



LEVEL 3: UNIT RESOURCES

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Statement by the BoGP (support document)

STATEMENTS BY THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

This document forms part of the materials for the Members' Pathway.

In a report adopted on 9th December 1981, the Board of General Purposes stated that:

"There is no objection to a neutrally worded approach being made to a man who is considered a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. There can be no objection to his being reminded, once, that the approach was made. The potential candidate should then be left to make his own decision, without further solicitation."

In another report adopted on 10th March 1999, the Board stated:

"The Board considers that it may be opportune to remind Brethren of the scope of Masonic 'secrecy', so that in explaining Freemasonry to their families and friends they may know what they may and may not discuss."

"Every Freemason is bound by his obligations not to reveal the traditional modes of recognition. This admits of no compromise. The ceremonial ways of proving that one is a Freemason should not normally be used outside the context of Masonic meetings. Brethren making improper disclosure or use of the signs, tokens and words of Craft and Royal Arch Masonry render themselves liable to Masonic disciplinary sanction. The promise not to reveal the modes of recognition may also be seen as symbolic of a wider pledge by a Brother to abide by all his obligations, non-Masonic as well as Masonic. Brethren will also wish to bear in mind that it is greatly desirable that even those parts of our ceremonies which do not fall strictly within the scope of the preceding paragraph should be kept private, and not disclosed without very good cause, in order that the impact of those ceremonies on candidates may not be diminished."

"Every Mason is free to reveal his own Masonic membership, except when it might appear that business, professional or personal advantage is thereby being sought for himself or another. The Board believes that Brethren should be encouraged to acknowledge their membership with pride."

The above underpin all our actions when we discuss Freemasonry with those who are not Freemasons.