
FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Report for General Council Meeting
August 1, 1971

You who listened to these reports for many years know full well that the time has not yet arrived for the active functioning of this committee in fostering and developing fraternal relations and good will with the churches of various denominations and with the religions of the world to the end that the purposes of Urantia Brotherhood may be advanced.

There is little need to review the cases where negative results followed well meant efforts to interest men of the cloth in the Urantia Book. It would appear self evident that the religious hierarchy the world over is not yet ready to accept the Urantia Book as their source of ecclesiastical authority.

Happily there are in our own ranks a few outstanding exceptions of ministers who have taken this revelation as the inspiration, the consuming motivation of their lives. Note, however, that they are not engaged in any effort to crash the gates, to invite a direct confrontation with the established order.

But do not think that the winds of change are now blowing through the church. The Chicago Daily News recently called attention to the losses being sustained by seminaries throughout the land. It cited (on June 26) the University of Chicago Divinity School facing a decline of nearly 35% in student enrollment this coming fall as compared with two years ago. The Episcopal Church contemplates eliminating 6 of its 12 seminaries, possibly by mergers. The comptroller of Union Theological Seminary in New York thinks that the total of 125 accredited seminaries in the nation is "about four times too many."

On the more dramatic side, consider the recent move by a small group of priests in their censure of Cardinal Cody—a prince of the church; an action that would have been unthinkable just a few short years ago.

One wonders: Will these winds accelerate into the whirlwind that will hasten change beyond our present expectation? But we really do not know.

It is for us to continue to seek out the individual who may be receptive to

systems.

The membership of the committee is a matter of record. The council should note that the committee created the school with the following officers:

President Kenton E. Stephens Dean Alvin S. Kulieke Registrar Helen Carlson

Respectfully submitted, Kenton E. Stephens, Chairman

1971 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

Kenton Stephens

July 1971

The Committee on Education in its meetings since July 1970 undertook serious investigation of different and augmented ways of reaching Urantians who live at a distance from Chicago or who find it difficult to travel regularly to a society's meeting or to Urantia Brotherhood headquarters. In March 1971 society and study groups were surveyed concerning their interest in sending qualified individuals to Chicago "for one or more seminars of two to three days of intensive instruction." (See attached copy of March 8 letter.) The results were surprising, to say the least. The level of interest among the societies and groups was nowhere high enough for the committee to recommend establishing such seminars. Aside from the usual problems of cost, transportation, and time, there was a strong hint in the replies that the societies and groups wanted to rely heavily on their own individual styles of study and contemplation.

Headquarters seemed to be a little too much "establishment", at least for some of the respondents. The replies could be useful for some study by the Executive Committee. Nevertheless, the task of re-examining the purposes and procedures of the school continues. Members of the committee have suggested revisions in the present curriculum, which constitute the basis for further discussion in the committee.

The committee and the school continued operation of the week-night study sessions at 533 Diversey in the same pattern now in effect for several years. It is expected that these sessions will continue.

In addition, the school was responsible for planning the 1971 summer study session (a copy of the program is enclosed). These sessions were initiated in 1963 and occur in those years when the Triennial Delegate Assembly does not meet. Dates for 1971 are Friday, July 30, and Saturday, July 31.

It is the personal, subjective opinion of the chairman that the function of the school in formally preparing teachers and leaders must be re-examined in the light of new enterprises undertaken by societies and study groups. They have thrived without sustained supervision from headquarters. The press toward decentralization is strong in all segments of Western society and the Urantia Brotherhood is no more immune than our educational

the message of the Book.

We are told that while the Most Highs rule in the kingdoms of men, Michael of Nebadon is ever and always interested in the individual, which he so superbly demonstrated when he lived here among men and "went about doing good."

If the life of our Creator Sovereign inspires us to continue our emphasis on working with the individual, ultimately the leaven will spread until it involves men of all creeds and all races.

Thus we can carry on, while in the large area of our relations with the church, we patiently await the development of the Divine plan, the evolutionary outworking of the Father's will on this planet.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert H. Dyon

1971 REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

Alvin Kulieke

We have just concluded a study session wherein we considered particularly the Five Epochal Revelations on our world. Our Brotherhood is a voluntary and fraternal association of believers in The Urantia Book, and inasmuch as The Urantia Book is the Fifth Epochal Revelation we believe and trust that our organization is one that is the outgrowth and an innate part of this Fifth Epochal Revelation. Our function is a unique one in a unique situation. Few people on any world have the privilege of being associated with the beginning activities of any revelation. We have this privilege, and associated with it the responsibility, of acting with wisdom and circumspection, as we attempt to avoid any quick and drastic decisions. Regardless of what we do, this revelation I am sure will be carried to the world. We need to plan carefully though aggressively for the dissemination of the teachings of The Urantia Book, and so conduct the affairs of the Brotherhood that we do not hinder or delay the growth of this movement, but instead make steady, sure progress. During the past year we have seen a definite increase in Book sales, and in interest as is evidenced through letters, telephone calls, office visits, as well as through reports of other Urantians.

Throughout the year, the Executive Committee has met once a month and it seems that the meetings have been getting longer due to more discussions on various agenda items. Every month we receive reports of the activities of our nine committees through the chairmen. These of course are varied, with some giving extensive reports on certain months while others have "no report." Then each officer reports with the secretary, secretary general, and the vice-president discussing largely significant letters, phone calls, and visitors to the headquarters office. The president has used a vehicle called "Musings at Midnight," which consist of the cumulation of thoughts and experiences and possibly suggestions that have come to him during the month - usually jotted down at about midnight preceding the meeting. The treasurer regularly reports at the Urantia Brotherhood Corporation meeting which immediately follows the Executive Committee meeting. We read reports from our field representatives whenever they are submitted which is not infrequent. We appreciate the activity of these people and their reports.

The attendance at our Executive Committee meetings has been very good - usually all fourteen are present, and there is never any question about having a quorum. Occasionally, some member may be absent because of Urantia business elsewhere, such as the recent visit of our vice president to Oklahoma City. (Sounded to me as though it was one large party.)

With the items that come in at each meeting we are constantly studying our activities and progress, and keep searching for ways whereby we can improve our procedures, develop effective policies, and in general support and increase the sure, steady and appropriate growth of the Urantia movement as we

continue to work in disseminating the teachings of The Urantia Book.

In reporting on activities in the headquarters office I should note that one of our office secretaries who had been paid partially by Dr. Sadler, since his death has had this portion of her salary assumed by the Brotherhood.

Officers, of course, do not receive pay and would not want to - though each one of them devotes many hours a week on Urantia Brotherhood work. Two people, however, are employed full time at headquarters with payment of their salaries shared by the Brotherhood and the Foundation. The Foundation has assumed the major share of this responsibility. There is presently need for additional part-time help in the offices - secretarial help largely. Our correspondence has increased appreciably, and too often we have used for typing letters the time of the two people which should be devoted to the completion of the Index. A great deal of time and work has been given by the two book custodians in handling the orders for books and the accounting connected with books going to bookstores. Our financial status needs to be improved in order to support and promote several activities such as these. Urantia headquarters has increasingly become a very busy place, and will continue to grow without limit. As has been said many times before, "This is big business," and I believe our studies the last two days have underlined this statement.

In order to strengthen our organization and stimulate its growth I believe that we will need to employ a full time field secretary - some individual who would be able to travel to visit study groups and societies as a representative of the Executive Committee and the General Council - the Urantia Brotherhood. I look for this to start as a part time activity for an experienced member of the Urantia Movement and supported by contributions from societies, study groups, and other interested individuals. I conceive of a set-up wherein the individual selected for this would be one who is possibly retired from secular work, and would therefore be available on call to visit a society or group of Urantians. I would expect that such activities would help the various groups and instill into each a greater sense of belonging, thus causing a greater sense of unity to exist throughout the various affiliates of the organization.

As stated before, when we can employ such an individual, this I am sure will signal a definite beginning of greater unity in our organization, and will lead to more concerted efforts on the part of Urantians in all parts of the country.

I believe that appropriate individuals are becoming available for this type of program. We should be expending greater efforts toward underwriting this position, even though we start it by simply paying traveling expenses for this field secretary. No one is getting old in our organization, but several have reached or are approaching the age when retirement can take effect. These are people whose time and experience, and knowledge of the Urantia teachings and activities, can be of great value to the Brotherhood. I would like to see a start made in this program as the details of it can be put into operation.

Only three years ago I suggested concern that we will no doubt be obliged to endure certain trials or tests. During Forum days, close to thirty years ago, after many people had come and gone because some

became weary of waiting, we were told that we were experiencing the time test of delay. Many of us have passed this test, though some are still impatient because things are not moving fast enough. We need to remember the remark of a Melchizedek about Jesus: "He was never in a hurry. He controlled his enthusiasm; it never controlled him."

Then we were told of an additional test - that of unity - perhaps a more difficult test. Relative to this, I would like to use the certain words of Jesus, for I believe they are especially important to us.

"What I require of you, my apostles, is spirit unity - and that you can experience in the joy of your united dedication to the wholehearted doing of the will of my Father in heaven. You do not have to see alike or feel alike or even think alike in order spiritually to be alike. Spiritual unity is derived from the gift of the heavenly Father. Your apostolic harmony must grow out of the fact that the spirit hope of each of you is identical in origin, nature, and destiny.

"In this way you may experience a perfected unity of spirit purpose and spirit understanding growing out of the mutual consciousness of the identity of each of your indwelling Paradise spirits; and you may enjoy all of this profound spiritual unity in the very face of the utmost diversity of your individual attitudes of intellectual thinking, temperamental feeling, and social conduct. Your personalities may be refreshingly diverse and markedly different, while your spiritual natures and spirit fruits of divine worship and brotherly love may be so unified that all who behold your lives will of a surety take cognizance of this spirit identity and soul unity; they will recognize that you have been with me and have thereby learned, and acceptably, how to do the will of the Father in heaven. You can achieve the unity of the services of God even while you render such service in accordance with the technique of your own original endowments of mind, body, and soul.

"Your spirit unity implies two things, which always will be found to harmonize in the lives of individual believers: First, you are possessed with a common motive for life service; you all desire above everything to do the will of the Father in heaven. Second, you have a common goal of existence; you all purpose to find the Father in heaven, thereby proving to the universe that you have become like him." (P 1591.4, middle of par. to 192.2, incl.)

I believe in general we are doing quite well in maintaining unity. We have learned to keep open minds and adjust to new situations.

I had suggested a third test that was upon us - the possibility of becoming discouraged at the rate of dissemination of Urantia teachings that was less than our anticipated rate. Things were moving slowly three years ago. Today they are much accelerated as is evidenced by the greatly increased sale of books, now well into the third printing, which the increase in price has not slowed down.

There are many indications of increased interest in this Fifth Epochal Revelation. I am sure we will be beset by other problems, perhaps even multiplying as the interest grows. We are already concerned about the many strange cults and isms that are trying to attach themselves to this Urantia movement, just

as we were told would happen. We must strive to use great wisdom in dealing with these situations. If we all remain patient, work toward unity, maintain our faith and love, and be optimistic, I believe we can resolve problems as they appear and endure any tests or trials successfully.

Some of the action taken by the Executive Committee during this last year include the following:

1. Correspondence with Societies and selection of the Advisory Committee recommended by the General Council a year ago.
2. Approval of a promotion brochure as prepared by the Domestic Extension Committee.
3. Development of policies concerning the sale of books to questionable groups, stores, and individuals after consultation with our attorney.
4. Approval of a charter for the Houston Urantia Society.
5. Approval of several applications for membership-at-large.
6. Purchase of a safe or vault in conjunction with the Urantia Foundation for the safe keeping in our records and archives.

Recently I read my report of August 4th 1968 and was impressed by the closing paragraph. I would like to use the same words in concluding this report.

As each of us has embarked upon the open seas of life's adventure, so has our Brotherhood set sail on a voyage of world enlightenment through this new revelation that has been given to the world. To those of us here principally has been entrusted the leadership of this venture. We have had some instructions, and the charts have to be refined or changed periodically. May we all work together in continued co-operation, utilizing our best judgment and combined wisdom in making those decisions that will keep our course consistently aimed toward the haven of ultimate world acceptance of the Urantia teachings.

Alvin L. Kulieke August 1, 1971
