

Freemasonry Universal—AFRICA

update 1 of 2016 for

Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria

by Tony Pope

Grand Lodge of Antient, Free & Accepted Masons of Ghana

Founded: 2009. *Descent:* Ireland & Scotland.

Address: 32 Dadeban Rd, North Industrial Area, Accra, Ghana; PO Box CT 1817, Accra, Ghana.

Telephone: +233 30 292 3825.

Website: <http://www.grandlodgeofghana.org/>; email: grandsec@grandlodgeofghana.org.

Lodges: 49.

The Grand Lodge of Ghana was formed on 24 January 2009 by the unanimous decision of all 21 Irish lodges and all 28 Scottish lodges in the country. The Grand Master of Ireland and the Grand Master Mason of Scotland installed Bro Charles William Stanley-Pierre, District GM (SC), as Grand Master. None of the 57 English lodges joined the new Grand Lodge, but the United Grand Lodge of England accorded instant recognition of the Grand Lodge of Ghana.

The 49 lodges of the Grand Lodge of Ghana have been renumbered, and have been grouped into three Provincial Grand Lodges: South East, based at Accra (20 lodges); South West, based in Cape Coast (17 lodges); and North, based in Kumasi (12 lodges).

The Grand Lodge of Ghana is recognised by the 'home' grand lodges and by the National Grand Lodge of Greece and the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy, among others.

Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, Republic of Liberia

Founded: 1867. *Descent:* Prince Hall Masons.

Grand East: West Benson Street, Monrovia.

Postal address: not now listed (2016).

Telephone: (0011) 231-886-512-925.

Website: <http://grandlodgeofliberia.org/>; email: info@grandlodgeofliberia.org.

Quarterly Communications: 2nd Monday in March, June, September, December.

Lodges: 14 re-activated (out of 19); Members: 1750.

According to their website, Masonic activity was resumed in Liberia in 1988, with an interruption 'during the Civil Conflict'. Fourteen of the 19 lodges have been reactivated. Masters and Wardens of these 14 lodges are listed, almost all of them having email addresses (yahoo, gmail & hotmail).

The 4th edition of the *Prince Hall Masonic Directory* (1992) listed 19 lodges with a total membership of 500, without any details other than the names and numbers of the lodges, but added the proviso:

The Jurisdiction of Liberia is presently under military-dominated rule. Thus, additional information from the Republic of Liberia and our Prince Hall Family in this part of West Africa is not available.

The 5th edition (1997) listed 13 lodges and named the Masters of the lodges. The 6th edition (2003) did not contain an entry for Liberia. It is not clear when the 'interruption' ceased, but the United Grand Lodge of England recognised the Grand Lodge of Liberia in 1999, and the death of the Deputy Grand Master of Liberia was recorded in the Liberian Government Gazette in 2000, indicating a resumption of Masonic activity.

Grand Lodge of Nigeria

Founded: 2012. Descent: Ireland & Scotland.

Lodges: 51

The Grand Lodge of Nigeria was consecrated on 3 November 2012 by the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, and the first Grand Master of the new Grand Lodge was installed by the Grand Master of Ireland. The lodge was formed from the 20 lodges of the Irish Provincial Grand Lodge and 31 of the 45 lodges of the Scottish District Grand Lodge. None of the 33 lodges of the English District Grand Lodge joined in the formation of the new Grand Lodge, but the United Grand Lodge of England recognised the Grand Lodge of Nigeria 'from the moment of its creation'. The 14 Scottish lodges which did not join the new Grand Lodge remained under the District Grand Lodge (SC), and the District Grand Lodge (EC) continues undiminished.

The Grand Lodge of Nigeria is based at Calabar, a coastal city in southeastern Nigeria. It does not appear to have a website, and other means of communication have yet to be determined.