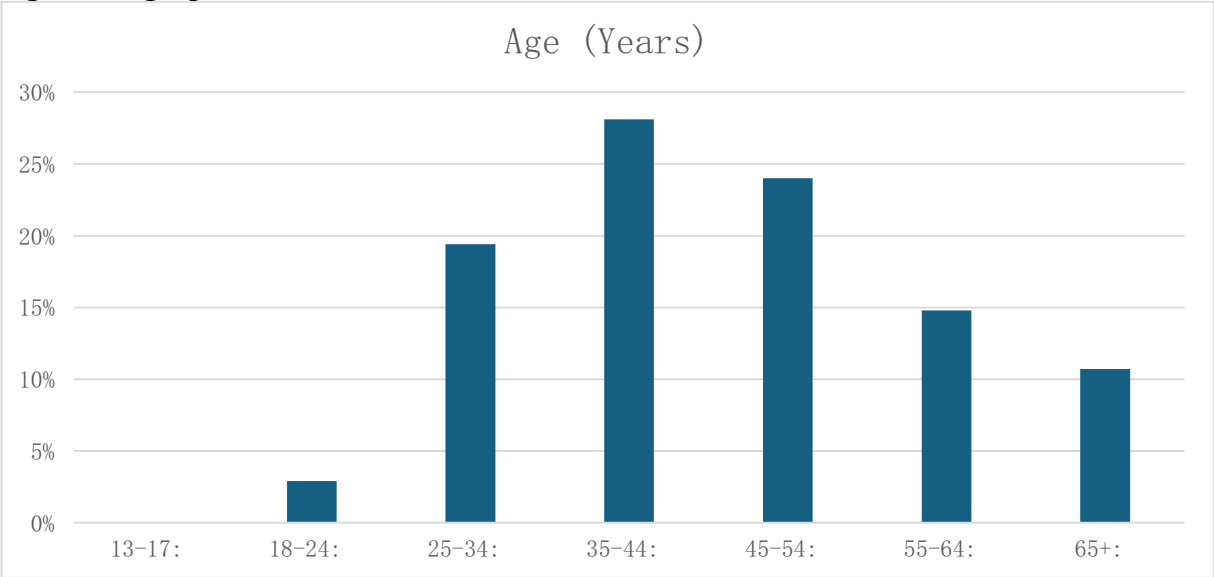
The need for more inclusive membership policies is recognized, yet there is also a strong sentiment to keep Freemasonry as a selective and sought-after organization. This reflects the challenge of balancing inclusivity with the tradition of exclusivity.

Overall, the findings reveal the complexity of Freemasonry’s evolution in the modern era. While there is a strong desire to preserve the core values and traditions, there is also recognition of the need for strategic adaptations to remain relevant and impactful in a rapidly changing world. Addressing these contradictions and finding a balance between tradition and modernization is a challenge for the future.

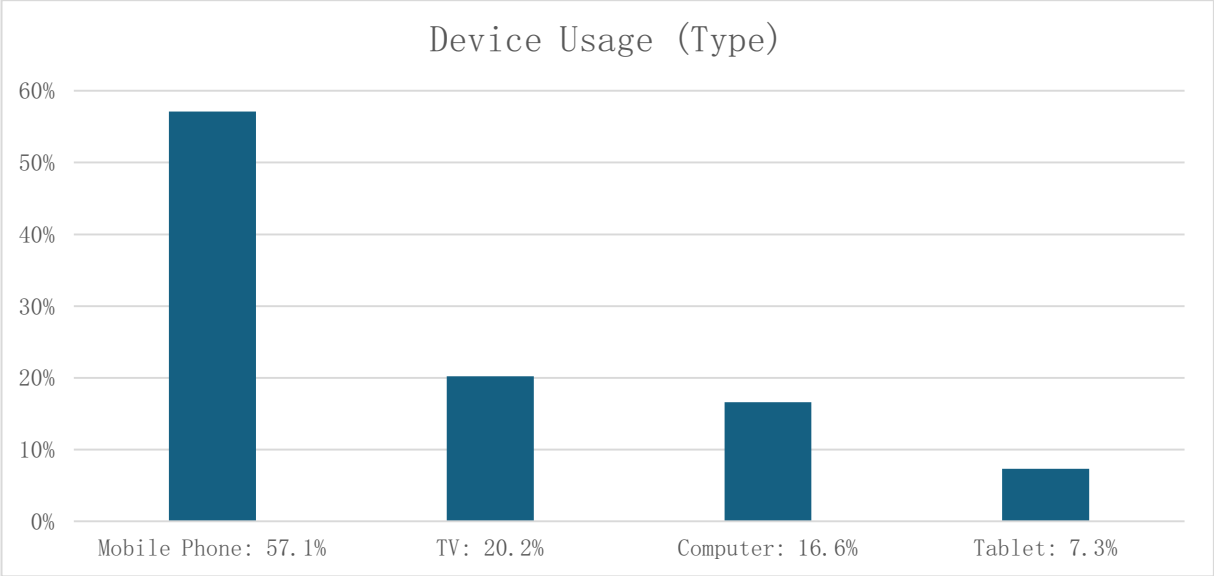
Age, Demographics and Device Usage

Although not formally part of the research project, the data on the age of participants correlated against device usage throws up some interesting data:

Age Demographics of Viewers:



Device Usage:



Correlation Analysis

By correlating these two datasets, conclusions may be drawn regarding the use of technology by survey respondents:

Younger Viewers (18-34):

Likely to use mobile phones for viewing content, reflecting broader trends in digital consumption among younger audiences who prioritize convenience and portability. The 25-34 age group constitutes 19.4% of the audience, and they are typically tech-savvy and prefer mobile devices.

Middle-aged Viewers (35-54):

This group represents the largest segment of viewers (52.1% combined for ages 35-54). They may prefer a mix of mobile phones and computers, balancing convenience with the larger screens of computers for better viewing experiences. Given the significant percentage, it’s plausible that a substantial portion of mobile and TV viewership comes from this age bracket.

Older Viewers (55+):

The 55-64 and 65+ groups together make up 25.5% of the audience. Older viewers might lean more towards larger screens, such as TVs and tablets, which offer better visibility and ease of use compared to smaller mobile screens. The higher percentage of TV usage (20.2%) might correlate strongly with this demographic, who are accustomed to traditional viewing formats.

Potential Conclusions

Looking at this correlation, the following assumptions may be drawn:

Mobile Dominance:

Mobile phones are the dominant device across all age groups but especially prevalent among younger viewers (18-34). This aligns with general trends in media consumption where younger people prefer mobile devices for their versatility and ease of access.

TV Usage:

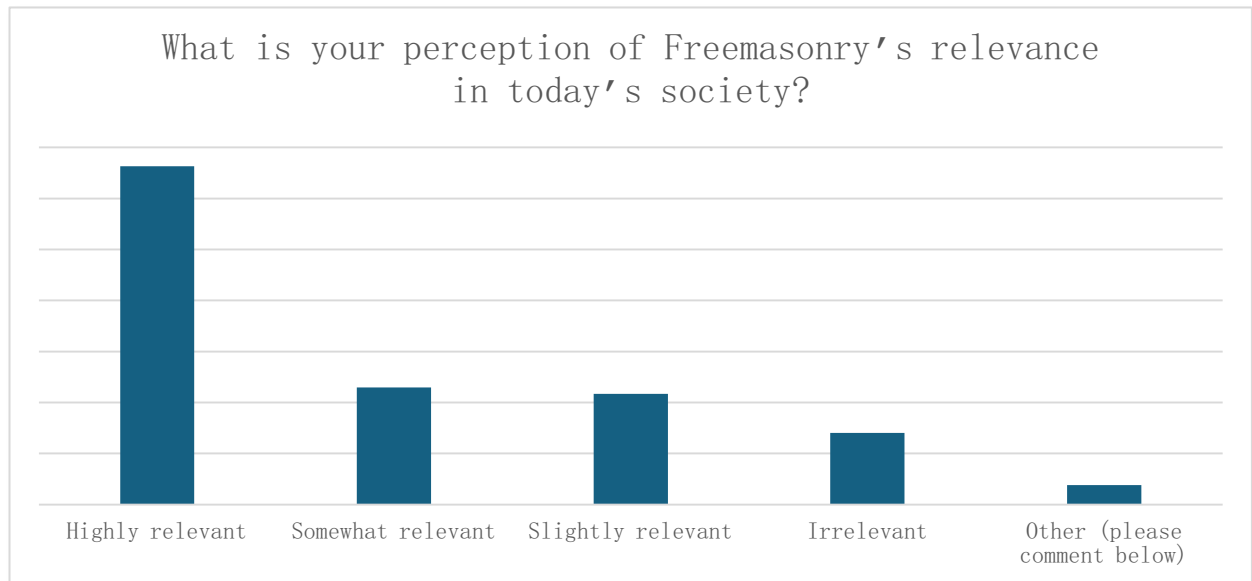
The significant TV viewership (20.2%) suggests that many middle-aged and older viewers (35+) prefer watching content on larger screens, possibly indicating a preference for viewing comfort and a more immersive experience.

Computer and Tablet Usage:

Computers are likely used by middle-aged viewers (35-54) who balance work and leisure on the same device, while tablets might be preferred by older viewers for their portability and larger screens compared to mobile phones.

By correlating these datasets, it becomes clear that age influences device preference significantly, with younger viewers favouring mobile phones and older viewers opting for larger screens like TVs and tablets. This insight can help tailor content delivery strategies to suit the viewing habits of different age groups, enhancing engagement and accessibility.

QUESTION 1



“In my district in Ontario Canada. All of our lodges are seeing members returning and also a good number of new members. Young men have a need for the craft but they don’t have the slightest understanding of what it is and what it has to offer.”

The data indicates that the majority of respondents find Freemasonry to be highly relevant in today’s society. A significant number of respondents also find it somewhat relevant, while fewer respondents perceive it as slightly relevant or irrelevant.

Qualitative comments provide deeper insights into these quantitative findings. Many members express positive perceptions, noting the resurgence of interest and membership in certain regions. For instance, one respondent from Ontario, Canada, highlights that lodges are seeing members return and new members join, reflecting a need among young men for the craft, despite their limited understanding of it. Another non-Mason shares their lifelong curiosity about the craft, which began with conspiracy theories and evolved into an appreciation for its history and notable members.

“As a non-Mason, I’ve always been drawn to the craft from a young boy passing by the local lodge not knowing what goes on in the very ominous building. And learning more about the craft starting at the conspiracy theories then the history and the notable masons of the past.”

Generational insights reveal a significant gap, with older members finding greater relevance and younger members facing challenges in understanding and engaging with the craft. An EA Mason from Perth underscores the importance of intergenerational learning, describing how beneficial it is for a younger man to learn from senior members. Conversely, some comments

suggest that Freemasonry’s relevance is more apparent to older gentlemen, while younger men struggle to find meaning in it, evidenced by declining membership acquisition and retention rates.

‘As an EA Mason, I believe it is highly relevant in this new age. I’m a day lodge member in Perth and deliberately joined knowing this particular lodge would be full of senior members of our craft. It’s amazing for a younger man like myself to sit and converse and learn from these men ...’

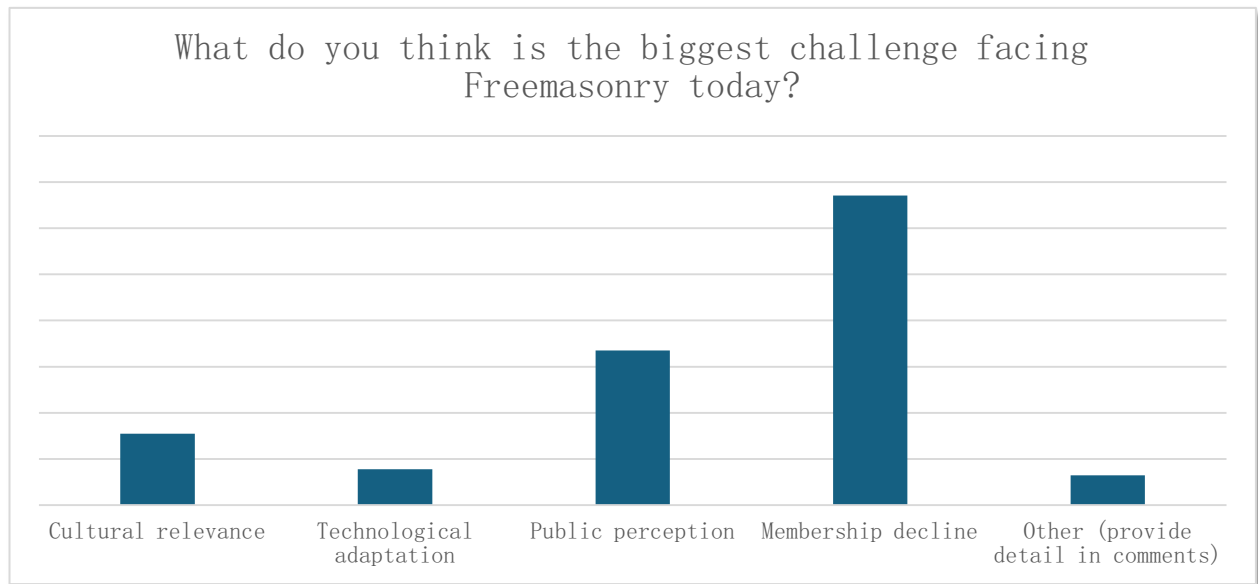
Geographically, the relevance of Freemasonry varies, with regions like Ontario experiencing a resurgence in membership, indicating that local factors significantly influence perceptions of relevance. Furthermore, comments from non-Masons highlight the curiosity and sense of mystery surrounding Freemasonry. This perception can be a double-edged sword, as it attracts interest but may also hinder broader engagement if the organization is viewed as too exclusive or secretive.

Overall, while Freemasonry is perceived as highly relevant by many, there are notable challenges related to generational engagement and geographical differences. To sustain and enhance its relevance, the organization must address these challenges and leverage its strengths in community values and historical significance.

Challenges and Criticisms:

- *“Think a lot of brothers are optimistic about the craft’s relevance. If your lodge was shut down for whatever reason, your community would keep moving forward. It isn’t critical.”*
- *“Relevant to the older gentlemen as their long participation provides implicit meaning to life but increasingly irrelevant to younger gentlemen who are struggling to make sense of the world. Some may argue against this using their personal and anecdotal experiences, but the decline in acquisitions and retention rates speak for themselves...”*

QUESTION 2



The data indicates that the most significant challenge facing Freemasonry today is membership decline. Public perception is also a major concern, followed by cultural relevance. Technological adaptation is considered a lesser challenge.

“Membership will decline to the point where there will be insufficient resources to sustain the bureaucracy of modern Freemasonry as well as maintain the noble temples inherited from the past.”

Qualitative comments provide deeper insights into these quantitative findings. The issue of membership decline is emphasized by several respondents. One comment notes that “membership will decline to the point where there will be insufficient resources to sustain the bureaucracy of modern Freemasonry as well as maintain the noble temples inherited from the past.” Another highlights that the aging membership lacks the resources and time to develop a compelling vision for the future, exacerbating the decline.

“The biggest challenge facing Freemasonry: change in the outside world is accelerating much faster than within and at the interfaces: its aging members have neither the mental, physical, nor financial resources (nor time) to develop and deliver a compelling vision for the future to avoid collapse.”

Public perception is another major challenge. Respondents mention that lodges are closing worldwide due to negative public perception and conspiracy theories, which hinder the attraction of younger, tech-savvy individuals. One comment states, “public perception that I witness is still that of fear and possible misinformation. Often from sources not directly from practice but assumption.” This misinformation contributes to falling membership and a skewed understanding of Freemasonry.

“Lodges are closing all around the world mostly due to how public perception and conspiracy nonsense has created an inability to attract the younger, faster-paced, tech-inclined crowd.”

Cultural relevance is crucial for the organization, especially among younger members who find it increasingly difficult to connect with the traditional practices. A respondent notes, “keeping tradition. I didn’t join it because it was modern; I joined because it’s keeping the old world alive.” However, another comment points out that while older members find meaning in their long participation, younger members struggle to make sense of the organization in today’s world.

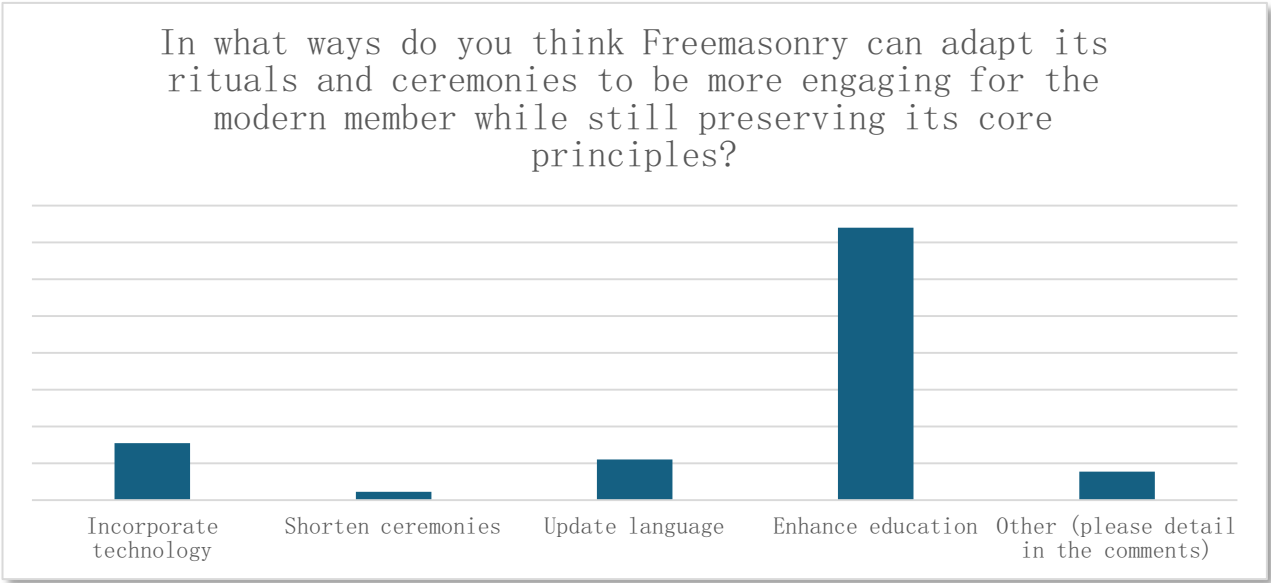
Technological adaptation is recognized as necessary but should not compromise the integrity of rituals and traditions. While virtual lodges and digital engagement are viewed positively, they have limitations. One comment suggests, “technology, yes, so long as it does not change ritual. Public perception, be active in the community and be proud of your Freemasonry.” Another adds that virtual lodges are a step in the right direction but cannot be properly tiled, highlighting the balance needed between tradition and modernization.

Technological Adaptation:

- ***“Technology, yes, so long as it does not change ritual. Public perception, be active in the community and be proud of your Freemasonry.”***
- ***“Virtual lodges are a step in the right direction but cannot reasonably be properly tiled, which may be a good thing. I’ve always advocated that ‘Every Cowan and eavesdropper is merely showing INTEREST, a step towards becoming a Brother.’”***

Overall, the primary challenges facing Freemasonry include membership decline, negative public perception, maintaining cultural relevance, and technological adaptation. Addressing these issues requires a careful balance of preserving traditions while engaging with modern technologies and improving public understanding.

QUESTION 3



The data indicates that the most favored adaptation for making Freemasonry’s rituals and ceremonies more engaging for modern members is enhancing education. Incorporating technology and updating language are also considered important. Shortening ceremonies is less popular.

“The learning, memorization, and bonding is great. Ciphers and squirrelly stuff are great. Speed is ok. I mean, nothing is slow aside from ‘repeating/recounting’ / business / charity stuff.”

Enhancing education is seen as a key adaptation, emphasizing the importance of learning, memorization, and bonding through Masonic activities. This could involve incorporating presentations on various aspects of Freemasonry, such as interpretations of symbols, and encouraging brethren to share their unique perspectives during meetings. These educational enhancements are viewed as essential for deepening members’ understanding and engagement with the craft.

“Every meeting should have a short presentation on some aspect of Freemasonry (e.g., interpretations of symbols). The brethren would be encouraged to provide any unique perspectives on the presentation topic.”

Incorporating technology is also viewed positively, particularly for holding virtual meetings and reaching a global audience. This adaptation is seen as a way to modernize communication and make it easier for members to participate, regardless of their location. However, there are concerns about maintaining the integrity of traditional rituals and ensuring that the essence of Freemasonry is not compromised by technological advancements.

“Use modern technology to hold some meetings throughout the year (not all, just some). It is possible to reach tens of thousands across the world for many inspirational mentors and coaches.”

“Virtual lodges are a step in the right direction but cannot reasonably be properly tiled, which may be a good thing.”

Updating the language used in rituals to modern equivalents is another suggested adaptation. This change is seen as a way to make rituals more accessible and less daunting for new members, facilitating easier memorization and understanding. Regular updates to the language could help bridge the gap between tradition and contemporary relevance, making the rituals more relatable to modern members.

While less popular, shortening ceremonies is suggested by some respondents as a practical adaptation. The idea is that shorter ceremonies could better fit into the busy schedules of modern members, making it more feasible for them to participate regularly. This change aims to make the most efficient use of time during meetings, ensuring that the core principles and values of Freemasonry are still conveyed effectively.

Overall, the primary adaptations favored by respondents include enhancing education, incorporating technology, updating language, and, to a lesser extent, shortening ceremonies. These changes are aimed at making Freemasonry’s rituals and ceremonies more engaging and relevant to modern members while preserving the core principles of the craft.

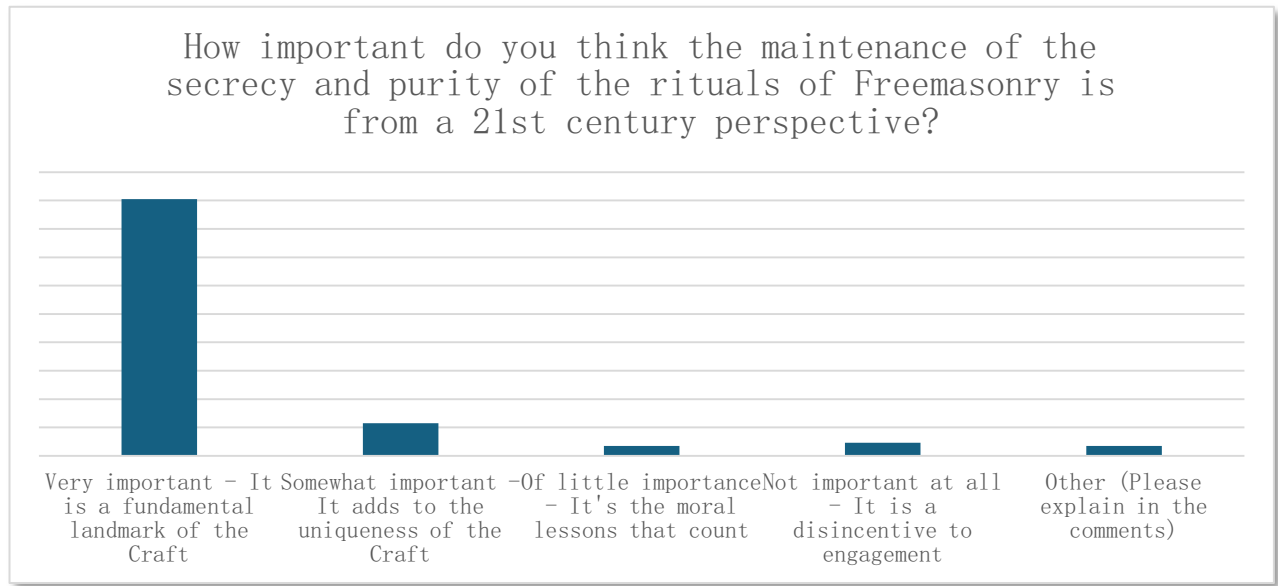
Update Language:
“Each lodge required to collectively visit a different lodge once per year. Every 25 years the language of the Workings should be updated to a modern equivalent to make memorization easier and less daunting for new brethren.”

“The language must make sense, so updating it every 50 years or so is perhaps good. I think involving the new adepts immediately in the rituals and thus getting to know people.”

Shorten Ceremonies:
“Our Masonic ceremonies are of vital value but they are too lengthy. We don’t have time to muck around in Freemasonry. Time is a more valuable quality than ever with increasing demands to make the best use of available time at our meetings.”

“Shorten ceremonies (because it will lead to further developments).”

QUESTION 4



“The truth is anyone with a spare \$20 can own Duncan’s Monitor. Or find the ritual for free online. Secrecy is a quaint notion. Even the ‘purity’ of the ritual is a phantom given the differences that exist from grand lodge to grand lodge.”

The data indicates that the majority of respondents believe that maintaining the secrecy and purity of the rituals of Freemasonry is very important, considering it a fundamental landmark of the Craft. A smaller group views it as somewhat important, adding to the uniqueness of Freemasonry. Very few respondents consider it of little importance or not important at all.

“The ‘secrets’ are knowledge open to those who seek and not for the ignorant. Existence would be pointless if all sought truth. Only those who do are on the true path of growth.”

Qualitative comments reveal that many respondents see the secrecy and purity of the rituals as essential for preserving the tradition and significance of Freemasonry. These elements are viewed as distinguishing features that provide a unique and meaningful experience for members. While secrecy and purity are highly valued, some respondents feel that the focus should also be on the moral lessons and teachings of Freemasonry. They acknowledge that the uniqueness provided by these aspects is important, but not the sole defining feature.

“It’s important for the individual to have inner dialogue and sincerity. The ‘secrecy’ is self-imposed and builds character of a chivalrous nature.”

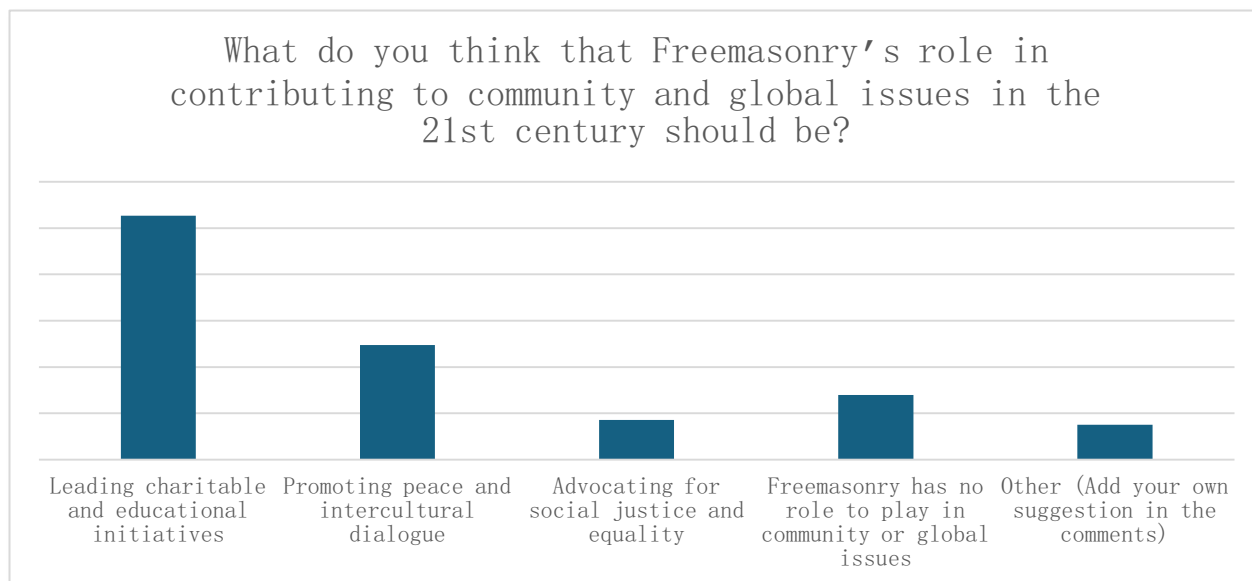
“The most important aspect of masonry according to Pike was its symbolism. Anyone who has developed a full spectrum comprehension of masonry’s symbols has gained more than any rote memorization could impart to him.”

A minority of respondents argue that the secrecy of rituals is less important in the modern context. They believe that emphasizing the moral and philosophical teachings of Freemasonry is more critical for its relevance and appeal. Some respondents offer nuanced views, suggesting that while secrecy and purity are important, there is room for adaptation and modernization to keep Freemasonry relevant in the 21st century.

Overall, the majority view the maintenance of secrecy and purity in rituals as fundamental to the Craft, essential for preserving its traditions and unique identity. A significant number see it as adding to the uniqueness of Freemasonry, though not necessarily the most critical aspect. A minority believe the moral lessons and teachings are more important than maintaining secrecy and purity. Some respondents suggest a balance between maintaining traditions and allowing for modernization to ensure continued relevance.

“It’s important for the individual to have inner dialogue and sincerity. The ‘secrecy’ is self-imposed and builds character of a chivalrous nature. I believe therefore it is beneficial to both the Brotherhood and the Brother himself.”

QUESTION 5



The data indicates that the majority of respondents believe Freemasonry's role in the 21st century should primarily focus on leading charitable and educational initiatives. Promoting peace and intercultural dialogue is also considered important. A smaller number of respondents believe that advocating for social justice and equality should be a focus, while a significant minority of respondents feel that Freemasonry has no role to play in community or global issues.

Qualitative comments reveal that many respondents see the organization's involvement in charitable and educational initiatives as essential for maintaining its relevance and positive impact on society. These initiatives are viewed as aligning well with the core values of Freemasonry, offering opportunities for members to contribute meaningfully to their communities. Some respondents emphasize the importance of promoting peace and intercultural dialogue, suggesting that Freemasonry has a unique position to foster understanding and cooperation across different cultures and societies.

"Keeping the ancient teachings and knowledge living in the present, passing on to the incoming generations to ensure the knowledge for the future is still available and being taught."

"Honestly, I believe it's a combination of the first two choices. Educational, charitable, peace and humanitarian. They all go hand in hand in my opinion."

There is also a perspective among a smaller group that Freemasonry should advocate for social justice and equality, reflecting a more active engagement with contemporary social issues. However, a notable minority believes that Freemasonry should not engage in community or global issues, arguing that the organization's primary focus should remain on its internal goals and the personal development of its members.

"Promote enlightenment and peace."

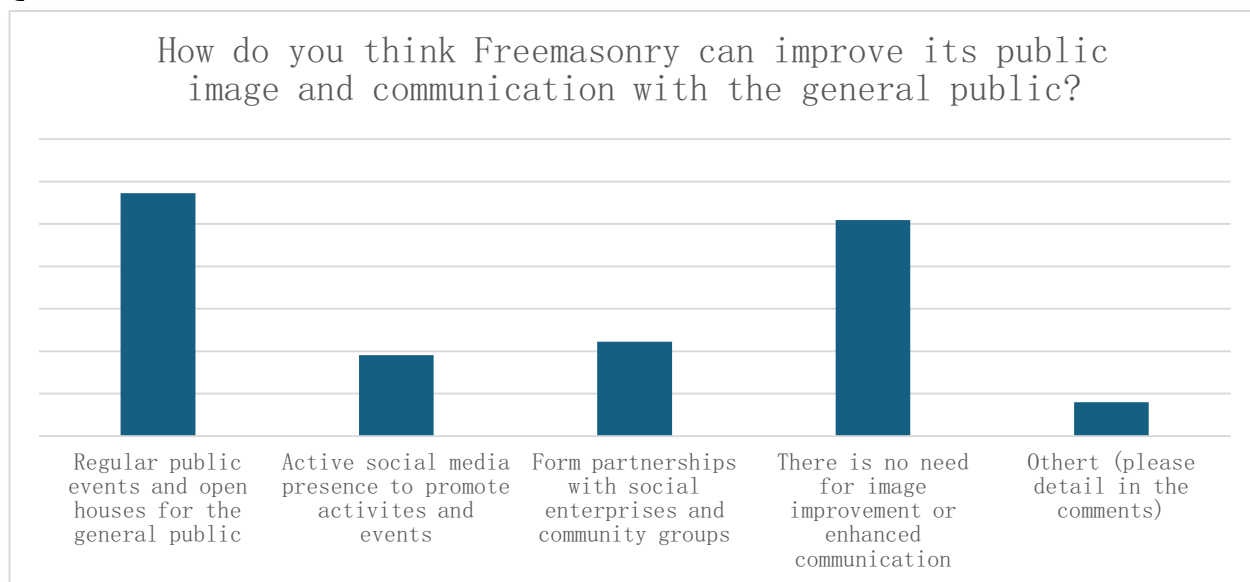
"Promoting peace and intercultural dialogue should fall within the scope of a charitable organization anyway."

Overall, the primary roles identified for Freemasonry in the 21st century include leading charitable and educational initiatives, promoting peace and intercultural dialogue, and, to a lesser extent, advocating for social justice and equality. These roles align with the organization's traditional values while also addressing contemporary societal needs.

Freemasonry Has No Role to Play in Community or Global Issues:

- ***“Freemasonry has no role to play in community or social issues. Sadly, Freemasonry has lost its footing.”***
- ***“I put no role to play.... but I don’t believe it should be ‘no role’ but contribute to help however we can.”***

QUESTION 6



The data indicates that the most favored approach to improving Freemasonry’s public image and communication with the general public is to hold regular public events and open houses. There is also significant support for the idea that no improvement or enhanced communication is necessary. Forming partnerships with social enterprises and community groups and maintaining an active social media presence are also considered important strategies.

Qualitative comments reveal that many respondents see regular public events and open houses as an effective way to demystify Freemasonry and engage with the broader community. These events provide opportunities for non-members to learn about the organization, its values, and its activities, thereby fostering a more positive and informed public perception. Additionally, forming partnerships with social enterprises and community groups is viewed as a means of enhancing Freemasonry’s visibility and demonstrating its commitment to community service.

“Spread light. Be a lighthouse to all people in these dark times.”

“Bring into light all that is secret that isn’t necessary to the continuation of the organization. The secrecy will ALWAYS draw skepticism.”

An active social media presence is also highlighted as a critical strategy for modernizing communication and reaching a wider audience. Social media platforms can be used to promote activities, share educational content, and engage with both members and the general public. However, some respondents believe that Freemasonry’s image does not require improvement, suggesting that the organization should focus on its internal goals and maintain its traditional approach to communication.

“Form partnerships with social enterprises and community groups to enhance our visibility and impact.”

“Collaborating with community groups can help show our commitment to service and improve our public image.”

“Active social media presence to promote activities and events.”

“We need to use social media more effectively to share our activities and engage with the public.”

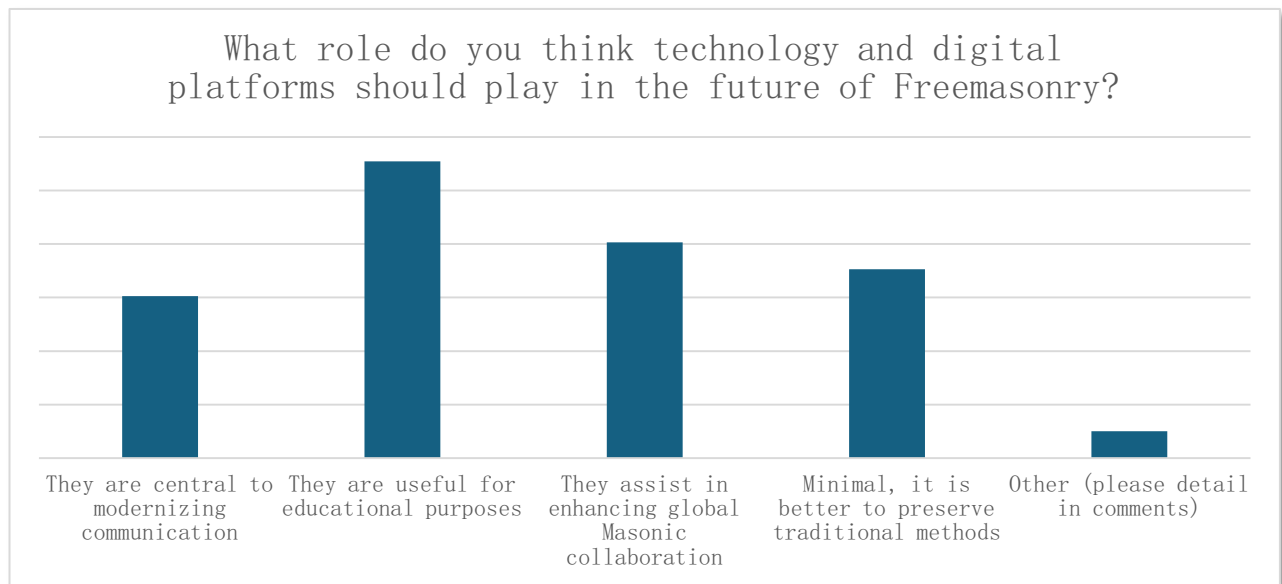
Overall, the primary strategies identified for improving Freemasonry’s public image and communication include holding regular public events and open houses, forming partnerships with social enterprises and community groups, and maintaining an active social media presence. These strategies aim to enhance the organization’s visibility, promote its values, and foster a more positive public perception while balancing the need to preserve its traditions.

No Need for Image Improvement or Enhanced Communication:

“There is no need for image improvement or enhanced communication.”

“The true secrets of Freemasonry can only be discovered by being a Freemason. They aren’t something that can be explained; they have to be experienced.”

QUESTION 7



The data indicates that respondents view technology and digital platforms as primarily useful for educational purposes. Enhancing global Masonic collaboration is also considered an important role for technology. Modernizing communication is seen as central by 30% of respondents, while 35% believe that technology should play a minimal role, emphasizing the preservation of traditional methods.

Qualitative comments reveal that many respondents see the educational potential of technology as a significant benefit for Freemasonry. Digital platforms can facilitate the sharing of Masonic knowledge, provide access to educational resources, and support the continuous learning and development of members. This educational focus is seen as a way to enhance the overall understanding and engagement of members with the craft.

“Well-sorted-out educational programs are well overdue. Make something countrywide. Make it necessary to advance in grand lines to do mandatory education.”

“Incorporation of all methods should be and can be utilized and still stay steadfast within the boundaries of what is considered part and parcel of the craft.”

Enhancing global Masonic collaboration is another important role identified for technology. Respondents highlight that digital platforms can connect members from different regions, fostering a sense of global brotherhood and allowing for the exchange of ideas and best practices. This global collaboration is viewed as a way to strengthen the Masonic community and promote unity among members worldwide.

Modernizing communication is also seen as a crucial function of technology. Digital platforms can be used to streamline communication within lodges, making it easier to organize events, share information, and keep members informed. However, there is also a notable concern about preserving traditional methods, with some respondents advocating for a minimal role for technology to ensure that the core values and rituals of Freemasonry are maintained without dilution.

“No getting away from the very fast forward movement to digital, whether communication or currency it’s here and now. If one doesn’t move forward then stagnation will encompass and all will be left behind and lose out.”

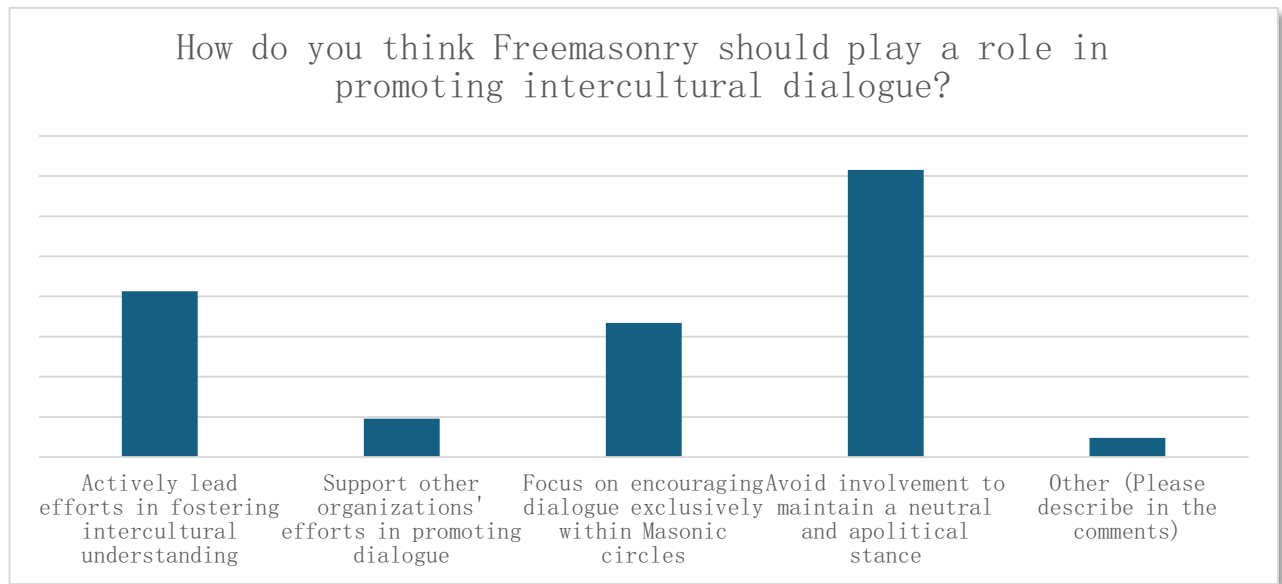
“All of the above options but communication and education above all.”

Overall, the primary roles identified for technology and digital platforms in the future of Freemasonry include educational purposes, enhancing global collaboration, and modernizing communication. These roles aim to leverage the benefits of technology while balancing the need to preserve the traditional aspects of the craft.

“If liberty is your pursuit the digital world is to be avoided.”

“The old ways should be the cornerstone for the new future build.”

QUESTION 8



The data indicates that the most favored approach for Freemasonry in promoting intercultural dialogue is to avoid involvement to maintain a neutral and apolitical stance. Actively leading efforts in fostering intercultural understanding is also considered important, with 41% of respondents indicating this as a key role. Focusing on encouraging dialogue exclusively within

Masonic circles is supported by 33% of respondents, while supporting other organizations’ efforts in promoting dialogue is only favored by 9.5% of respondents.

“We don’t involve ourselves in politics nor talk about it in lodge was what I was taught. We are brothers all regardless of our political affiliations.”

Qualitative comments reveal that many respondents see the importance of maintaining a neutral stance to avoid political and cultural conflicts. This approach is believed to align with Freemasonry’s principles of inclusivity and brotherhood, ensuring that the organization remains a safe space for all members regardless of their background. However, there is also significant support for Freemasonry taking an active role in fostering intercultural dialogue. Respondents highlight the potential for Freemasonry to lead by example, promoting understanding and cooperation across different cultures and societies.

“Masons avoid the discussion of religion and politics inside and within the lodge. But Masons can actively pursue dialogue outside the lodge.”

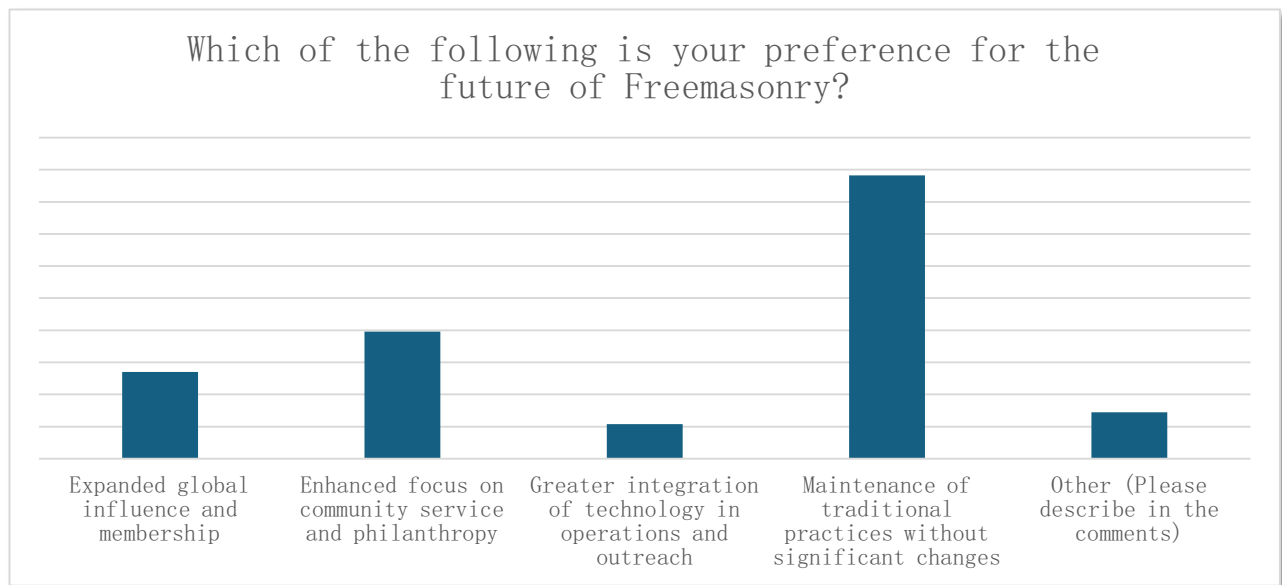
Some respondents prefer focusing dialogue efforts exclusively within Masonic circles, suggesting that internal discussions can strengthen bonds among members and enhance the organization’s internal cohesion. Supporting other organizations’ efforts in promoting dialogue is seen by some as a practical approach, allowing Freemasonry to contribute to broader initiatives without taking a direct leadership role.

Overall, the primary strategies identified for Freemasonry in promoting intercultural dialogue include maintaining a neutral stance, actively leading efforts in fostering understanding, encouraging internal dialogue, and supporting external initiatives. These strategies reflect a balance between preserving traditional values and engaging with contemporary societal needs.

“Understanding is the cornerstone of every learning done correctly.”

“Bring The Craft out of the lodge and show that equality & being on the level is for everyone.”

QUESTION 9



The data indicates that the most favored preference for the future of Freemasonry is the maintenance of traditional practices without significant changes, with 88% of respondents

supporting this view. Enhanced focus on community service and philanthropy is also considered important. Expanded global influence and membership is favored by 27% respondents, while greater integration of technology in operations and outreach is preferred by 11%.

“Keep making Good Men Better. Do that and all else follows.”

Qualitative comments reveal that many respondents value the preservation of traditional practices as essential to maintaining the core identity and values of Freemasonry. These respondents believe that the historical rituals, symbols, and customs are what define the organization and distinguish it from other groups. There is a strong sentiment that any significant changes could dilute the essence of Freemasonry and compromise its integrity.

However, there is also considerable support for enhancing community service and philanthropy. Respondents highlight the importance of Freemasonry’s role in contributing to society and helping those in need. This focus on charitable activities is seen as a way to demonstrate the organization’s values in action and to build a positive public image.

“To get away from it being a social club and to effectively build the spiritual structure that it was intended for.”

“The current method needs revival. It needs a rekindling.”

Expanding global influence and membership is another preference, with respondents seeing the potential for Freemasonry to reach a wider audience and foster international brotherhood. This expansion is viewed as a way to strengthen the organization and ensure its longevity.

“Focus on Community Building so more Men will want to become!”

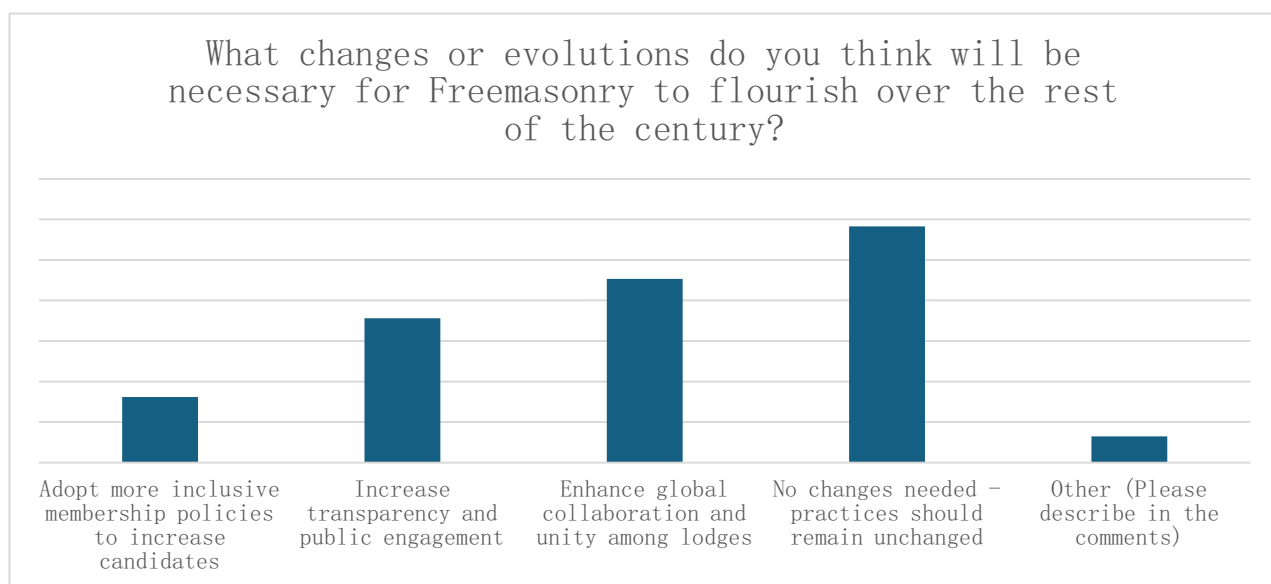
“Enhanced focus on community service and philanthropy.”

The integration of technology in operations and outreach, while less favored, is still seen as important by some respondents. These respondents believe that modernizing communication and administrative processes can help Freemasonry stay relevant and accessible to younger generations.

“A fraternity for the 21st century man needs to comprehend the limited time of a father working 60+ hours a week. When we meet we must focus on value-added activities.”

Overall, the primary preferences for the future of Freemasonry include maintaining traditional practices, enhancing community service and philanthropy, expanding global influence and membership, and integrating technology. These preferences reflect a balance between preserving the core values of the organization and adapting to contemporary societal needs.

QUESTION 10



The data indicates that the most favored change for Freemasonry to flourish over the rest of the century is to make no changes, with practices remaining unchanged, supported by 58% of respondents. Enhancing global collaboration and unity among lodges is also considered important, with 45% of respondents indicating this preference. Increasing transparency and public engagement is favored by 35% of respondents, while adopting more inclusive membership policies to increase candidates is preferred by just 16%.

“Freemasonry is not a club open to the public for a reason. It must be sought out by the individual. The teacher will appear when the student is ready.”

Qualitative comments reveal that many respondents value the preservation of current practices and believe that Freemasonry should maintain its traditional approach. These respondents feel that the core values, rituals, and structures are integral to the identity of Freemasonry and should not be altered. There is a strong sentiment that stability and continuity are crucial for the organization’s future.

However, there is also considerable support for enhancing global collaboration and unity among lodges. Respondents see the potential for a more interconnected global Masonic community, where lodges can share resources, ideas, and best practices. This collaboration is viewed as a way to strengthen the organization and promote a sense of international brotherhood.

Increasing transparency and public engagement is another suggested change, with respondents highlighting the need for Freemasonry to be more open and accessible to the public. This increased transparency is seen as a way to combat misconceptions and improve the public image of the organization, making it more appealing to potential new members.

“If you voted no changes needed...you must be ok with it dying...which it is.”

“It is in a sense dying. That is because it has become stagnant because there are so many lodges that have refused to do anything different than they were taught to.”

Adopting more inclusive membership policies is also mentioned, though with less emphasis. Respondents suggest that by being more inclusive, Freemasonry can attract a broader range of candidates, thus ensuring its growth and relevance in a diverse and changing society.

Overall, the primary changes identified for Freemasonry to flourish include maintaining current practices, enhancing global collaboration, increasing transparency and public engagement, and adopting more inclusive membership policies. These changes reflect a balance between preserving the core values of the organization and adapting to contemporary societal needs.

“There is almost no visibility of the lodge in my area. The only reason I knew the lodge was there is because I serviced it on my route one day.”

“I personally would like to be able to visit the lodges near me, say open days perhaps with written requests to do so. A little insight and a peek at history.”

“Please allow visits. Please have teaching days to non-brothers sincerely interested in learning.”

RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

Key Recommendations

Enhance Educational Programs:

Develop comprehensive educational initiatives within Freemasonry to deepen members' understanding of rituals, symbols, and philosophies.

Regularly include presentations and discussions on Masonic topics during meetings to encourage continuous learning and engagement.

Increase Transparency and Public Engagement:

Organize regular public events and open houses to demystify Freemasonry and engage with the broader community.

Leverage social media platforms to promote activities, share educational content, and enhance public perception.

Preserve Traditional Practices While Adapting to Modern Needs:

Maintain the core rituals and traditions of Freemasonry to preserve its unique identity and historical significance.

Consider updating language and shortening ceremonies to make them more accessible and practical for modern members.

Foster Global Collaboration and Unity Among Lodges:

Enhance global collaboration by facilitating communication and resource-sharing between lodges worldwide.

Promote international brotherhood and unity through joint events, conferences, and collaborative projects.

Adopt More Inclusive Membership Policies:

Develop strategies to attract a broader range of candidates, including younger individuals and diverse demographics.

Create opportunities for non-members to learn about Freemasonry through open days and educational initiatives.

Other Items to Note

Balance Between Secrecy and Public Engagement:

Ensure that while increasing transparency, the essential elements of secrecy that define Freemasonry's identity are preserved.

Clarify the distinction between necessary secrecy and openness about the organization's values and community contributions.

Utilize Technology for Enhanced Communication and Education:

Implement digital platforms for virtual meetings, online education, and global communication. Ensure that technology is used to complement, not replace, traditional methods and practices.

Emphasize Community Service and Philanthropy:

Strengthen Freemasonry's role in community service and charitable activities to demonstrate its values in action.

Form partnerships with social enterprises and community groups to enhance visibility and impact.

Promote Intercultural Dialogue:

Actively lead or support efforts in fostering intercultural understanding and cooperation both within and outside the Masonic community.

Encourage internal dialogue on cultural diversity to strengthen bonds among members.

Maintain Stability and Continuity:

While adopting necessary changes, ensure that the stability and continuity of Freemasonry's core principles and structures are maintained.

Balance the need for modernization with the preservation of traditions that define the organization.

These recommendations aim to enhance the relevance, engagement, and public perception of Freemasonry while preserving its core values and traditions.

DATA TABLE

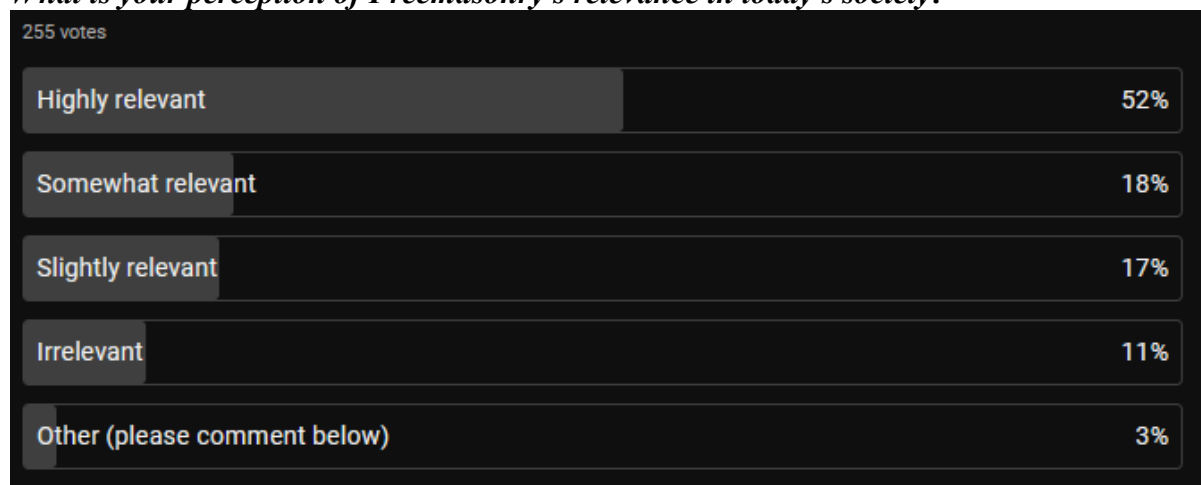
QUESTION	Responses
What is your perception of Freemasonry's relevance in today's society?	
Highly relevant	133
Somewhat relevant	46
Slightly relevant	43
Irrelevant	28
Other (please comment below)	8
What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Freemasonry today?	
Cultural relevance	31
Technological adaptation	15
Public perception	67
Membership decline	134
Other (provide detail in comments)	13
In what ways do you think Freemasonry can adapt its rituals and ceremonies to be more engaging for the modern member while still preserving its core principles?	
Incorporate technology	31
Shorten ceremonies	4
Update language	22
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Other (please detail in the comments)	15
How important do you think the maintenance of the secrecy and purity of the rituals of Freemasonry is from a 21st century perspective?	
Very important - It is a fundamental landmark of the Craft	181
Somewhat important - It adds to the uniqueness of the Craft	23
Of little importance - It's the moral lessons that count	7
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Other (Please explain in the comments)	7
What do you think that Freemasonry's role in contributing to community and global issues in the 21st century should be?	
Leading charitable and educational initiatives	105
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Other (Add your own suggestion in the comments)	15
How do you think Freemasonry can improve its public image and communication with the general public?	
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Form partnerships with social enterprises and community groups	22
There is no need for image improvement or enhanced communication	51
Other (please detail in the comments)	8
What role do you think technology and digital platforms should play in the future of Freemasonry?	
They are central to modernizing communication	30
They are useful for educational purposes	55
They assist in enhancing global Masonic collaboration	40
Minimal, it is better to preserve traditional methods	35
Other (please detail in comments)	5
How do you think Freemasonry should play a role in promoting intercultural dialogue?	
Actively lead efforts in fostering intercultural understanding	41
Support other organizations' efforts in promoting dialogue	10
Focus on encouraging dialogue exclusively within Masonic circles	33
Avoid involvement to maintain a neutral and apolitical stance	72
Other (Please describe in the comments)	5
Which of the following is your preference for the future of Freemasonry?	
Expanded global influence and membership	27
Enhanced focus on community service and philanthropy	40
Greater integration of technology in operations and outreach	11
Maintenance of traditional practices without significant changes	88
Other (Please describe in the comments)	14
What changes or evolutions do you think will be necessary for Freemasonry to flourish over the rest of the century?	
Adopt more inclusive membership policies to increase candidates	16
Increase transparency and public engagement	36
Enhance global collaboration and unity among lodges	45
No changes needed - practices should remain unchanged	58
Other (Please describe in the comments)	6

INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

QUESTION 1

What is your perception of Freemasonry's relevance in today's society?



In my district in Ontario, Canada. All of our lodges are seeing members returning and also a good number of new members. Young men have a need for the craft, but they don't have the slightest understanding of what it is and what it has to offer. Keep learning, keep sharing, and the craft will show its true relevance in today time. Bro. Aaron Dunphy St. John's #82 Paris, Ontario.

As a non-Mason, I've always been drawn to the craft from a young boy passing by the local lodge not knowing what goes on in the very ominous building. And learning more about the craft starting at the conspiracy theories then the history and the notable masons of the past. I believe Lodges around the world will see membership numbers grow thanks to content creators such as yourself. I am looking forward to petitioning my local lodge and continuing my spiritual journey and growing as a man. Keep up the hard work and thank you for all you do. If the participants take the craft seriously and respect the craft and the oath. The craft's relevancy will return.

Couldn't have said it better

As a EA mason I believe it is highly relevant in this new age, I'm a day lodge member in perth and deliberately joined knowing this particular lodge would be full of senior members of our craft, it's amazing for a younger man like My self to sit and conversate and learn from these men and it's beautiful to see the love and respect these men have for each other in an age where men of my generation don't care for such things and would rather hide away with there face buried in there phones. All men of my generation need this guidance from our older brethren I believe and masonray is the perfect place to receive said guidance and we get to learn some cool ritual and wear some cool regalia as part of the deal.

Things are still picking up after COVID restrictions. People got disconnected and there is a threshold when you forget so much of the practice it feels cumbersome to attend. Much work was made locally to help brothers feel welcome. There is a steady influx and is looking stable. In my corner of the world at least. (Sweden) BTW Terra Masonica's two part movie Around the world in 80 lodges is now available for free on Youtube.

Highly relevant but I am a female not a Mason, but still enjoy the sharing and teachings from learned wise people. On this particular channel FTQ I have only ever found kindness promoted, sharing learning growing helping and protectiveness through community giving and sharing which, if these qualities could be found in the so called mainstream in the abundance I have found here, the world and all beings would be in a far better position indeed. I love the mix of

esoteric and exoteric, the papers, books quotes, everything. Immersive. So yes relevant today, more than ever.

It has the potential to be relevant (as does, say, the UN), but as on the individual level, we get out of it what we put into it.

Think a lot of brothers are optimistic about the crafts relevance. If your lodge was shut down for whatever reason,, your community would keep moving forward. It isn't critical. In earlier years I think lodge played a bigger part in community organizing but these days it's much less so.

It is for those of us who are aware and respondent to the issues we hold at heart. I wish it was more important.

Relevant to the older gentlemen, as their long participation provides implicit meaning to life, but increasing irrelevant to younger gentlemen who are struggling to make sense of the world. Some may argue against this using their personal and anecdotal experiences but the decline in acquisitions and retention rates speak for themselves - these reflect declining perceptions of value and relevance to life and the afterlife. Too much emphasis on ceremonial, which is easy to evaluate, rather than development of the man, family and community (and raising money is nowhere near as difficult as community building). Today's society needs Freemasonry more than ever but not in its current form.

The craft is stil very much alive and these times are what we were duly and truly prepared for What is A.L. stand for in 6th millennium AL?

Anno Lucis.

Masonry today is in a far different environment than after the Second World War when was in its prime. Young people today want things to happen in seconds. The principals of free masonry are time less. To the right man free masonry could have a lot of relevance. Also, the amount of charitable work has a lot of relevance.

QUESTION 2

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Freemasonry today?



I'd be happy for the membership to stay at the level it is now but not too drop any further. I'm only new and am an EA but for me I remember the moment I decided to try and join the craft and it wasn't so much a hard process but a long process and one in which they didn't give a whole lot of hint that I was going to get in or not so when the day came that the secretary informed me of My initiation I was over the moon and surprised at the same time so for me it is a special fraternity that not everyone will get a chance to be in and I'm one of the lucky ones that gets that chance. It's and honour and a privilege to be a mason and I kinda like it being it's

own little club. I could be completely wrong too as I mentioned I am rather new to the craft, I'd dare say some of the older men amongst us would have a different.

Firstly, go back to who we are Non religious within the Lodge but men of faith, non political, accepting of all races, cultures, ethnicities, to ensure we stay on the level. Bring culture into the equation takes us from the level path. The mood and views of society change like the wind and just as quick. Freemasonry has lasted this long because it is true to its foundation. Sadly some Lodges in the world modify the Ritual due to possible sensitivities, they to me are no-longer true Lodges.

Technology, yes so long as it does not change ritual. Public perception, be active in the community and be proud of your Freemasonry, do not over sell or say the usual preamble if it is not on offer in your lodge. Decline of membership, faith is on the decline, but men seeking guidance is growing. We chase younger members, if your under 74 you are a potential younger member than me. On the level means all acceptable ages, that is over 18 years. Lodge education on freemasonry is a must. True understanding of each Ritual is a must. Ability to recite does not mean understanding. Practice the working tools in your own life. See, simple. Membership will decline to the point where there will be insufficient resources to sustain the bureaucracy of modern Freemasonry as well as maintain the noble temples inherited from the past. Things change slowly then all at once. At the point of system criticality, Freemasonry will likely fragment into nothingness or morph into something unrecognizable. The biggest challenge facing Freemasonry: change in the outside world is accelerating much faster than within, and at the interfaces: its aging members have neither the mental, physical or financial resources (nor time) to develop and deliver a compelling vision for the future to avoid collapse. And yet there is always hope: we can't see what awaits around the winding stairs: the greatest monuments of history have fallen to barbarous forces and the ravages of time, yet Freemasonry still survived. It endured because the mysteries of Masonry were forever firmly lodged somewhere sacred in the heart of men: living stones in the architects eternal temple.

Excellent summation. As a younger Mason I also concur that all of the property and bureaucracy will soon sink the grand lodges. The elderly members are not open to any talk of restructuring, so I don't bother. Many of the most dedicated Masons live for the bureaucracy and the pomp, so the only thing that will bring dramatic change is the hard reality of lack of funding. There are too many appendant bodies and lodges for too few members. Younger members don't have the time to commit because we're working longer hours for less money than the boomer generation, and our working wives are very jealous of our time. When we show up it's often a meeting for the sake of a meeting. There are a few nerds who have every ritual and lecture memorized but couldn't expound on a single esoteric subject. There are others like myself who have read the entirety of Morals and Dogma who will never be countenanced. Survival, to me, looks like a return to the mysteries and a shedding of excessive property and meaningless meetings. The ritual used to be learned over a pint of Ale in the rented attic of a tavern. It was fun. A true man's club.

Lodges are closing all around the world, mostly due to how public perception and conspiracy nonsense has created an inability to attract the younger, faster paced, tech-inclined crowd. Virtual lodges are a step in the right direction, but cannot reasonably be properly tiled, which may be a good thing. I've always advocated that "Every Cowan and eavesdropper is merely showing INTEREST, a step towards becoming a Brother." Dispelling myths, conspiracies, and misconceptions should be more of a duty of Masons online and IRL, however always remembering to Conceal.

Public perception that I witness is still that of fear, and possible misinformation. Often from sources not directly from practise, but assumption. The biggest challenge is not one single point but several in rank. Public perception, through technological access made easier. This can manifest in misinformation developing incorrect perception and result in falling membership..

This on turn leads to a fall away from the adherence yo correct behaviour and moral code which in turn leads to the manufacture of misinformation and fear of the now unknown
Lack of focus on enlightenment (NSW/Aus)

Keep tradition, I didn't join it because it was modern, I joined because it's keeping the old world alive

Hear hear! I was attracted to join because I wanted to get back to traditional values. I like that fact that we are smartly dressed, shoes shined! I love the genuine care and respect for fellow brothers. In the few years I've been in both Craft and RA masonry, I can see a positive change in my outlook on life.

I strongly agree with you brother!!

It should be a school of mysteries.

If you're going to call it masonry, you need to be building something. At some point, it needs to be decided whether Masonry is about building something (ie freedom, in the world, for future generations of humans) or about delisional guys play acting on the basis of partially disclosed practices they do not actually understand.

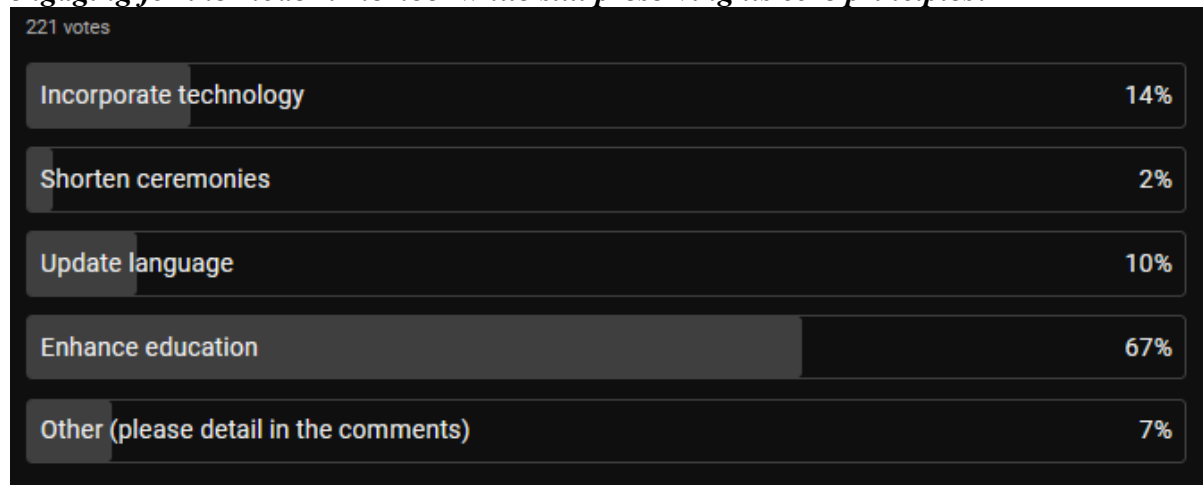
It is about building your own internal temple, that you put into practice by using the working tools as a guide. This can then be viewed by others as they observe you deal with life's situations. If asked how you can manage the hurdles in life say Freemasonry working tools.

Cultural relevance would fix the membership problem.

Personal commitment to upholding the values and standards of Freemasonry.

QUESTION 3

In what ways do you think Freemasonry can adapt its rituals and ceremonies to be more engaging for the modern member while still preserving its core principles?



The learning, memorization and bonding is great. Ciphers and squirrely stuff is great. Speed is ok, I mean nothing is slow aside from "repeating/recounting" / business / charity stuff (busy people have loads of money they don't need to do simple cheap charity stuff, so utilize modern fundraising techniques and parties). Love titles and everything is good. We also fail to know how to talk about masonry to OUTSIDERS. That is key. We lack the language skills. We don't know all the things from some past masons and what they KNEW. What's missing is the dead art of symbolism. The teaching of symbols. The story-telling and narratives. People are afraid of controversy so they avoid story-telling nowadays. Lack of free-form talk in some places can lead to less discussion of history, philosophy, and symbols. Some people don't even know much about masonic symbols aside from the 3-4 of them.

I'm 43 and a Mason of 2-years. I find the ritual extremely engaging. The more I see it the better it gets. And the more of it I take on and present the deeper my understanding. Ritual is

knowledge that is passed in the bardic tradition. It needs to be performed in order for it to fully make sense.

Agreed

Not being a Mason, but I do enjoy the sharing here. The reason I chose "other" is because I'm my opinion from outside the lodge fraternity, but knowing some brothers, I would need to choose more than one answer. If the rituals are as ancient as told they should not be changed as they have been habitually worked through and repeated over and over again thus increasing their power, enlightenment and educating properties. All rituals performed repeatedly for centuries or millennia are. Modern ways of educating people, like me, such as through this excellent channel helps. I note one brother in comments states Masonic families assist in their support of the individual, and this surely helps all of the members eventually, especially if there is a huge familial support system. Use modern technology to hold some meetings throughout the year (not all just some), it is possible to reach tens of thousands across the world for many inspirational mentors and coaches. Look at Tony Robbins or Master Stephen Co, just two. Working in different ways, sticking to the original rituals, blending the education into the modern world ways for very busy people across the globe at one time! Hope this helps and does not offend.

4. 1 - Every meeting should have short presentation on some aspect of Freemasonry (e.g. interpretations of symbols). The brethren would be encouraged to provide any unique perspectives on the presentation topic: to generate wisdom from the collective knowledge of the lodge. A table would be allocated in the South for brethren to continue discussions after the meeting if they wished to discuss more. Every brother would be expected to provide a regular presentation (unless physically incapable). 2. Every brother should be expected to visit another lodge each year and give a short report in their lodge on return. 3. Officers should serve/swap once as an officer in a meeting of another lodge in their year. 4. Each lodge required to collectively visit a different lodge once per year. 5. Every 25 years, the language of the Workings should be updated to a modern equivalent to make memorization easier and less daunting for new brethren. 6. Secure digital versions (video, audio only) of the Workings should be available for learning and revision - ritual continues to decline in most lodges as the mental abilities of experienced brethren fades and new brethren are unable to fill the gap with competence. Writing is not the preferred mode of learning for younger generations who may also have less free time than previous generations with changing expectations on parenting. 7. The master should stand at the door of the lodge before and after the meeting and thank each brother for their attendance. 8. The master should take on a new member as a mentor to understand how they and the lodge could be more engaging. 9. A new ritual: each midday, brethren should pause for one minute to contemplate their brothers and, if appropriate, call those that may need their support. Hopefully some of these ideas are of value ...

Tricky, going through the language is in which we use is difficult when you're not used to speaking that way in everyday life, and education on what your learning could be very impactful as well. I'll be raised March 30th. I hope to be involved with rituals either being in the line or conducting.

From an American perspective. And I say this anonymously. Do you want new brothers and to keep some good ones? Ya know, the involved ones in their 30s-40s? With families? Less is more. Less is more indeed. Less titles, less meetings, and less speeches and ego-ing. Make what we have golden. Make more table lodges for those who want to get together frequently. Make the charity worthwhile. Wanna turn off a bunch of people who have busy schedules? Have them sell a bunch of peanut butter bars for less than they make in an hour. This will require planning; our leadership shouldn't care. Don't make people sit there 2 times a month for some visiting deputy who is gonna just talk about himself. Institute tutoring. Institute standards. Make it cool. Don't make it burdensome. Make our education count. Ditch the tallmudders; they are of the chaff.

Hmmm that's a tough one because for me it's the one thing we should be preserving about the craft is its rituals, they are as old as the craft itself and shouldn't be messed with in my opinion. If I wanted an abridged version of freemasonry I'd just look on youtube and listen to audio books about it, one of the first points made to me about freemasonry is that it's not for everyone, be that because you have a criminal record or your just into that kind of stuff. I'm not sure what the answer is really but I don't think reducing it to a lions club with a bit of funny acting thrown in is the answer either. I give My opinion with a bit of trepidation as I am only an EA and it doesn't hold much weight. I'd love to hear what the old boys of our craft think?? Am I in the wrong?

The first three options absolutely not !!!

Remove the mid century innovation of catechism memorization and initiation slow-down as well as the now unnecessary ciphers and move on. Plenty of appendant bodies read straight from clear text in their work and no one has died from the "horror." It's all on the Internet already. What matters is the practice of building discipline and integrity within individuals as they keep and preserve the knowledge within the fraternity not on actually keeping it "secret," so stop pretending like it's a secret. For goodness sake at this point I would bet money that in every Grand Lodge office there is at least one woman or non member man who knows all the "secrets," as it's pretty much inevitable.

I have brain damage, so it's kind of hard for me to memorize their things, so I just study at myself listening to lectures

Funny thing is my family helped form the masons. My family built the first structural wooden framed house in America and it was on a mason plantation.

Online lol

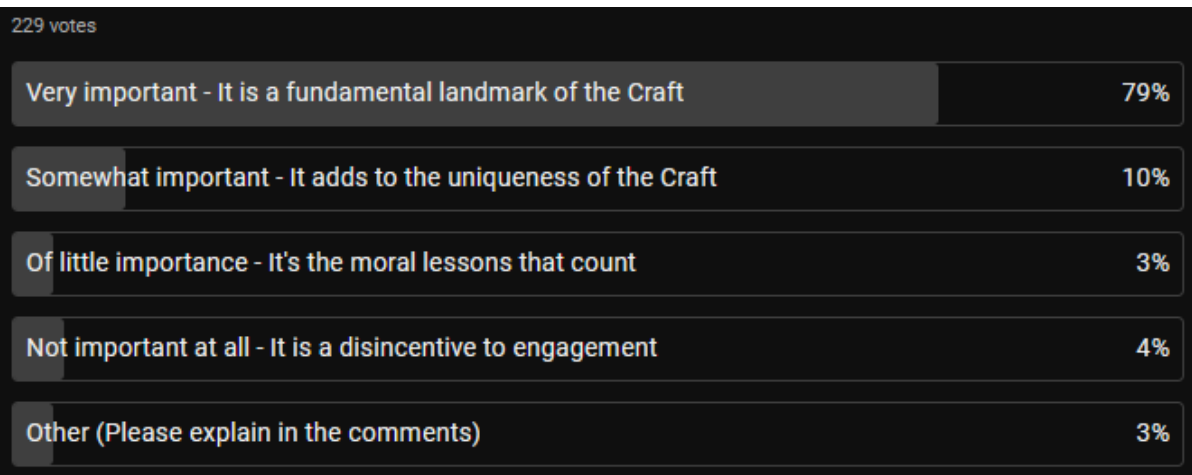
They should repent

I am not sure the rituals are what should be adapted. For me they are the appeal, their timelessness and old fashioned style and symbolism. Adding too much tech would ruin that for me. The rest is nice, but they are what matters most. I care not if they take one or two or three hours with the meal as the evening is pretty much used up either way. I realise that the language must make sense so updating it every 50 years or so is perhaps good. I think involving the new adepts immediately in the rituals and thus getting to know people. We have a mentor system which is beneficial as well. Encouraging brothers to be a mentor and to bring in new blood should be an active part in the leadership. Caring for brothers, checking on them. I agree with what was said by Compasspointadministrator: It must be easy and no more demanding than what is reasonable for a man in midst of life with all the priorities that follows. In this tech can facilitate with synchronising what goes on in different lodges and offer various alternatives, extra lunches or discussions. Now, we have some study circles that start already with newcomers to teach what goes on in the rituals and what it means for improving oneself and ones life. That is my number one suggestion. Also offer library nights to encourage further study in the degrees. I would say that family gatherings are important as well. A promasonic family helps immensely.

shorten ceremonies (because it will lead to further developments).

QUESTION 4

How important do you think the maintenance of the secrecy and purity of the rituals of Freemasonry is from a 21st century perspective?



Rituals should be kept a secret until the candidate is ready to receive the light.

The truth is, anyone with a spare 20\$ can own Duncan's Monitor. Or find the ritual for free online. Secrecy is a quaint notion. Even the "purity" of the ritual is a phantom given the differences that exist from grand lodge to grand lodge. The most important aspect of masonry, according to Pike, was its symbolism. Anyone who has developed a full spectrum comprehension of masonry's symbols has gained more than any rote memorization could impart to him.

It's very important. The "secrets" are knowledge open to those who seek and not for the ignorant. Existence would be pointless if all sought truth. Only those who do are on the true path of growth. Even being told the "secrets" doesn't mean they'd be understood. It takes years of contemplation to understand there are no real secrets, only knowledge accessible to those who commit to all that Freemasonry is and stands for

It varies on a spectrum. I find that if one wants to live the experience, some of the secrecy and purity is important, yet with that secrecy will always come those who speak ill of it. When it comes to the moral teachings of Masonry, keeping moral lessons a secret only stokes the flames of hatred against Masonry. If the lessons were made public knowledge and taught openly, it would draw less skepticism and probably more members

Secrecy is important. What I have an issue with in the question is the "purity" of the ritual statement. What is the meaning of "purity of ritual" because rituals have evolved. Preston's ≠ Webb's ≠ Cross ≠ Hemming's. Those four men's lectures account for the majority used in the Anglosphere, but don't account for the Modern's lineages that had separated prior to the adoption of Preston's Lectures by the Grand Lodge of England. Studying & traveling will give evidence of it. There is the Modern Rite as practiced in Netherlands, Belgium, France, Swedish Rite, Zinnendorf, Rectified Scottish Rite, Adonhiramite, Trinosophe Rational Rite. Then hybrids such as the Eclectic, Schröder, Grand Lodge of the Sun, Reuß OTO, Steiner Misraïm Dienst, Memphis Rite, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite (Fondeville, Willaume, Foulhouze-Dufau-Atwood, Covadonga, Folger, Pike). There is much diversity in rituals, especially once you travel outside the Anglosphere.

My 2 cents. It is essential for the pedagogy. If you know in advance, you will not face the unknown and thus not face yourself and is bereft of your single one opportunity to experience that degree from the perspective of the recipient. For the same reason the rituals should be kept very strict. There is no second chance to make that impression. Pure, as in strictly and well performed rituals I assume, has a secondary effect of keeping the officiants interchangeable if needed and a cause of strong bonding and cohesion among the officers. There will always be flavours in voices, emphasis on certain or other words, pace etc, but that is quite enough as far as differences go.

It's important for the individual to have inner dialogue and sincerity. The "Secrecy" is self imposed and builds character of a chivalrous nature. I believe therefore it is beneficial to both the Brotherhood and the Brother himself. Cheers from USA~

Ritual is a cornerstone of every just and perfect Lodge.

The words themselves carry meaning. Truth is beheld differently to different people. If cell phones existed when EA was being written, surely the obligation would have something about digital communication. They are a product of their time but communicate something timeless. We should focus on educating brothers on the meaning of the rituals. There are some key things that must not be left out. Regularity helps the profane minded brother avoid jacking up any esoteric implications. Unless we have a better way, it's best to protect the meaning. Only when we master the meaning should we consider updating. But we really need to think functionally here and what it is these words represent

Without the secrecy of our rituals and modes of recognition, there is no real allure. Nothing to set Masonry apart without our ritual. It's part of the obligations we take. Pretty much all of our "secrets" can be found easily these days. The point is we as Masons promise we will not reveal them and our Brothers can trust that we will not break that promise, nor reveal their secrets (with certain exceptions of course).

Keeping rituals secret and pure, is part of most ancient traditions or faiths following. I'm not speaking of religion, but of ways of living to purity or as near as one can get being in a human body having to eat sleep and care for family. The purity is usually achieved through repetitiveness in working, wording and will with intention focus and desire. This building on previous energy raised. Those who are ready will find their way to it no matter who or where they are.

It is my humble submission that there are some things that are ineffable and because we emulate nature at our best... we strive to become Maker. We do our best exhibit on earth those traits that are also in heaven...somethings by their very nature are concealed only to be revealed to those that are duly prepared...such is life...friend or foe it is not for one to determine when one is ready to embark on the path for only the creator knows that moment when caterpillar has become the butterfly..."to the east"

The "secrecy" is more of a personal formula for growth. In other words, the idea is for Masons to develop the ability to keep confidences with their individual selves and then with others. "As a Mason I promised to keep the secrets, but I did not promise to care about who found out about them". 🤪

Very relevant, but we need to ensure its relevance is properly maintained

My concerns about ensuring good standards are as follows:

1. Good communication is an essential tool of Freemasonry but as we struggle to memorise the wordings, we degenerate into mumbling our lines. Hence, for Freemasonry to be very relevant we must always speak up, raise our voice, articulate clearly and powerfully - a must for all Masons. Think of Masonic ceremonies as a "play" where the officers involved are there to present a powerfully moving piece of treasured Masonic teaching to the audience.
2. Freemasonry is the only organisation I attend which doesn't use microphones for making our ceremonies clearly understood (for hard of hearing members) in lodge rooms which can be large. For Freemasonry to remain relevant, I see a need collectively to engage every mason in the lodge room in active participation and in following our ceremonies which are mainly based on wordings; hence use microphones wherever possible to connect with everyone, not just the candidate.
3. Our Masonic ceremonies are of vital value, but they are too lengthy. We don't have time to muck around in Freemasonry, time is a more valuable quality than ever, with increasing demands to make the best use of available time at our meetings. Last month, I attended a third-degree ceremony which took three hours to deliver. In my view, this is untenable for the future.

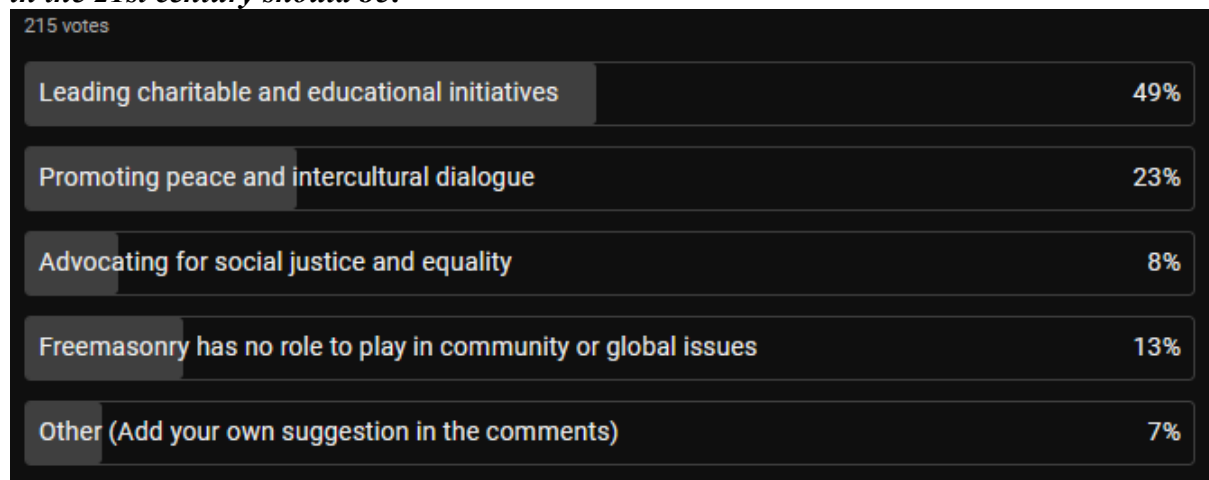
Hence for Freemasonry to be very relevant, ritual needs to be streamlined to take less than 90 minutes, if necessary omitting parts of lesser importance - like the correct way to enter and leave (which can be done later).

4. Another interesting point in regard to the relevance of Freemasonry is the way we use music. Currently we use old-fashioned hymns which are of little value to candidates in the 21st century. There is a wealth of music available these days which is well proven (in time) and which is thousands of times more relevant to men of today. Our Masonic ceremonies need the very best form of musical empowerment, not old tunes of “this will perhaps do category”. We need to give ceremonies a lift. I reject the old-fashioned notions that music should be only nice background, played softly so as to have little disturbance to the delivery of the spoken word. We live in an age where music directly impacts our appreciation of life. Hence for Freemasonry to remain very relevant we need to inject better music.

5. Finally, I note that there seems to be a tradition of using electronic organs as a means of providing musical accompaniment. My recent experience is that these machines are not properly maintained with consequential significant problems in delivery of sound and good sensory effect. I consider there are perhaps two solutions (1) recorded music using a Bluetooth speaker (great idea) or (2) alternative forms of instrument, even guitar playing. Streaming services may be another option, easy to access and apply. This is a simple solution to ensuring Freemasonry retains a high level of relevance to our fellow members, especially the younger generation joining the Craft.

QUESTION 5

What do you think that Freemasonry's role in contributing to community and global issues in the 21st century should be?



Honestly I believe it's a combination of the first two choices. Educational, charitable, peace and humanitarian. They all go hand in hand in my opinion.

Keeping the ancient teachings and knowledge living in the present passing on to the incoming generations, to ensure the knowledge for the future is still available and being taught. Modern community and global issues appear to be erasing a lot of the old ways in favour of new which is not always necessarily beneficial. To know the future is to be steadfast in the present with the knowledge of past as guidance.

I put no role to play ... but i don't believe it should be “no role” but contribute to help however we can. Masonry should be about the craft for the most part, and I, for one, am fed up of it all being about charity now because we are not a charity. We are a fraternity that supports charity and we are losing our identity and becoming a social club/charity. The craft is being lost due to our over contributions to such practices and many of my “old school” Brethren agree. I didn't

become a Mason to join a social club nor charity. I could've done that anywhere else. I do not want to lose what our true fundamentals are which is knowledge

This was a difficult one. I did finally opt for charity and education as I feel this is something individual Masons can have a direct impact on and also that the promotion of peace & intercultural dialogue, and advocating for social justice & equality could (should) fall within the scope of a charitable organisation anyway. I also think it's important that all Masons, under the guidance of their respective Grand Lodges of course, continue with the positive promotion of the craft. Since my initiation I've been shocked to find so many misleading videos, articles, and social media posts about Freemasonry. Much of what I stumble across seems to come out of the USA, but not all by any stretch of the imagination. I didn't realise just how much misinformation is floating around the internet with regards Freemasonry, nor how much of that misinformation began several hundreds of years ago and is still being touted as "truth".

I think an important purpose of the charity within masonry is what it does to the partaker of it. It helps build an identity of a good person that is a responsible member of society, which is what freemasonry produces and the "better than before" men are freemasonry's main contribution to the world. The charity does a lot of good, no doubt, but I think this and other good deeds come from the virtue ethics of the masonic systems. The practical results are in a way a byproduct, but a fantastic one and it would be a moral failure not to make it count as effectively as possible.

Charity that's the greatest. Charity. Sacrifice. Agape "love".

Take a few good men and make them better

Mason's need to build again.

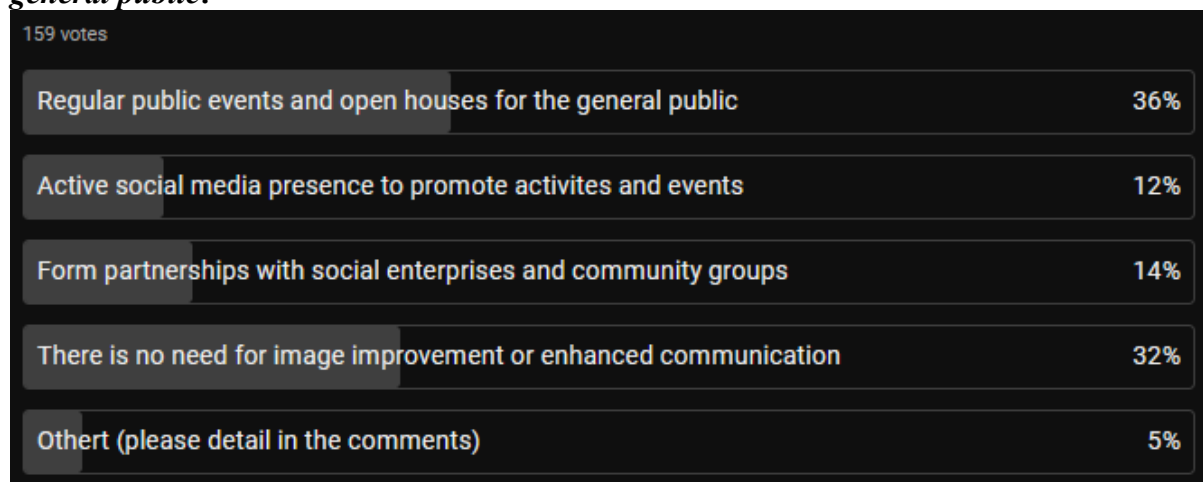
Promote enlightenment and peace.

Hidden mysteries.

Freemasonry has no role to play in community or social issues. Sadly, Freemasonry has lost its footing.

QUESTION 6

How do you think Freemasonry can improve its public image and communication with the general public?



Spread light. Be a lighthouse to all people in these dark times.

I truly wish I had listened to masonic musings no 67 to play upon the square at the time of representing the young man a couple of years ago. This really brings it home to me that the root of your teachings is founded in honesty and morality and brotherhood. So yes modern lodges need to clean out I'm afraid at least over here they do! Wish I had a big brush.

Chose other because - Seriously need to stop those brothers whom I have personally witnessed as have others probably across the world make a show of the fact they are supposed "brothers"

and clique together in workplaces to gain for themselves only. With absolutely no care what happens to other ordinary non Mason colleagues, very blatantly. One injustice I personally had to deal with soon became apparent a group of unscrupulous brothers banded together and used an innocent young male colleague as their scapegoat to avoid serious reprimand/possible job loss. I am a union rep but my higher colleagues at the time were my seniors, but high up brothers as well. It stunned me what had transpired and through the acts of a very high number of workers swore they could never help a Mason. Ever. So weed out the rot. Permanently no matter how high a position they hold. This would be of great assistance. I do know several others whom I know or think are brothers and they are sound. So stop the rot from killing the whole. Just a suggestion Thank you for sharing the teachings you do here. I really appreciate them all.

All of the first 3 answer options provided.

Bring into light all that is secret that isn't necessary to the continuation of the organization. The secrecy will ALWAYS draw skepticism, and especially considering the information is alleged to "make good men better," the secrecy does such valuable information no justice at all.

That's going to do nothing and if you tell the truth unreasonable people will just assume you're lying

@bandit5272 the Truth is meant to divide the reasonable from the unreasonable, and that's kind of the point. Just as Christ mentions "separating wheat from tares," the principle applies here as well. For example, if I play the part of a "goodie two-shoes" to PERFECTION, there will still be those who hate on me. If I be myself to PERFECTION, without any deviation away from conscience, some folk will STILL hate on me. So, rather than live a lie (to live in sin/duality), it is better to be honest/True (Unity) and be oneself so as to find out who is truly one's friend/ally.

@bandit5272 also, how would anyone know it would do nothing?

[@joshuacromley7439](#) because since WAY before our time they knew not to cast their pearls before swine. If people want engagement they will seek it.

@TLDCHWTTOS casting pearls before swine pertains to those who have no ability to comprehend or lack appreciation for wisdom. Some are caught up in believing lies, some hear all sorts of rumors about certain groups and get spooked. Judging the individuals before speaking with them is just as "sinful" as "casting pearls before swine." Again, separating wheat from tares. Some want engagement, seek it, and find some representatives of Masonry to be disconcerting/distasteful. I'm just saying that a storm is brewing, one where the largest religion in the world is growing evermore distasteful towards Masonry. If you want a repeat of WW2, where Masons were imprisoned and executed as political enemies by agents of darkness, fine, but dead Masons can help NOBODY. Even AA, a group started by a Mason and a man influenced by a group associated with Masonry (the Oxford Group), understands the principle of at least making the attempt to enlighten their fellow man. After all, logically speaking, ALL is One. What our fellow man goes through, whether ignorance or suffering, we too shall experience.

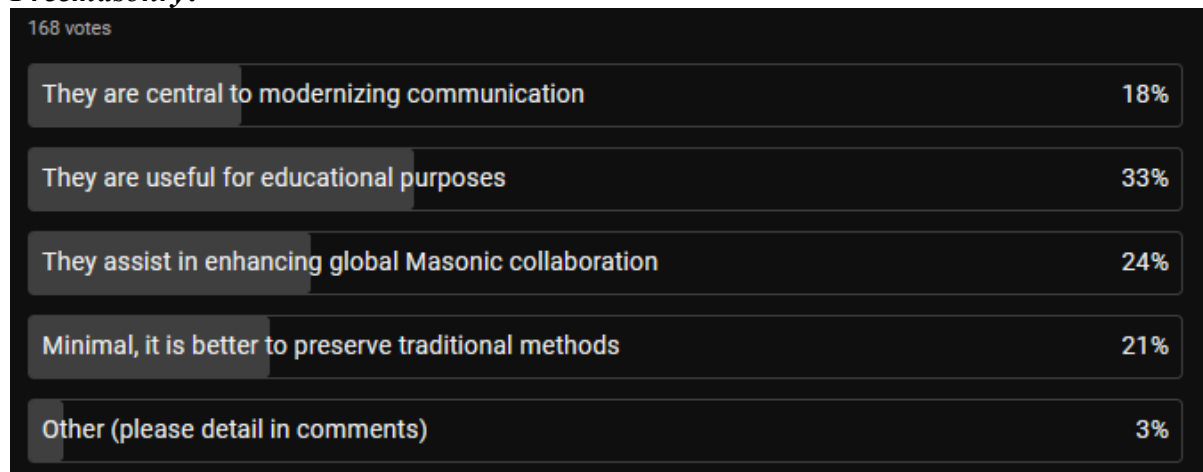
[@joshuacromley7439](#) ok, after all of that emotion, how did you objectively disprove my statement?

The true secrets of Freemasonry can only be discovered by being a Freemason, and not for the reasons you might think. They aren't something that can be explained, they have to be experienced. And because each Brother experiences life in a way that is unique to them, so the secrets of Freemasonry are equally unique to each Brother. This is a difficult concept for many people to grasp. Even more so now we're in an age where information is available on demand. We expect to be able to Google it or watch a TikTok that explains it in 90 seconds or less. In my experience, Freemasonry doesn't work like that. It takes time. Some would say a lifetime. I also strongly believe that Freemasonry isn't for everyone. It's not a one-size fits all organisation. But then, what is?

@TLDCHWTTOS what emotion? Are you asserting that presenting facts is “appeal to emotion?” Such notions are as logically sound as claiming “1=0.” I didn’t set out to “disprove” your statement, simply to generate a thought process where, hopefully, one could see the flawed logic behind assuming that because skeptics haven’t found their way to the organization that it means they qualify as “swine.”
Should be to increase image improvement and enhanced communication within the Masonic movement.

QUESTION 7

What role do you think technology and digital platforms should play in the future of Freemasonry?



If liberty is your pursuit, the digital world is to be avoided.

All of the above options, but communication and education above all

No getting away from the very fast forward movement to digital whether communication or currency it’s here and now. If one doesn’t move forward then stagnation will encompass and all will be left behind and lose out. This does not mean however the old ways be abandoned. On the contrary. They should be the corner stone for the new future build! 🙄

Hi Freemasons and Shriners and the Scottish Right Freemasons in the USA and in the world



From Freemasons and Shriners of ISIS Masonic Temple blue 🟦 lodge 60 Salina Kansas USA we Support All good Standing Freemasons and Shriners and go out to help your Country and City’s and Towns for the Right way Stay in the light 🕯️ ☐ 🕯️ ☐ God is good All Time peace and love and and Support your Family and kids and Stop the Races Thanking we or All one Respect All how Needs be Respected Stay Freedom to All

Well sorted out educational programs are well overdue. Enough with regional GL BS. Make something countrywide. Make it necessary to advance in grand lines to do mandatory education.

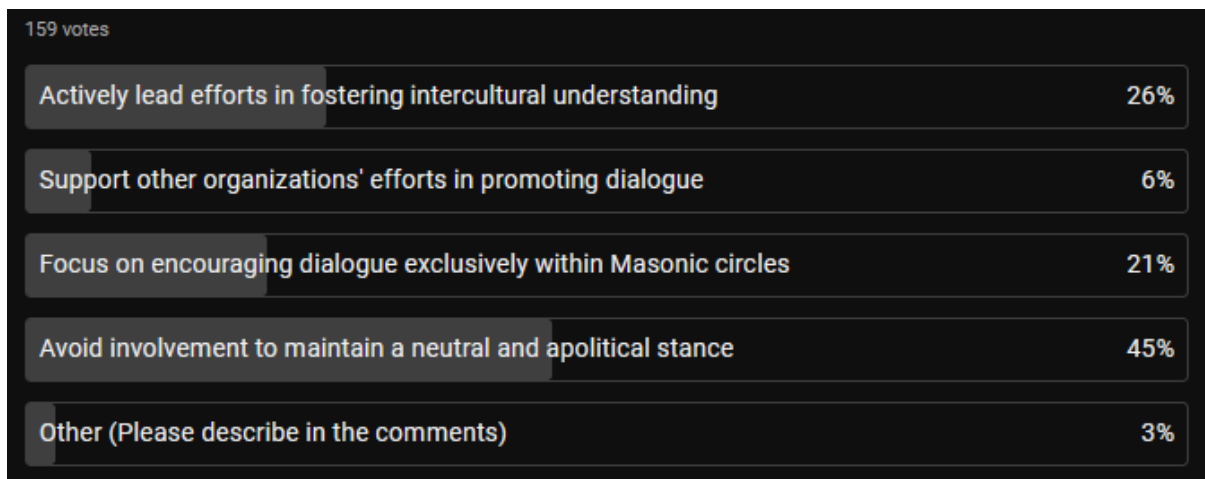
Incorporation of all methods should be and can be utilized and still stay steadfast within the boundaries of what is considered part and parcel the craft...it will forever be a beacon for all who seek and should never be allowed to dwindle, no matter what time it finds itself in...such is its ability to endure. Peace

All except 1.

They assist in enhancing global Masonic collaboration.

QUESTION 8

How do you think Freemasonry should play a role in promoting intercultural dialogue?



Masons avoid the discussion of religion and politics inside and within the lodge. But Masons can actively pursue dialogue outside the lodge. Bring The Craft out of the lodge and show that equality equality & being on the level is for everyone.

Truth, Justice, and Freedom for All.

We don't involve ourselves in politics nor talk about it in lodge was what I was taught? We are brothers all regardless of our political affiliations. Again as I have mentioned in previous questions I am on my an EA so I'm careful with My opinions..

There is no such thing as 'only an EA'. You are a Brother and entitled to the same rights and privileges as any other Mason 😊 Thanks for your comment and keep it up!

Choice 1 because intercultural dialogue does not necessarily mean religious dialogue. Culture is enjoyed by many across the world including those who have no affiliation to a religion.

Intercultural dialogue would fit well into Rabbie Burns lines "A man's a man fur a'that" and "Brothers heed". Understanding is the corner stone of every learning, done correctly,

This is the mire we need to avoid period! It's enough that we look not on the outward qualities of a man but the interior. The nature of man is in the thoughts of his heart and how he is guided by the Grand Architect of the Universe. We already set a beautiful example for others to follow. Politics and religion are forbidden for the reason that this divides men. No matter what it will become politicized by the outside world. It's not ever going to to be an uplifting conversation. There are parties we all know who, that make division their bread and butter. We need to avoid the bog they wallow in.

Stop oppressing and usuring, and rather concentrate doing good deeds.

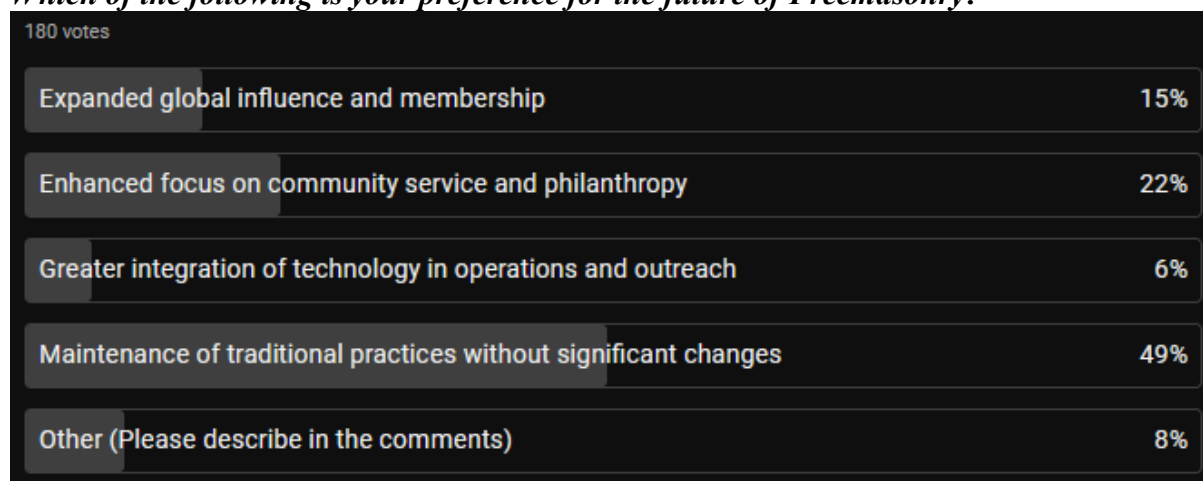
A ordem e as potências maçônicas devem evitar envolvimento com políticas partidárias. Mas o maçom individualmente pode participar ativamente da vida em comunidade, o que pode incluir atividades ou manifestações políticas Assim, o indivíduo maçom trazendo para a discussão pública cultural e política os aprendizados que teve na ordem me parece algo muito auspicioso Sempre falando em seu próprio nome, podendo ou não revelar a condição de maçom. Mas se o fizer, deixar claro que suas opiniões pessoais não refletem uma doutrina compartilhada por todos os maçons (*In order for the Masonic powers to avoid involvement with party politics.*

More or more individually can participate actively in life in the community, or that can include activities or political manifestations Assim, the individual more than trying to discuss the public culture and politics of the learners that you have in the order seems to me something very auspicious Always falando in its own name , podendo ou not reveal a condition of maçom. But please make it clear that your personal opinions do not reflect a doctrine shared by all of you.)

Support other organisations' efforts in promoting dialogue.

QUESTION 9

Which of the following is your preference for the future of Freemasonry?



A fraternity for the 21st century man needs to comprehend the limited time of a father working 60+ hours a week. When we meet, we must focus on value-added activities. A business meeting held for the sole reason of maintaining a charter will not inspire an increase in membership. Large buildings and the multiplication of appendant bodies have stretched men and money so thin that community impact is minimal. Masonry needs a return to the basics of fraternal values and spiritual instruction. It can offer a true sense of belonging to the disaffected 21st century male if it can remake itself.

To get away from it being a social club, and to effectively build the spiritual structure that it was intended for.

Maintaining and further developing of core esoteric teaching embodied in Brotherhood thought the time.

Keep making Good Men Better. Do that and all else follows

Focus on Community Building so more Men will want to become!

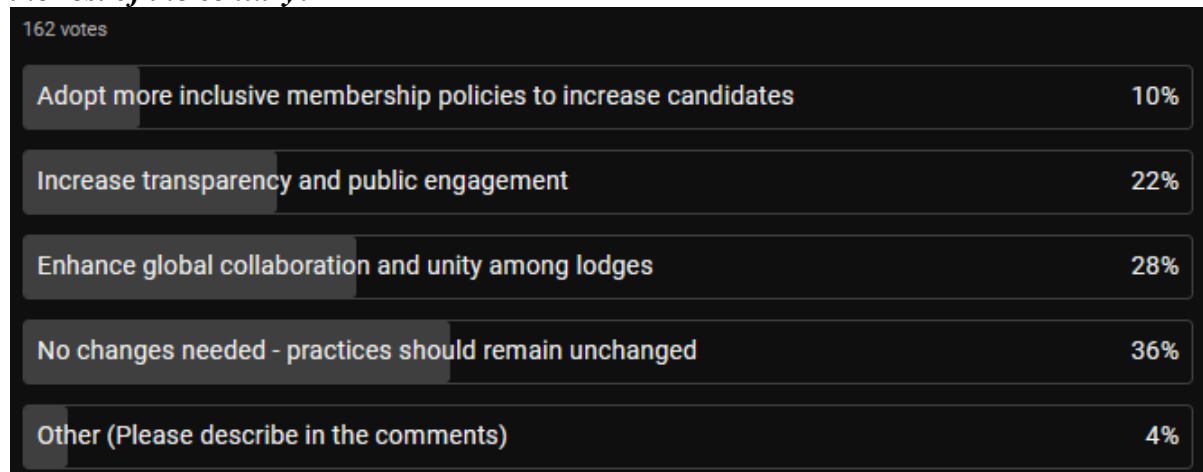
The current method needs revival. It needs a rekindling.

Delving into the hidden mysteries.

Attract a younger demographic in the way the Universities Scheme has succeeded in the UK.
enhanced focus on community service and philanthropy.

QUESTION 10

What changes or evolutions do you think will be necessary for Freemasonry to flourish over the rest of the century?



Spent a lot of time thinking about how to answer this - causes, effects, internal work and external, society and stability - just continue what you're doing. What people need most is stability, so be that, which I think you are.

Voted not sure because... I'm not a lodge member so cannot comment on number 1, 2, or 3 with concrete evidence. I know every chapter of life now no matter who or where one is or lives needs to be able to evolve and grow - or perish slowly. I personally would like to be able to visit the lodges near me, say open days, perhaps with written requests to do so. A little insight and a peek at history. However I am also acutely aware of the nature of the lodges and of why brothers will require to be protective. I am well into the depths of learning esoteric and exoteric teachings, am in awe of many of the preceding teachers male, female and other, and marvel every single day at the knowledge rediscovered again, hidden in plain sight. Please allow visits. Please have teaching days to non brothers sincerely interested in learning. Please advertise these opportunities in ways that people such as I can find the info and immerse in the learning. And thank you to FTQ for sharing so much so well, and to all the other brothers who have inputted. I am sincerely grateful to you all for assisting my spiritual path forward in this life here and now. Thank you.

Option 3 is irrelevant because we do not live on a globe, the PLANET is a somewhat flat, level expanse.

Have you ever tested this hypothesis?

There is almost no visibility of the lodge in my area. The only reason I knew the lodge was there is because I serviced it on my route one day.

Reduce Grand Lodge to almost nothing. Return power to the jurisdictions.

THE grand lodge? Every grand lodge? Jurisdictions on what level? Jurisdictions exist under their own grand lodges as well as grand lodges existing inside of larger jurisdictions. Perhaps this is a local issue for you?

If you voted no changes needed...you must be ok with it dying...which it is.

Well deserved for those that refuse to evolve as a system, while touting the evolution of individuals.. they must not be listening

It is, in a sense, dying. That is because it has become stagnant because there are so many lodges that have refused to do anything different than they were taught to. This has led so many new members out of the door instead of becoming active and loyal brothers to their fraternity. However, the changes listed in this poll here will not save freemasonry. Freemasonry is not a club open to the public for a reason. It must be sought out by the individual. The teacher will appear when the student is ready. If it becomes an open door to the public it will surely die.

Perhaps not in name but intention and spirit.

Close up, repent, and return to the one true faith.

33%

Become more secretive again and focus more on the knowledge and less on charity. We've lost our mystique and therefore, no interest would be expected. Who wants to be part of a glamorous charity? Our priory should always be based around truth. Bringing people on that want to join a social club are the wrong men. We are thinking men, not drinking men. This is basically how I originally answered, but, since I'm not a member, decided I didn't know enough to say that. But... How? Secrecy for the sake of secrecy is pointless, if not also truth. And knowledge of truth implies a responsibility to the rest of society, which is antithetical to secrecy.

@fusion9619 no my friend. The secrecy is for those to seek, not to withhold. The knowledge needs to be sought. What you learn from masonry cannot be told, it has to be experienced and telling people the secrets doesn't mean it'll be understood. The secrecy is just for those that seek, not those that just want a "quick fix"

Faith, hope, charity? Did you mean something else when you used the word charity?

@TLDCHWTTOS no, why would i? I've got nothing against us doing charity, I'm just saying our priorities are wrong. We should participate in charity but it should be the last of our concerns not primary and that's how it feels these days. It's like virtue signaling and frightened about any the outside world thinks of us.

[@vitruvianbody7132](#) charity is the top rung of the ladder. Is there no significance in that symbolism?

@TLDCHWTTOS of course there is but the top rung of the ladder is actually knowledge to encourage more enthusiastic participation in boosting understanding of the Craft values between all lodge members, and to boost sharing of these values across the global spectrum of lodges.