

THE GRAND LODGE

of Ancient, Free and
Accepted Masons
of North Carolina



P. SHAUN BRADSHAW
GRAND MASTER 2020

Statement from the Grand Master June 3, 2020

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Brethren, there can be no doubt our world is in turmoil and the people of North Carolina are in pain. We are living in a troubled time where disease, division, and racism invade our daily lives. The brutality, cruelty, and inaction of many within our nation drive our brothers and sisters to seek a voice in order to advocate change.

Amid the discord and intolerance, I am heartened to know our fraternity labors to build bridges of compassion and understanding.

This past week, amidst the confusion and doubt sewn in so many cities across our nation, I reached out to Most Worshipful Brother Daniel L. Thompson, Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, to reaffirm our support for our brothers and sisters of Prince Hall, as well as the core tenants of our fraternities: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Racism and violence have no place in our hearts, our minds, nor our society. While we are not perfect, we learn from our ritual that Brotherly Love directs us "to regard the whole human species ... as one family." "On this principle Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion and conciliates true friendship among those who otherwise might have remained at a perpetual distance."

The distress of our family, friends, and neighbors illustrates now, more than ever, the importance of Relief. We must stand with each other to care for the sick, tend the broken, and lock arms in solidarity with those who need our support—mentally, physically, and emotionally.

Above all, the light of Truth will shine upon all the children of God—our Great Architect, who teaches us to regard the whole human species as one family.

As one family, we will strive to embody love.

As one family, we will exemplify compassion.

As one family, we will stand united.

Come what may, the fraternal bonds that link our Grand Lodges cannot and will not be severed. We are one. We are stronger together. And we will strive to make this world a better place by rejecting injustice, embracing diversity, and standing up for the rights of all people regardless of color, creed, opinion, or persuasion.

Keep the Light!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul S. Bradshaw".

P. Shaun Bradshaw
Grand Master

