

Nov. 13, 1926.

Mr. Louis J. Carter, Sec'y.  
Decatur Lodge No. 14,  
Sioux City, Iowa.

Dear Brother Carter:

I am in receipt of your letter of Nov. 4th in which you enclose a communication to your lodge from Bro. J. Wilber Norris, a former member of your lodge, now under suspension for non payment of dues. You ask in your letter what if anything the lodge can do in the matter, as Bro. Norris being now a sick man and being unable to qualify as required by Section 197 A, of the Code, cannot re-instate himself by paying his dues to the Secretary.

If Bro. Norris was sick and unable to pay his dues at the time he was suspended, and the lodge knew that to be his condition the lodge erred in suspending him. If the lodge at that time did not know of his condition, and have since been advised that at the time of his suspension he was sick and unable to perform his duties as a pastor and was indeed an indigent member entitled to the charity of the lodge, the lodge should correct its error by the Master declaring the suspension void as having been made without full knowledge of all the facts, and order Bro. Norris reinstated to good standing in the lodge. The lodge can then take up the matter and remit his dues as provided in Section. 194.

Had Bro. Norris appealed to this office instead of to his lodge, I should have felt justified to have ordered the lodge to re-instate him, but since the lodge has asked for instructions I have simply outlined the course the lodge should take as they seem to desire to do justly by a deserving brother, and the lodge will have the support of this office in the action to carry out the above instructions.

With kind regards to all I remain

Fraternally yours,

G. M

P. S. In regard to your action in the matter of my visit, I feel the lodge has decided wisely and for the best interest of the lodge. Should the time come when you feel your financial condition will permit of a visit you can let me know.

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