



The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem
Autonomous Grand Priory of the United States of America

Grand Convent and Investiture
Charlotte, North Carolina

May 27 - May 31, 2026

"The Light Shines in the South"



The host Priors and volunteers of **TEAM CHARLOTTE** from The Priory of Saint Thomas à Becket, The Priory of Saint Vincent, The Priory of The Monitor and The Merrimack, and The Priory of the Holy Isle shout, “Knights, Dames, Companions and Guests, you are hereby cordially invited to attend the **2026 GPUSA Grand C&I Lite**, which will take place in Charlotte, NC, May 27 through May 31, 2026!”

The reason for this communication is to update you on the happenings ‘on the road to Charlotte’.

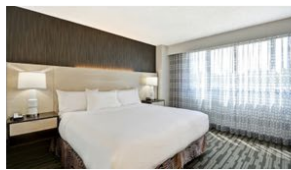
Team Charlotte leadership has met with the Section Team Leaders and given the volunteer rosters out. All Team Charlotte volunteers should have been contacted or soon will be. The Plan is in full swing with everyone eager to implement it.

Our plan has expanded to add a Tour of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte on Thursday, 28 May 2026. The details of the tour, including registration, will be announced after the first of the year. It is intended to be a late morning start with a lunch at the café on the Library grounds.

REGISTRATION: The registration count is currently 126, however the cap is set at 200 seats due to the venue capacity. It is intended that Priory EXCOM members be prioritized for attendance as the Grand Prior wants to provide as big an opportunity for the EXCOMs to get updated information, training, education and cross talk of best practices at this GCI. We will also need our Team Charlotte volunteers to register ASAP so they can attend and help where they are requested. See the links and hotel information below to accommodate your registration plans. As has been the plan from the start....the rate for the registration attendance will go up on January 1, 2026....and will remain open until we reach 200 participants...so hurry!

Our host hotel, **The Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte Douglas Airport**, will be the venue for our Saturday morning **Grand Council Meeting**, as well as the **Grand Convent and Investiture** and Saturday evening **Banquet** with charitable auctions. There will not be a formal Friday evening reception with the Grand Prior, however a gathering will occur in the bar/atrium area. The hotel, which features a nightly “Managers Reception” at the host bar (2 free drinks nightly), a full hot breakfast for guests, a fitness center, and a seasonal outdoor pool and is convenient to the many attractions listed below. A variety of hiking-biking-museums-sports facilities and other outdoor activities are available. For those inclined to indoor activities, there are a number of local restaurants and shops, including antiques and outlet shopping in the charming stores and restaurants of Charlotte and nearby towns that are within easy driving distance.

Please go to <https://grandcandi.org/> to register.



Special GCI room rates (excluding taxes) and Registration

Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte Douglas Airport (Complimentary Shuttle to/from Airport)

4800 S. Tryon St. Charlotte, NC 28217

King \$174 per Night

Dbl Queens \$184 per Night

The event code is not yet determined.

(NOTE: The cutoff date for the special rate and block hold is May 6, 2026!)

Registration Fees:

- For: GPUSA Member, OSMTH Member & Postulant
GC&I Registration Paid **BEFORE** 12/31/25: \$285
GC&I Registration Paid **AFTER** 12/31/25: \$300
- For: Non GPUSA or OSMTH Guest: \$125
- For: OOM Luncheon (Order of Merit Members Only): \$75

This “Non-Change of Command” year will be a “GC&I Lite” with some scaled back formalities. A focus on leader workshops, informational meetings, and planning meetings, the emphasis will be on better posturing the Order for the future. Starting each day with religious services, time will be dedicated to dialogue and discussions. Thursday will focus on the Executive Committee meeting and the RDF board but will also have opportunities for Priors to engage in workshops and information exchanges. The Friday focus will be on helping Priors and their Priorities accomplish our mission. The Saturday Grand Council will be streamlined and focused on the information and decisions needed to lead our Order forward. Attendees can explore the surrounding city and towns at their leisure with no formal outings planned. With meetings and gatherings planned for Thursday and Friday.... arrive early and explore! Informal camaraderie and friendship is on tap as we network, refine, and conduct our Order’s work.

The Grand Convent and Investiture ceremony will be tailored toward a shorter time span, and the banquet will be scheduled to preclude running late into the evening (leaving more time for informal socializing “around the fire pit”).

Here is a short list of the many venues to explore and enjoy on your own or with your favorite group:

- The scenic Blue Ridge Parkway – travels 252 miles along the length of Western North Carolina...1½ hours...Smokey Mountains...2 hours

- Pinehurst #2 – Championship Golf in the Town of Pinehurst....2 hours
- Bank of America Stadium – Home of the Carolina Panthers
- Spectrum Center – Home of the Charlotte Hornets
- Charlotte Motor Speedway – Home to the Coca Cola 600. The visitors center and gift shop is open daily... 25 minutes
- NASCAR Hall of Fame and Museum – located Downtown...a few minutes travel.
- Southern BBQ – located in beautiful downtown Charlotte at Midwood Smokehouse or Noble Smokehouse
- Fine Dining – located at Morton's Steakhouse, Fleming's Steakhouse, Aria Tuscan Grill, Angelines, or Bernardins

*We look forward to you 'bee'ing at our 2026
Grand Convent & Investiture!*



For additional registration information contact:

Diane Allen (Registration Team Leader) at grandinspector25@gmail.com or
Chad Smith (Host Prior) at 82paracop@windstream.net