100 years ago, Woodrow Wilson outlined his 14 points of peace, women were given the
right to vote, the National Urban League was founded, daylight savings time went into
effect, and Robert Ripley began his “Believe It or Not” column in the NY Globe. But none
were more significant to Prince Hall Masonry than the founding of this body whose purpose
has remained the same:

To provide an opportunity for mutually recognized jurisdictions and their subordinate
bodies to engage in fraternal communication and Masonic fellowship;

To provide an opportunity for unification of Prince Hall Grand Lodges and other affiliated
Masonic Bodies to address issues of common interest relative to both the institution of
Freemasonry and the profane world; and

To remain committed to the universal promotion and perpetuation of Prince Hall
Freemasonry throughout the world.

The world has evolved, but Prince Hall Masonry has remained a constant beacon of light
and cornerstone in our respective jurisdictions around the world. Once looked at as just
"Black Masons" and something that wasn’t always universally recognized, we have lasted
100 years, and become an institution recognized and revered for its time honored traditions.

At a time where our people are becoming an endangered species, we have to find ways to
stop giving those who choose to do us harm ammunition. And within the walls of the
fraternity, we have to find ways to build that house not made with hands, rather than using
them to swing a setting maul against one another. Masonry demands more from us, and as
Sovereign leaders in our respective territories, it expects us to come together for the greater
good of the Craft, and not ourselves.

Being progressive has always been my mantra, and I look forward to helping to progress this
Conference and our mandates forward. It requires a team, and I thank all of you for your
participation in growing this sacred band of friends and brothers into something truly
Grand.

As we look to celebrate 100 years of the Conference of Grand Masters at the Melia Nassau
Beach All-Inclusive Resort, we are reminded how far we have come as a people, as a country,
and as a body. 100 years ago the idea of having a conference where we would be able to fly
would be unheard of; now we are concerned about seat assignments and rewards
points...how times have changed, but look how we have changed with them.

Here is to another 100 years...