



## LODGE RESOURCE TEAM

### Can I Ask Him?

***“In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.”***

- Theodore Roosevelt

---

#### **By any chance, have you ever thought of becoming a Mason?**

Some would say that this question comes awfully close to violating our Blue Book of Michigan Masonic Law, specifically §4.18.2, that states:

*“...it is un-Masonic conduct and an offense against the teachings and ritual of our institution to urge or solicit a person not a Mason to become such. (1896).”*

1896. 129 years ago. The same year that the United States Supreme Court ruled on Plessy v Ferguson, which upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation for public facilities, as long as the segregated facilities were equal in quality. Plessy v Ferguson’s “separate but equal” doctrine has long since been changed. As men and as a society we have, too. Thank goodness.

Many other things have changed over 129 years, but not our prohibition on asking a man to be a member. Whether or not the prohibition is still relevant, until we change it, we live by it.

How can we stay within the letter and spirit of our law, but expose others to the wonderful benefits of our Fraternity?

The second half of that same §4.18.2 of the Blue Book states:

*“However, it is lawful to furnish to non-Masons information about Freemasonry including the procedures to be followed to become a Mason, to offer assistance in the event the non-Mason should desire to become a member of the fraternity and to remind the non-Mason of the offer of assistance once. (1997)”*

It is one man’s opinion, but I believe that second phrase in the Blue Book is a recognition of reality that is supported by the joint endeavor of the Scottish Rite, Shriners and local Masonic jurisdictions. Their joint initiative is grounded at [BeAFreemason.org](http://BeAFreemason.org) and is augmented by related promotional initiatives for (***click on the following link***),

***“Not just a man. A Mason.”***

Watch “Timeless Connection” and some of the other videos and you’ll see what I mean: we need to spread the word and the work of Masonry. Look at the other promotional media available to us to use and imagine using it as part of your website or social media posts. What if you showed and distributed some of the material at a membership night in your lodge?

We live in a country that, thankfully, embraces freedom of expression. I would submit that we can still encourage non-Masons to examine their options through:

- Demonstrating the best of our Masonic values in the way we live our daily lives
- Showcasing clean and modern meeting places that are attractive to prospects
- Being active and visible in our communities
- Wearing apparel that sports the square and compasses and/or our lodge names
- No longer “hiding our light under a bushel”
- Using Six Steps to Initiation during the prospecting phase, to ensure that a prospect’s interests are known, his questions answered, and we’re sure he’s the caliber of man we want to join us
- Staying with, befriending, and mentoring a man throughout his Masonic journey
- Gently dispelling the false information that non-Masons may believe, without getting into arguments with them
- Reinforcing that Masonry is not for everyone, but for good men wanting to be even better
- Asking questions like,
  - Do you understand what being a Mason means?
  - Has any member of *your* family ever been a Mason?
  - Have you ever wondered what Masons stand for?
  - Do you want to make a difference, with others who only want to make this a better world?

The choice is an individual one, that is not denied to any man of good character wanting to be better. Think about a man with whom you work, socialize, or worship. Then, maybe tell him, “From what I’ve seen, you’d make a great Mason. Let me know if you’d like to know more.”

Then, strive to **be** the man that we believe that he should want to become. **“Not just a man. A Mason.”**



Would you like to discuss how your lodge can be even better? Would you like to learn about best practices and successful ideas from other lodges? We have lots of ideas and would love to help. Please contact me at [fkaiser@michiganmasons.org](mailto:fkaiser@michiganmasons.org). Or give me a call at (248) 544-2222.