

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Virgin Islands, Free & Accepted Masons



February 3, 2016

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge officers Worshipful Masters and Members

We the members of the Jurisprudence Committee, of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands F. & A. M, (“Grand Lodge”) do on this 28^h day of January in the Year of our Lord, 2016, submit the following Jurisprudence Review and Report on the Issues and Questions raised about the organizing of our Grand Lodge to members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands F. & A. M., Inc.

In addition, the Committee reviewed documents that were emailed to the members in the Virgins Islands, and sent via email to other Prince Hall Grand Bodies.

The committee reviewed and addressed the documents that was emailed to the members in the Virgin Islands, and sent via email to President of the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall Inc. and was requested to be sent out to all the Prince Hall Grand Lodges.

Next we will simply state the facts with reference to Masonic and Corporate Laws, and the Constitution and Policy and Procedures of the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall, Inc. and share a little HISTORY, surrounding the establishment of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. & A. M., Inc.

A few Questions, Answers, a Facts sheet and Lineage of the Grand Lodge are attached for your information. You will see words “Sovereign” or “Sovereignty” throughout the report. Sovereignty is understood in jurisprudence as the full right and power of a governing body to govern itself **without any interference from outside sources or bodies**. These words are used often in the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall, Inc. and other Affiliated Masonic organizations.

We begin our review with a brief statement to enlighten and or remind our brothers about our obligations as first, Men of Character and secondly as Prince Hall Masons. The committee shall state the facts.

The first document the committee reviewed and addressed was a so-called “petition”. Upon further review and research, numerous Masons were led to believe “one” man’s opinion influenced by others in a rival Grand Lodge. The so called petition attained several signatures of “Unaffiliated Masons. These men were dropped from rolls the lodge and no longer participated in the Order. This was verified by some of the officers of the lodge. The next document reviewed and addressed, a “Fact Findings” paper sent through the email system, and other “defamatory” statements made, again in attempt to damage the reputation of Men and Masons of this Jurisdiction.

The committee recognizes that everyone is entitled to his **own opinion**, but not to his **own facts**.

Interestingly, these documents were sent to the Masonic members in the Virgin Islands and found its way in the email system to the President of the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall, Inc. in an attempt to “slander” the Officers and Members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc.

The words; defamation, libel and slander came to mind. The following are some brief definitions the committee felt should be helpful the membership. “A defamatory statement is one which injures the reputation of another by exposing him to hatred, contempt, or ridicule, or which tends to lower him in the esteem of right-thinking members of society.” A defamatory statement in a more permanent form, in writing say, for example in a newspaper or on the Internet, or in a letter or an email, is known as **libel**. A person can “publish” a statement simply by saying it, or otherwise making it in some temporary way. If a person makes a defamatory statement this way, it is known as **slander**.

Where a person makes a defamatory statement that damages your reputation, you may be able to sue them for compensation or prevent them repeating it.

In reviewing the statements, there were attempts to defame the Officers and Members of this Grand Lodge. Email messages containing false statements that was attempting to damage the character the members. Falsehoods were published through the email that attempted to reflect adversely on the integrity or honesty of the Grand Lodge Officers. The man who represents himself as a representative of a rival Grand Lodge has misrepresented, practiced fraud and deceit willfully with this so-called Petition and Fact-Findings documents.

Unfortunately, there are some uninformed brethren in the Virgin Islands and some in other Prince Hall Affiliated Jurisdictions who are **NOT** familiar with Masonic laws or corporate laws.

A Masonic offense is the violation of the moral law, or the civil law, or of Masonic obligations, or a violation of the laws, usages, and customs of Masonry and, in a general way, a Mason should be guided in his conduct by the following. Where the statute law expressly permits certain conduct or is silent as to it, Masons are bound to obey the moral law and to observe the lessons and duties inculcated in the several degrees. Where the statute law prohibits or commands certain conduct, Masons, in obedience to their duties as good citizens in support of civil government, should obey. Where the statute law permits but does not command certain conduct, and the Masonic law prohibits that conduct, then the Mason must obey the Masonic law as to that course of conduct. A Mason's conduct in general and at all times should be such as not to bring discredit upon the Order or to degrade it in the estimation of good people.

Here's what Freemasonry has to say about the legal authority.

The following are some excerpts of the Charge at the Initiation into the First Degree;

“BROTHER: As you are now introduced into the first principles of Masonry, I congratulate you on being accepted into this ancient and honorable order; ancient, as having existed from time immemorial; and honorable, as tending in every particular so to render all men who will conform to its precepts....In the State you are to be a quiet and peaceable citizen, true to your government, and just to your country; you are not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion, but *patiently submit to legal authority, and conform with cheerfulness to the government of the country in which you live.* In your outward demeanor be particularly careful to avoid censure or reproach. Let not interest, favor, or prejudice bias your integrity, or influence you to be guilty of a dishonorable action.”

In the first degree, we are reminded to follow and obey the laws of our country and respect legal authority.

What this young man and the co-conspirators did was commit numerous Masonic offenses.

In a review of the statements made in the documents that were sent out via email, the committee considered these questions; Were the statements defamatory? Were they “published” statement to a third person?

The Jurisprudence Committee's opinion is the Grand Lodge may have a claim for defamation. However, the Committee's opinion is that the reputation of the Officers and Members are **NOT injured**.

The Grand Lodge Officers of this Jurisdiction are Men of Character and Masons who professional and Masonic reputations expand over 185 years of Masonic Experiences and Leadership. The Officers and Members of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F.&A.M., Inc. are Firemen, Law Enforcers, Attorneys, Educators, Congressmen, Senators, Professional Businessmen, Ministers, Deacons and Trustees in Churches Department of the Defense Civilian, Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Military Veterans and they respect the laws of Freemasonry and legal authority.

There may be even some Grand Lodge Officers from other jurisdictions who claims they familiar with the Masonic laws, but simply think they are above the Masonic laws and corporate law. And it was stated that some Grand Lodges have threatened their members of suspension or expulsion from the Order, instead of educating them on Masonic law and corporate law.

Most Prince Hall Grand Lodges are incorporated and acknowledge and follow the corporate laws. **Prince Hall Masons and Leaders respect and follow** Masonic and corporate Laws.

Since the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. & A. M., Inc. was organized, legally constituted and incorporated there have been several violations of Masonic Law and corporate laws from the rival Grand Lodge and others who are uninformed Masons.

There are thousands of Prince Hall Affiliated Masonic Lodges of all Jurisdictions operating in the majority of the United States, U.S. Territories' and Foreign Countries.

In organizing, establishing and constituting the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. & A. M., Inc. **procedural considerations** were taken. First, due and timely notices were sent to the members informing them about the special meeting to be held on November 13, 2015. District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Juan Sanes informed the Worshipful Masters and Lodges of Oklahoma about the special meeting, and Deputy-at-large, Right Worshipful A.K. Wilkins informed the Louisiana Lodges about the special meeting. **Masonic Law** was followed, as all Grand Lodges were organized in convention with three or more Lodges. **The general rule is that matters of history and Masonic Law.**

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor issued a formal Certificate of Incorporation to the Grand Lodge (Corporation). The **Certificate of Incorporation was received**, and a copy of the Articles of Incorporation was filed.

Fraternal organizations are entitled to the protection of the law to the same extent, as are corporations, which have been created for the purpose of financial non-profit.

The committee would like to share the legal formation on how the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. & A.M., Inc. was organized, incorporated and constituted.

We begin with a legitimate question... ”*How shall a Grand Lodge be established in any state, territory or country where such a body has not previously existed, but where there are subordinate lodges working under Warrants derived from Grand Lodges in other states?*”

The answer: A certain number of lodges, holding legal warrants or (charters) from a Grand Lodge or from different Grand Lodges, must meet by their representatives and proceed to the formation of a Grand Lodge.

Masonic Laws states’ “Three lodges, therefore, in any territory where a Grand Lodge does not already exist, may unite in convention and organize a Grand Lodge. It will then be necessary, that these lodges should surrender the warrants under which they had been previously working, and take out new warrants from the Grand Lodge, which they have constituted; and, from that time forth, all masonic authority is vested in the Grand Lodge thus formed.”¹ “Regularity of origin: i.e. each Grand Lodge shall have been established lawfully by a duly recognized Grand Lodge or by three or more regularly constituted Lodges... That the principles of the Ancient Landmarks, customs, and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed.”²

No Prince Hall Affiliated Masonic Jurisdiction had exclusive rights to the Virgin Islands. Other Prince Hall Affiliated Jurisdictions namely; Oklahoma, Florida, Caribbean and Louisiana chartered lodges in St. Croix; St. John, and St. Thomas the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Georgia at one time chartered a lodge in the Virgin Islands. All Prince Hall Grand Lodges who by Masonic Laws are **sovereign** and has jurisdiction only in their state, or territories. The Virgin Islands was considered “Open Territory”

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc. was organized and established by three or more Prince Hall Affiliated Lodges who legally met in convention and formed the Grand Lodge. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc. is a legally and constituted Grand Lodge incorporated in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Constitution and Bylaws for Subordinate Lodges of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M. was assembled by a committee, approved by the Board of Directors and with a special resolution was ratified at the convention held on November 13, 2015.

A.K. Wilkins, a Past Master and member of Seven Stars Lodge No. 197, Louisiana Jurisdiction was duly elected Most Worshipful Grand Master.

The facts on Masonic Law speak for themselves.

¹ *The Principles of Masonic Law, a Treatise on the Constitutional Law, Usage and Landmarks of Freemasonry (Albert G. Mackey, M.D.) Chapter II of the Mode of Organizing Grand Lodges.*

² <http://www.tsmr.org/1929-ugle-basic-principle.html>

Attached you will find a **Questions and Answers Sheet** and the **Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands F. & A. M., Inc. Lineage.**

Fraternally and respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Murphy Coleman". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Right Worshipful Murphy Coleman
Grand Senior Warden
Chairman, Jurisprudence Committee

Cf; Most Worshipful A.K. Wilkins, Grand Master
Grand Lodge Officers, Worshipful Masters of the Jurisdiction

Questions and Answers and Facts

Additional information can also be accessed by going our website, <http://mwphglvi.org>

Q: How is a Prince Hall Grand Lodge established?

A: All Grand Lodges with lineage to African Lodge No. 459 were established in either of the following ways:

- a. By Warrant of the National Grand Lodge.
- b. By three Lodges that were established as National Grand Lodge subordinates.
- c. By merger (as Equals) of Independent and National Grand Lodges subordinate Grand Lodges.
- d. Independent P.H.A. Grand Lodges with lineage to either a., b., or c.³

Q: Did the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc. require permission or approval from any Grand Lodge or other Masonic organization to establish a Grand Lodge?

A: No. Masonic Law simply states a convention of representatives of three or more lodges can organize and constitute a Grand Lodge.

Q: Who are the Incorporators? & Who was the Registered Agent?

A: Mr. Andre Toussaint, Mr. Wayne A. Ross, and Mr. Dino Fontaine. **All three gentlemen are legal residents of the Virgin Islands.** Mr. Dino Fontaine was appointed to serve as the organization-registered agent.

Q: Is the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Virgin Islands, F. & A. M. a legally legitimate Grand Lodge?

A: Yes. Prince Hall Masons of the Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Virgin Islands, F. & A. M., Inc. can trace their lineage to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and Its Jurisdiction and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, F. &A.M.

³ Roundtree, A (2010). *The National Grand Lodge & Prince Hall Freemasonry: The Untold Truth*. Washington, D.C.: KLR Publishing.

These Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodges can trace their lineage to African Lodge No. 459 or the United Grand Lodge of England, Ireland or Scotland. The four Prince Hall lodges that met in convention on November 13, 2015, resolved to organize a Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodge for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Q: What type of organization is the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M.?

A: The Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose purposes dedicated to furthering a particular social cause or advocating for a particular point of view.

Q: What authority does the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall, Inc. have over the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Virgin Islands, F. &A.M.? Do they have recognition authority?

A: The Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. & A.M., Inc. respects the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall Inc. and the Most Worshipful Grand Masters. In reviewing the Policies and Procedures of the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall Inc., adopted May 14, 2011, we find this paragraph under the title “Forward”, it states “The Conference of Grand Masters does not have legislative authority or power except granted for the Conference to operate when convened. It is by mutual consent that the Conference exists and functions. **Each represented Jurisdiction is Sovereign unto its self.** And under the title “Policies” and subtitle “On Recognition” it states “The Conference is mindful that all Grand Masonic Jurisdiction are **Sovereign, operating without fear or favor** as their members so desire...Further, that a Grand Masonic Jurisdiction, it is free to seek or accept recognition from whomever it pleases.”

Note: It was stated the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc., received approval from the Conference of Grand Masons, Prince Hall, Inc. **That is also another false statement made by one of the rival Mason of a certain jurisdiction. The officers of this Grand Lodge know Masonic Laws** and were very aware of the Policies and Procedures, of the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall Inc.

Q: Is the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. & A.M., Inc. a sovereign body?

A: The Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc. is an **absolute sovereign body** with inherent power to form a Statue/Constitution as its fundamental law and to enact laws for its own government and that of its constituent lodges, subject to the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry; this Grand Lodge ordained, established and promulgated its Constitution, and every Mason within this jurisdiction is obligated to obey and conform to the provisions thereof and the laws enacted pursuant thereto.

Q: Is the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M. incorporated?

A: Yes. The Grand Lodge filed their constitution and articles of incorporation and other required documents with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Virgin Islands through the Division of Corporations and Trademarks, serves as the registry for all corporate filings in the Virgin Islands.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor issued a formal Certificate of Incorporation to the Corporation on November 3, 2015.

Q: What is the purpose of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. & A.M., Inc.?

A: Article II (b) of the Articles of Incorporation states “The purpose of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc. is to make and enforce all laws and regulations for the government of the fraternity, lodges, Masons, and adopted rite and concordant bodies. Also to cultivate brotherly love, and to exercise charity in its best and broadest sense; to assist the Widows and Orphans of its deceased members in good standing; to stimulate friendship, harmony, and to promote truth, relief, and happiness of mankind.”

Q: Does the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc. have the authority to establish Adoptive and Concordant Bodies?

A: Yes. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M. is an absolute sovereign body with inherent power by Masonic Laws and its Statutes. In addition, the Articles of Incorporation, Article II, and (b) give the Grand Lodge its governance authority over Masons, adoptive rite and concordant bodies.

Q: How does Prince Hall Grand Lodges trace their lineage?

A: All Prince Hall Grand Lodges trace their lineage to African Lodge No. 459 of Massachusetts through the National Grand Lodge.⁴

⁴ Roundtree, A (2010). *The National Grand Lodge & Prince Hall Freemasonry: The Untold Truth*. Washington, D.C.: KLR Publishing.

Genesis of Prince Hall Freemasonry

On March 6, 1775, Prince Hall and 14 men of color were made masons in Lodge No. 441 of the Irish Registry attached to the 38th British Foot Infantry at Castle William Island in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts. It marked the first time that Black men were made Masons in America.

African Lodge No.1 was organized on July 3, 1776, with Prince Hall as the Master of the Lodge. It wasn't long before this lodge received an additional "permit" from Provincial Grand Master John Rowe to walk in procession on St. John's Day.

On March 2, 1784, African Lodge No. 1 petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, the Premier or Mother Grand Lodge of the world, for a warrant (or charter), to organize a regular masonic lodge, with all the rights and privileges thereunto prescribed.

The Grand Lodge of England issued a charter on September 29, 1784 to African Lodge No.459, the first lodge of Blacks in America.

African Lodge No.459 grew and prospered to such a degree that Worshipful Master Prince Hall was appointed a Provincial Grand Master, in 1791, and out of this grew the first Black Provincial Grand Lodge.

In 1797 he organized a lodge in Philadelphia and one in Rhode Island. These lodges were designated to work under the charter of African Lodge No. 459.

In December 1808, one year after the death of Prince Hall, African Lodge #459 (Boston), African Lodge No. 459 (Philadelphia) and Hiram Lodge #3 (Providence) met in a general assembly of the craft and organized African Grand Lodge (sometime referred to as African Grand Lodge No.1).

In 1847, out of respect for their founding father and first Grand Master, Prince Hall, they changed their name to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, the name it carries today. In 1848 Union Lodge No. 2, Rising Sons of St. John Lodge No. 3 and Celestial Lodge No. 4 became the first lodges organized under the name Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M. Inc. Lineage

We trace our Masonic lineage back through the Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Louisiana, Free and Accepted Masons and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, F. &A.M. The lodges that formed the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc. were chartered lodges from these Grand Lodges. We begin with a brief history of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana, F. &A.M.

Reverend Thomas Stringer, a Prince Hall Mason and travelling Elder for the Indiana District of the A.M.E. Church arrived in New Orleans to serve as pastor of the church... In 1849, members of St. James A.M.E. Church petitioned Reverend Stringer to organize a Masonic Lodge. Stringer complied with the request and issued a dispensation to form a lodge. A few months later, the Richmond Lodge No 4 in New Orleans was established, first under the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania and then later under Ohio. By 1863, New Orleans established an additional two lodges (Stringer No. 11 and Parson No. 18) enabling the trio to form a Grand Lodge. This Grand Lodge of Louisiana was established January 5, 1863 at the Hall of Richmond Lodge No. 4. The first three lodges were renumbered to reflect the transition; and expanded quickly throughout the state. The first Grand Master was John Parson, leading political figure in New Orleans. By 1944, 178 lodges established the state of Louisiana was organized under the title of “Eureka.”

In 1944, the act of incorporation was amended and the title of Prince Hall became the preferred name for affiliated orders throughout the United States. In 1944, the act of incorporation for Eureka Grand Lodge was amended and the organization was renamed the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana.

Right Worshipful A.K. Wilkins, a member of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and Deputy-at-Large and several Prince Hall Affiliated Masons petitioned the Honorable Dr. Ralph Slaughter, Most Worshipful Grand Master for charters for the Virgin Islands. Their requests were approved; two lodges were chartered in Kingshills and Sunny Isle, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands under the authority of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and Its Jurisdiction. The names of the lodges were **Seven Stars Lodge No. 197** and **Sunlight Lodge No. 191**, both lodges were chartered, but unlike the some of the lodges in the Virgin Islands, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and Its Jurisdiction **do not allow subordinate lodges to be incorporated.**

The Most Worshipful Saint John's Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons was incorporated in 1892. On November 17, 1892, a certificate of incorporation was issued, under the laws of the Territory of Oklahoma, to a Grand Lodge operating under the name of Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge, of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons; that in the year 1901 there was organized a Grand Lodge of Masons for the jurisdiction of Indian Territory, and in 1905 the two Grand Lodges consolidated under the name of the Most Worshipful Saint John's Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons was incorporated and, since said consolidation, has continuously operated in the State of Oklahoma under the name of Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge, of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons; that an amended certificate of incorporation was issued to it on August 24, 1911; Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge, of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons had continuously operated under its charter, and now has more than 60 subordinate lodges in the State of Oklahoma and has acquired a membership of many hundreds; that no other Masonic organization had been formed for the colored race in Indian Territory, Oklahoma Territory, or the State of Oklahoma.

In 1944, the act of incorporation was amended and the title of Prince Hall became the preferred name for affiliated orders throughout the United States. In 1944, the act of incorporation for Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge, of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons was amended and the organization was renamed the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Oklahoma, F. &A.M.

The first Lodge of Prince Hall Masons in the U.S. Virgin Islands was established in St. Croix. U.S., Virgin Islands. The name of the lodge was **Paradise Lodge No. 170**, and a few years later another lodge was chartered named **St. Croix Cornerstone Lodge No. 176**. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Oklahoma, chartered both lodges F. &A.M.

Representatives from Paradise Lodge No. 170, St. Croix Cornerstone Lodge No. 176 Sunrise Lodge No.191 and Seven Stars Lodge No. 197 came together and formed the Virgin Islands Masonic Research Association. Deputy-at large Wilkins, Seven Stars Lodge No. 197 was elected the President, and Worshipful Master Raymond Pequeno, III; Sunlight Lodge No. 191 was elected Secretary. Discussions were held about educating our membership in the Virgin Islands and the group addressed the real mission of Freemasonry is to "Build Character and Practice Charity." The representatives agreed they wanted to start their own Grand Lodge in the Virgin Islands.

The representatives agreed to call a special meeting and convention to establish the Grand Lodge. The representatives formed a committee and started working on the required documentation and submitted the required forms to incorporate.

Worshipful Masters and Lodges were informed, giving the members due and timely notice have the special meeting and convention.

On November 13, 2015, Paradise Lodge No. 170, St. Croix opened the lodge for the Joint meeting and Convention. District 16, Oklahoma, hosted the Convention. District Deputy Juan Sanes received the representatives of the Louisiana Jurisdiction. All representatives of all four Lodges on St. Croix were present. After brief introductions, Past District Deputy Grand Master Michael François made a motion that Deputy-at-Large A.K. Wilkins of Seven Stars Lodge No. 197 serve as Chairman of the Convention. The motion was carried. The Chairman called the Convention to order and proceeded with the meeting. After making some brief comments, the Chairman of the Convention received Most Worshipful Dr. Ralph Slaughter, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and Its Jurisdiction. After a few remarks the Chairman called on Past Master Wayne A. Ross, St. Croix Cornerstone Lodge No. 176 represented and read a Special Resolution to established and constitute a Grand Lodge and elects its officers. The Special Resolution was unanimously adopted.

On November 13, 2015, the representatives of the four Prince Hall Affiliated Lodges who met in convention, legally adopted the special resolution, ratified its actions and recommendations, and constituted the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc. the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M. was incorporated it in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Most Worshipful, Dr. Ralph Slaughter, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana and Its Jurisdiction declared the Grand Lodge Officers duly elected and duly installed of the newly constituted Grand Lodge. Right Worshipful Alvin K. Wilkins, Deputy-at-large and Past Master of Seven Stars Lodge No. 197, was elected Grand Master. Grand Master Wilkins prayed for the newly formed Grand Lodge and presented his inaugural address. New Charters were presented to the Lodges of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Virgin Islands, F. &A.M., Inc. All the Lodges were renumbered and two of the Lodges renamed; Paradise Lodge No. 1, St. Croix Cornerstone Lodge No. 2, Murphy Coleman Lodge No. 3 and Alvin V. Blount, Jr. Lodge No 4. The previous charters issued by the Prince Hall Grand Lodges of Oklahoma and Louisiana was returned to the Grand Lodges in accordance with Masonic Law.