Penal Jurisdiction

*Mackey’s Jurisprudence of Freemasonry*, page 360 states the following:

“1. A Lodge exercises penal jurisdiction over all members. The old Charges require every Mason to “stand to award and determination of the Lodge;” that is to say, the Lodge of which he is a member, and the rights and privileges, as well as the Masonic protection secured by such membership, carry with them a corresponding duty of allegiance and obedience. This doctrine is not left to mere deduction, but is supported by the ritual law, which imposes on every Mason, in the most solemn manner, an obligation to abide by and obey the by-laws, rules and regulations of the Lodge, of which he is a member. Membership in a Lodge can only be voided by death, demission, or expulsion, and hence neither it nor the jurisdiction which it communicates is lost by a change of residence.”

It is my contention that no member of this Masonic Jurisdiction should be tried in any Lodge other than one owing its allegiance to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio Free and Accepted Masons. The only exception is if a member of this Jurisdiction is living in another state with or without Masonic affiliation; under this condition he will be amenable to that Jurisdiction as well as that of Ohio.

While our current by-laws do not directly address the process, all charges filed against a member of this Jurisdiction by a subordinate Lodge of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio of which the accused is not a member must be filed in the Lodge to which the accuser belongs. For example, if I, as a Master Mason, am charged with unmasonic conduct for an occurrence in Dayton under the jurisdiction of Equity Lodge #121, the charges must be filed with and held in Euclid Lodge #97 in Cincinnati. The current by-laws (Chapter 38, page 101-102) address the situation of affiliated Masons (Those who belong to another Jurisdiction, but have Masonic identification and communication with a subordinate Lodge of this Jurisdiction) only. This should be corrected and clarified in the newly revised by-laws.

PM Robert L. Jones, #97
Most Worshipful Grand Master