

*Acceptance Speech
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Melvin A. Alston Sr. #9
of the
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania*

To the Right Worshipfull Deputy Grand Master, Donald C. Jones #120, Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, Paul A. Hiber, #18, Right Wortshipful Junior Grand Warden Timothy J. Cager #117, Past Most Worshipful Grand Masters, Right Worshipful Elected and Worshipful Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, Worshipful Masters, Senior & Junior Wardens Past Masters and Brethren,

Greetings,

Scripture

For whosoever shall do the will of my father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister and mother. Matthew 12:50

Prayer

The Worshipful Grand Senior and Junior Deacons will escort the Chaplins to the throne of Grace to render a prayer that God's help will aid and assist us as we prayerfully continue to make this organization great.

Song

God will take care of you

I thank each of you for the trust you have reposed in me by elevating me to the office of The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons for the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. I have always tried to consider leadership as an act of service to the membership and strived to serve this organization with respect for it's principles and heritage.

I have been a member of Mt. Lebanon Lodge No.9 since 1979. I was fortunate to receive instruction from brehren such as Past Masters Major Chappelle, Frederick Nichols, Jerry L. Wright, Joseph T. Charvalho Jr. and William Palmer. Since joining Mt. Lebanon #9, I served in several appointed stations. As Junior Deacon, I chaired the Lodges' Degree Team. Although I was apprehensive in accepting this position, the brethren supported me and I was elated to serve that position for several years. In September, 1986, after serving various positions I was honored to be elevated to serve as Worshipful Master. During my tenure, The Shade Sherman Youth Eduacational Assistance Award was initiated. Over the years, this award has assisted over 70 high school graduates with Collegiate or Vocational Educational Assistance.

I thank the officers and members of Mt. Lebanon Lodge No.9 for their passed support as well as their future assistance. They have been very loyal Brethren.

It has been my pleasure to serve the The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge in different capacities:1996 through 1998 - Worshipful District Lecturer of the First Masonic District under the administrations of P.M.W.G.M.s Howard Acooe, #48 and Rev. Thomas Alexander Jackmon Sr, #97;1998 to 2004 - Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master of The First Masonic District under the leadership of P.M.W.G.M.s Lawrence E. Harris,#69, Cleveland L. Brunson,#115 and Robert E. Wyatt Sr.,#37; 2004- 2012 Worshipful Deputy at Large to which I was first appointed by P.M.W.G.M. Earl C. Abrams, #23. In 2012 I was elected by this great body to the seat of Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden.

*The **Theme** of this administration is **Unity***

***Unity** Is a noun meaning the state of being joined together or in agreement*

(U) Understanding: We all embrace the same purpose and that purpose overrides our personal preferences

(N) Neighboring: being in partnership with our communities offering Brotherly Support

(I) Integrity: rectitude, Probity, virtue

(T) Trust: To fulfill one's responsibilities without being coerced or begged.

(Y) Yielding: Putting away selfish desires to achieve the greater goal

Motto

God, Family, Fraternity and Community

Goals

1. **Educate our membership** by having seminars to reinforce the principles of our organization:
 - a. We are constantly being met with an ever-changing world; as Master Masons we must make changes while maintaining our Protocol, Ritual and Constitution. The proper maintenance of the aforementioned items encourages us to work in harmony thereby helping us to demonstrate to ourselves and the world how masons love one another.

2. Introduce **new ways to display our organization** to our membership and the community at large:
 - a. *Our masonic website must be updated and streamlined to resemble the world in which we live. The website can be used to educate our membership in areas of our History, Finances, Leadership, etc. We can also exhibit our concern for our community and broaden our perspective not only jurisdictionally but also on the national level by instituting programs that help the community.*
3. **Establish a Capital Budget:** to offset the cost our Building Renovations that are related to our aging infrastructure: heating system, windows doors, etc.
 - a. *I will be asking all masons as well as members of the Prince Hall Family to contribute donations to our Grand Lodge **Building Fund Grants Program** which will be used only for our Building Maintenance. The monies that we receive now in Temple Association will not meet our future needs; especially if we have a major maintenance problem in any of our buildings.*
4. **Obtain, Retain, and Reclaim** membership:
 - a. *We must ensure our subordinate houses are prepared to receive membership. The state of readiness we hope for is one that entails administrative, fiscal, constitutional, ritualistic, and social awareness within our subordinate lodges, as well as our Grand Lodge. We must be aware of situations which cause brothers to leave our fraternity to prevent their reoccurrence. We must also explore areas of our jurisdiction where a lodge or lodges previously existed but no longer function.*
5. **Charity**
 - a. **Juvenile Diabetes:** *or Type 1 diabetes typically affects younger individuals. Type 1 diabetes begins before the age of 40, although there have been people diagnosed at an older age. In the United States, the peak age at diagnosis is around 14. Children can also have type 2 diabetes if they are overweight. More information will be forwarded in the near future.*

6. Restructuring Program:

- a. *This program, currently in effect by our Grand Lodge, will remain a part of this administration. The structure of our Grand Lodge must accommodate changes in membership, increased fiscal responsibility and aging infrastructure. I will seek persons within/without our fraternity to help us reach our desired goal.*

Songs; *Hold On (A Change Is Coming) – For Religious Services
& Social Functions*

We Lift Our Hands In The Sanctuary – For Religious Services

In closing I am asking for your support as this administration endeavors to lead this organization to greater heights. Our fore-fathers have passed us the torch of hope and the legacy of history which dictates that we have hope in God and utilize our history to realize that our past has been riddle with obstacles and success, yet free Masonry has still survived.

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear"

Nelson Mandela

*Fraternally Submitted,
Melvin A. Alston, Sr. #9
Melvin A. Alston Sr. #9
104th Most Worshipful Grand Master*