



## GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF INDIANA

Bulletin No. 7 Sparks

April 27, 2025

### Holy Land Pilgrimage 2026

To the officers and members of the constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Indiana

We are pleased to announce the two 2026 Holy Land Pilgrimages. The Pilgrimages will depart from EWR in Newark NJ. Group A will depart February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and return February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Group B will depart February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, and return March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The itinerary will cover the major Holy Land sites. The pilgrim ministers chosen will have their entire roundtrip air fare paid from Indianapolis, IN to EWR, Newark NJ then to Tel Aviv, Israel. As a guest of the Knights Templar, they will also receive three meals per day while in the Holy Land, lodging in a quality hotel, all admission fees to the various inspirational sites, gratuities for driver and guide, departure tax on return from Israel. Subject to release by the *Grand Master of the Grand Encampment*. **Please see all attached letters and forms.**

This will be a most exciting experience and is one which every Knight Templar in Indiana can be proud to support. The Knights Templar of Indiana has sent over 200 ministers to Israel thus far. The number of ministers to be selected will depend on the amount of funds raised. The cost of sending a minister is \$4000.00 from EWR, Newark, NJ to Tel Aviv, Israel. To the work, Sir Knights, draw your swords in defense of the Christian Religion.

**Send your nominations by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to the Grand Commandery of Indiana on the enclosed Holy Land Pilgrimage form. Mail the form along with contributions to: Randal P. Ellington, PGC, KCT, 5531 S 800 W Edinburgh, IN 46124-9669. Checks should be payable to: Holy Land Pilgrimage.**

This Bulletin shall be read in all constituent Commanderies at the first stated Conclave following its receipt and be made a part of the minutes.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of April, A.D. 2025 A.O. 907.

Fraternally Yours in His Name,

Joseph L. Sparks, KCT  
Right Eminent Grand Commander

ATTESTED:

Lawrence J. Williams, KCT, PGC  
Grand Recorder



# Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage

## GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF MINISTERS

The following are the selection criteria suggested for use in choosing ministers for the Knight Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. Please carefully consider these guidelines before inviting ministers to apply.

Ministers to be considered should:

- Have **never traveled to the Holy Land** before.
- Be in **good physical health** (if the idea of walking a brisk mile or more – uphill, non-stop, with steps - is a concern, this may not be the program from which this person would benefit). This is a physically rigorous program. We average 5 – 7 miles of walking each day. Many surfaces are uneven, unpaved, with steps and some steep inclines. This is an important consideration. A person who is unable to fully participate will miss valuable parts of this experience. *(We do offer a Senior Pilgrimage in the Fall of even years for those with mild mobility issues.)*
- Be serving in some form of **Credentialed Ministry** (Ordained, Certified, Licensed, etc.) A copy of the minister's credentials (certificate or letter) is to accompany the nomination form.
- Be currently serving in a **leadership ministry**, with regular preaching responsibility. This means that they are employed by the church in a leadership role and that ministry is considered their primary source of income.
- Be mindful of the value of including **women and minority pastors** for consideration.
- Have **served at least one year** in full time ministry in a primary leadership role as pastor / minister.
- Have **at least ten years of full time service** remaining in their active ministry. This opportunity is intended to enhance the ongoing preaching, teaching and overall biblical understanding of the participant, and in turn, benefit those they serve.
- Be willing to travel with an **ecumenical group** of other ministers from many denominations and religious groups, both male and female ministers, and maintain a professional and courteous attitude toward all.
- Be willing to travel in a program sponsored by the **Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA**, an appendant organization of **Freemasonry**.
- Be willing to travel **without their spouse**. This is non-negotiable.
- Have the understanding that this is a **strenuous educational and spiritual study seminar / historical & cultural immersion experience** and not a vacation trip.



# KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

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April 1, 2024

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**Our Mission:** To send Ordained Christian Ministers on a Biblical study and historical / cultural immersion experience who would not have the opportunity otherwise.

**Our Goal:** To send 60 Ordained Christian Ministers on the  
41st Holy Land Pilgrimage in February 2025

## TO: Grand Recorders and Grand Commandery Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairmen

Gate 1 Travel Agency has reserved places for two (2) groups of 25+ people for the 2024 Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage. The dates are:

**February 3 – February 13, 2025 and February 17 – February 27, 2025**

- Travel date will be honored on a first come, first served basis There will be 2 groups, A & B.
- The cost this year has increased and is **\$4,000.00** from EWR in Newark NJ to Tel Aviv, Israel. This includes three meals daily, entrance fees, standard tipping, and travel insurance. (Also included: fuel surcharge and the airport tax.) **This fee does not include domestic flights from your area to EWR (which are the responsibility of either the Grand Commandery Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund or The Sponsoring Commandery).** Each state is encouraged to make their domestic flight arrangements to coordinate flight schedules.
- In order to expedite communications, please send your email addressed to [cuaewm@aol.com](mailto:cuaewm@aol.com).

Enclosed is a copy of the **Nomination Form** to be filled out for each pilgrim minister you select. (It would be useful for you to use this form for all ministers nominated in your state.) Also included in this mailing are the **Guidelines for Selection of Ministers, and a new Certification form.** When you submit the materials for your pilgrim ministers, you will need to include three items: Certification Form (signed by the Grand Recorder and the State Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairman), the Nomination Form (filled out completely by the pilgrim minister), and the full fee (check made out to **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE, INC.**) **All of these items are due by September 30.**

Please note that this program is for ministers who might not otherwise have this opportunity. Any minister who has previously traveled to the Holy Land would not meet this criterion. The Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage is intended for **first time pilgrims**, those who have not been to the Holy Land before. This pilgrimage is an 11 day program that covers as much ground as possible in the touring days (we average 5 – 7 miles of walking many days, often uphill or up steps and on uneven surfaces). Make sure your pilgrims are physically capable of fully participating in this trip. In view of the hostilities, we see in Israel/Gaza/West Bank, we may need to alter our plans. Our program is well ordered, and arrangements are in place. We are working with a 7-month window of preparation to make and fulfill necessary arrangements with airlines and other details. As a result, if the situation has not been resolved by June of 2024, we will need to reschedule the 2025 Ministers Pilgrimage groups to 2026. Tentative dates are already in place. Group A, Monday, February 9 to Thursday, February 19, 2026  
Group B, Monday, February 23 to Thursday, March 5, 2026

Thank you so much for your continued prayerful support of this very important Christian Knights Templar program.

In His Holy Name,

*Emmett W. Mills, Jr.* S. K. Emmett Mills, KCT, PGC,  
Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage, Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, USA

Chairman



**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINISTERS /  
NOMINATION FORM 2025**

1. FULL FIRST MIDDLE & LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

2. HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

3. TELEPHONE: area code (\_\_\_\_\_) home: \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_ mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

4. AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Spouse's name, if married: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years married: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Children's name(s) and age(s), if any: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. HIGHER EDUCATION - give name of school, years attended, and degrees achieved:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Type of ordination and name of body conferring ordination (*please attach a copy of your ordination certificate*):

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Name of Church you currently serve and its complete address (including city, state & zip) and **office phone**:

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Number of years in **full time** ordained ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

11. List other churches, years served and positions held:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Have you ever been to the Holy Land? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, give the date(s) and the single most inspiring site visited:

\_\_\_\_\_

13a. Why would you like to travel to the Holy Land? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13b. Upon your return, how might this experience affect your ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Masonic affiliation, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Why did you elect to become a minister? \_\_\_\_\_

16. **Please obtain a signature** from the Chair of your Personnel Committee, Church Board, District or Regional Supervisor, etc. If selected to be a Pilgrim Minister on the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage, this pastor will be granted leave to participate.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name and Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

17. Are you willing to travel to the Holy Land as a guest of the Knights Templar? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Are you willing to travel to the Holy Land WITHOUT your spouse (this is not negotiable)? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Are you willing to be a part of a traveling group made up of members of many other denominations? \_\_\_\_\_

20. Do you know of any Knights Templar in your church? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please list name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

21. Are you aware of any health problems which would prevent or limit your participation in this strenuous trip?

22. Do you require medication? \_\_\_\_\_

23. What is the size of your congregation? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Number of ministers serving the congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

25. Do you hold a valid passport for travel to Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, do you foresee any difficulty in obtaining one? \_\_\_\_\_

26. If chosen, will you be able to travel on the dates, **Feb. 3 – Feb. 13, 2025, or Feb. 17 – Feb. 27, 2025**

27. Has your name ever been submitted as a Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage nominee in the past?

**I understand that this pilgrimage is an 11-day program that covers as much ground as possible in the touring days (we average 5 – 7 miles of walking many days, often uphill or up steps and on uneven surfaces) and I am physically able to fully participate.**

**I commit to clearing my personal calendar and making the necessary arrangements with the church to facilitate my full participation and travel with the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage if selected.**

Minister's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

**I recommend this individual for participation in the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage and attest that they are fully informed of the necessary time and physical fitness requirements of this program.**

29. Recommending Commander's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

28. Recommending Commandery: \_\_\_\_\_ Commandery No. \_\_\_\_\_

30. Recommending Commandery— Local contact person for info, details, and arrangements (name, address, phones, & email):

\_\_\_\_\_



## **KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**

**This is to confirm that the Grand Commandery of \_\_\_\_\_ (state)  
is certifying the following pilgrim minister as their selection to fully fund for participation in the upcoming Knights  
Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage.**

Pilgrim Minister's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church served by this pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

- It is understood that the full fee for the current year must accompany this form and the nomination form **(QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINISTERS / NOMINATION FORM)** (for 2025 - \$4,000.00, check made out to "**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE, INC.**")
- It is understood that fees may not be transferable, so that if your pilgrim does not travel at the reserved time, the sponsoring Grand Commandery may lose any money already spent on travel reservations and arrangements or there may be additional fees.
- It is understood that the pilgrim minister has cleared travel on this Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage with their denomination and local congregation (if necessary).
- It is understood that the pilgrim minister and the local congregation served by the pilgrim minister have made necessary contingency plans so that participation in the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage will not be impeded.
- In certifying this individual for participation in the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage we attest that they are fully informed of the necessary time and physical fitness requirements of this program.

Signature of Grand Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature / State Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and email: \_\_\_\_\_