

1978 Annual Report of the Charter Committee to the General Council  
Mary Lou Hales

The Charter Committee consists of the following members: Irene Sprunger, Lucile Kulieke, David Renn, David Elders, Katharine Harries, Secretary, and Mary Lou Hales, Chairman.

Since our last report to the General Council, we have received several inquiries from study groups wishing information on becoming a Urantia society. These requests came from West Palm Beach and Tallahassee, Florida, and also from Seattle, Washington. After due inquiry and reports from our Field Representatives, it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that these groups were not yet ready for society responsibilities, and need more time.

We also received a request from the Darien study group which has begun the chartering process. We are currently unable to proceed further with the chartering process, since the Foundation's lawyers have not completed a Licensing Agreement for new societies. We hope this task will be completed soon.

The Charter Committee has been asked by the Executive Committee to make a thorough study of the steps required in acquiring a charter. Our committee is now involved in this review and will make a report to the Executive Committee in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Hales, Chairman Charter Committee

## Report of the Education Committee to the General Council of the Urantia Brotherhood

Lynne B. Kulieke

The Committee on Education has met five times this year, largely in preparation for the Education Workshops of the 1978 general Conference at Williams Bay, Wisconsin. In its endeavor to gain widespread representation and participation, the Committee also invited eight persons from the field to aid in its plans. This communication culminated in a most satisfying interchange by means of a telephone conference call in October, and the Committee wishes to express its deep appreciation for the valuable contributions of the eight conferees.

In order to meet its constitutional charge of finding, preparing, and qualifying teachers for the dissemination of the Urantia teachings, the Committee hopes that these workshops will be repeated annually. This year the focus will be general, with an emphasis on the universe as one vast school and how Jesus taught. In future sessions these areas will be treated more in depth, and other subjects arising from discussion will be addressed also. Evaluation by all individuals attending and their participation in planning further workshops will constitute an important part of this long-range program.

The Committee on Education has also prepared a preliminary statement of current thinking, to be revised, expanded, and mailed to Urantia Brotherhood members, upon completion of the 1978 workshops. In addition, work continues on the identification of behavioral objectives and on curriculum studies.

The Committee has been extremely active, and I would like to express my gratitude to all the members, David Schlundt, Marjorie Reed, Charles Burton, Helen Carlson, and John Hales for their dedicated efforts.

Chairman, Lynne B. Kulieke

1978 Report of the Domestic Extension Committee, General Council of the Urantia Brotherhood

August 12, 1978

The Committee was asked by Meredith Sprunger, Brotherhood President, to develop recommendations for a possible leadership training regime that could be used to foster a reciprocity of communications between headquarters personnel and our friends in the field.

Executive Committee members, Foundation trustees, Society president, field representatives, study group leaders, and others with leadership potential could be participants.

The program is in its early developmental stage at present. Domestic Extension has submitted its recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Thomas A. Kendall, Chairman  
Domestic Extension Committee

TAK/MTR 6/1/78

## 1978 Report of the Fraternal Relations Committee to the General Council of the Urantia Brotherhood

Carolyn Kendall

The Fraternal Relations Committee has begun compiling the policies and principles that have guided Urantia Brotherhood during the past 23 years concerning our relationship to organized religions. Here are some of the areas of concern:

1. We will attempt to clarify why it is that we are so adamant about not wanting to become a separate institutionalized religion. We have identified many earmarks common to organized religion which are absent in our movement.
2. We are determining ways that the Brotherhood as an organization can minimize the possibility of offending our spiritual brothers by refraining from making judgments and offering opinions about religious groups, through the agencies of:
  - a) published newsletters, brochures, and study aids; b) letters to private individuals; and c) conferences and regional meetings.
3. We are reviewing reasons why Urantia Brotherhood has not engaged in public activities which would place it or The Urantia Book in co-operative association with established religions.
4. We will seek the experiences of individuals who have joined or visited religious groups for the purpose of learning more about the group, and of being part of their fellowship. How have they established dialogue? How do they expand upon mutually-held common truths?
5. We are proposing ways in which the ideas, as contrasted with The Urantia Book as a whole, can be filtered into the mainstream of religious thought without in any way undermining established religion.
6. By studying our revelatory predecessors and their human successors, we can hopefully avoid their more serious mistakes. Example: One of the most common pitfalls, and perhaps the easiest to repeat, would be to have The Urantia Book and Brotherhood become closely identified with Westernized religious usage that its acceptance by peoples of various religious backgrounds would be jeopardized.
7. We hope to convey an awareness of the need to reassure organized religions that we pose no threat to the truths they hold in reverence, and that we will not infiltrate their churches, impose our beliefs upon them, downgrade their traditions, or lure away their members. Instead, we desire to support all religious institutions because of their own unique role in ministering to mankind's spiritual needs.

Carolyn Kendall, Chairman (signed)

## Urantia Brotherhood Publications Committee 1978 Report to the General Council

Barbara Kulieke

The Publications Committee has been active in several areas this year:

1. **Urantia Brotherhood Bulletin.** A new format for the Bulletin using offset printing and photographs started with the September 1977 issue. Response to the Bulletin has been very good, so we plan to continue in this direction. People especially like the photographs, news of Urantia Book readers, news of Urantia Brotherhood activities, and the feeling of unity this creates. About 2500 copies are distributed quarterly; about 2100 go to the headquarters mailing list and several hundred are used by the offices of Urantia Brotherhood and Urantia Foundation in their correspondence with new readers of *The Urantia Book*. Much volunteer work goes into the production of the Bulletin, and this is much appreciated, as is the response of societies, study groups, and readers who have begun enthusiastically to contribute news and photographs for the Bulletin.

2. **Translations.** The Publications Committee would like to issue a French translation of Urantia Brotherhood Bulletin and has been studying means of doing so. We are considering volunteer translators, professional translators, and a combination of volunteer and professional translators. We would not print a separate French edition of the Bulletin, but would enclose a French translation of the text with the English edition. This could serve as a model for other translations, and we are thinking of other languages which may be used in the future. The Committee also wishes to keep abreast of problems in translating Brotherhood publications and to acquaint ourselves with the best means of providing translations. (The Publications Committee is not charged with responsibilities concerning translations of *The Urantia Book* but is charged with responsibilities concerning translations of Brotherhood publications.)

3. **1978 Publications Workshops.** The Publications Committee looks forward to two meetings during the morning sessions of the 1978 General Conference at Lake Geneva. On Monday, a small group of experienced editors and staff will meet by invitation to consider common interests and possible coordination. On Tuesday, a workshop on starting local newsletters will be conducted by experienced editors for anyone who wishes to attend. These two workshops are part of an ongoing interest on our part in facilitating communication and fellowship among those in the Urantia movement who are interested in publications. We hope this summer's workshops will be a time of getting acquainted and deepening acquaintances, and will result in ways we can continue to cooperate and coordinate with one another.

4. **1978 Conference Papers.** The Publications Committee and the editors of *The Urantian Journal of Urantia Brotherhood* have agreed to cooperate on publication of a digest of presentations made at the 1978 General Conference. Details will be decided after material has been received.

The Publications Committee welcomes your comments, questions, and suggestions. We would especially appreciate knowing of persons who are interested in, and experienced in publications. The new developments in publications as tools in the dissemination of the teachings and the augmentation of fellowship among readers are exciting and challenging.

Submitted by Barbara Kulieke,  
Chairman Publications Committee

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE TO THE  
GENERAL COUNCIL OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD**

by Martin Myers

August 12, 1978

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Progress and increasing international unity sum up this past year's development in the world-wide dissemination of The Urantia Teachings,

With Books sent to 14 new countries for the first time in 1977, books have now reached approximately one-half of the world's countries, also more than 140 libraries in various countries now have Urantia Books. Too, the headquarters staff can attest to the ever-augmenting international correspondence. Independent study groups seriously interested in the study of the teachings of The Urantia Book are known to be functioning regularly in Canada, France, Belgium, Finland, Australia, New Zealand--all of this solid testimony to the effectiveness of the quiet person-to-person spread of The Urantia Book.

Of special interest is the formation of a committee in France working under the auspices of and in co-operation with Urantia Brotherhood which will begin to undertake the publishing of a French language Urantia Brotherhood Journal in the near future.

The International Fellowship Committee in its last meeting reaffirmed the desirability of the Brotherhood's proceeding wisely and slowly with involvement in the international field, being quick, however, to cultivate that soil which will support genuine interest in the Urantia teachings and friendly and ennobling mutual association and cooperation. We continue to wish to be leaveners. (Rather than develop a grandiose plan for international involvement, our committee believes we should react to the immediate needs of international readers consistent with the best ways of developing the co-ordinative mechanism of Urantia Brotherhood the world over.)

Insofar as translations of The Urantia Book are concerned, the committee observed that translations should be done carefully and deliberately and since English is becoming more and more the world's international evolutionary language, the need for translation, while highly desirable, should nevertheless be lessened at least during these early stages of the spread of The Urantia Book. In making this observation, the committee does not wish to appear chauvinistic, but merely wishes to recognize what it believes is the practical reality.

The committee has given careful consideration to and fully supports Dr, Meredith J. Sprunger's and the Domestic Extension Committee's separate proposals for leadership development within Urantia Brotherhood. We wish to co-operate in implementing these proposals within the immediate future.

The IFC has discussed the desirability of encouraging face-to-face contacts among international students of The Urantia Book and has suggested that the International Fellowship Committee serve as co-ordinator of those families and/or people who wish to participate in some sort of an Exchange Program by their making known to the committee their desire to participate in such a program--but with all participants making their own arrangements once they have been put in contact with one another.

Since the last annual report, international contacts have included visits of various Executive Committee Members to Canada, France and The Netherlands. In addition, our European Field Representative, Mr. Henry Begemann, and his able wife, Bauk, visited headquarters in late November and early December, 1977, and met with the Executive Committee giving a first-hand report on international developments in Europe, Mr. Begemann has exhibited a real talent for bringing readers with various viewpoints together for unified functioning consistent with the goals and purposes of Urantia Brotherhood.

In closing, one can observe that during these formative years while The Urantia Book is largely unknown to the general public, much valuable experience is being earned which should render able assistance in meeting the challenge of growth with stability once the Book's existence -- if not its purpose and true contents -- becomes known throughout the world. Ideally the Book will quietly spread to all peoples of our planet without raising antagonisms or creating resistance to its message by undue publicity or notoriety, and at some day in the future people will come to the realization that it is already in their midst (as if it had been there all the time) with a loyal and supportive readership that can courageously and selflessly champion its message of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man throughout the world. All this will take time for The Urantia Book itself points out:

" No great social or economic change should be attempted suddenly. Time is essential to all types of human adjustment-physical, social, or economic. Only moral and spiritual adjustments can be made on the spur of the moment, and even these require the passing of time for the full outworking of their material and social repercussions..." (p. 911)

Time is on our side so long as we use it effectively by responding to events to the extent their evolutionary development will reasonably support our involvement. But we must be careful to do no more. We, like Jesus, must not over-feed our associates.

Our committee believes quiet and substantial progress has been made to date (in what our planetary supervisors must view as merely the twinkling of an eye) and we look forward to working with our unseen friends towards the safe world-wide dissemination of The Urantia Book and the development of the Brotherhood scaffolding which it is hoped will give way to a genuine living organismal spiritual Brotherhood in the distant years ahead.

International Fellowship Committee of Urantia Brotherhood by Martin W. Myers, as its  
Chairman

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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL  
of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD**

Meredith Sprunger

August 12, 1978

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This has been a year of positive accomplishment. Building on the growing openness, better communication, and co-operative efforts of many people, we have, in principle, largely resolved the Licensing Agreement issue. I should like to thank the trustees of the Foundation for their help and co-operation in actualizing the Licensing Agreement. The patience and restraint of members of the Executive Committee has been commendable. But I wish to express special gratitude and deep appreciation to key people throughout the Brotherhood who nobly transcended past intellectual disagreement and emotional wounds to selflessly work for wisdom and unity in Urantia Brotherhood. To the members of all of the societies who have signed the Licensing Agreement, we thank you for your substantial contributing support, your patience and understanding, and your dedicated loyalty.

We have now largely passed through the most critical period the Brotherhood has experienced in its short history. Not only have we learned from this period of testing but we have grown in perceptive insight, integrity, and strength. We now have the experience and solidarity to make wiser and more rigorous decisions. It is, therefore, with confidence and joy that we now turn our major attention to the future.

As we strive to concentrate on the spiritual ministry of disseminating the good news, teaching, and fellowship, there are a number of priorities which call for attention. First, we need to find ways to de-emphasize official and organic membership in Urantia Brotherhood. We should strive for oneness of fellowship among members and non members. Many people are better suited for unofficial relationships. Study groups should not be primarily motivated to become societies for status or political reasons. They should become societies when they have grown to the place where they are already functioning and serving as a society but feel the need for the additional responsibilities of official and formal relationships with the Brotherhood. Such a policy will provide the maximum freedom for individuals and groups and lessen the danger of institutional evils, while at the same time provide the continuity, organized planning, and control necessary for cultural assimilation and survival.

The second priority which I would call to your attention is the importance of the proper

selection and utilization of leadership in Urantia Brotherhood. I believe it is time to select the most qualified leaders in the Brotherhood as free as possible from the limiting constraint of geography.

At present the General Council and Executive Committee are rather heavily weighted by Chicago area people such as myself. There are many very able people in the Brotherhood who should be serving on both of these committees. I would make two recommendations to facilitate getting the most qualified people in leadership positions. First, I should like to see the General Council instruct the Judicial Committee to bring a proposed change in the Brotherhood Constitution to the General Council next year which would allow the election of 42 councilors. I would further suggest that the General Council hold a meeting preceding the Triennial Delegate Assembly to take action on this change.

The second recommendation is that the General Council instruct the Judicial Committee to formulate a proposed change in the Brotherhood Constitution which would allow the Executive Committee to have the option of meeting quarterly or monthly. If such instruction is given and this proposal is adopted next year, I would recommend that the General Council at next year's meeting instruct the Executive Committee to experiment with quarterly meetings for a year and then evaluate the viability of this procedure on a permanent basis.

This change, in my judgment, would lay the foundations for the election of the highest quality of leadership to the Executive Committee as it would largely eliminate a geographic limitation on selection. This practice is followed by most national and international organizations.

It would further, in my judgment, improve the efficiency and quality of Executive Committee meetings. A great deal of the time at our monthly meetings reports are not prepared for consideration because of the time factor and there is much unnecessary "spinning of wheels." Quarterly meetings would make for better preparation and since it would require longer continuous sessions, it would tend to be more efficient and effective. Occasionally more frequent meetings may need to be called, but generally in my experience and judgment, the effect of quarterly meetings would bring a significant improvement in the practical functioning of Urantia Brotherhood.

Along with these recommended changes in the General Council and Executive Committee, I would like to see the opportunity for more qualified people on departmental committees. With the use of correspondence and telephone conferences, people from all over the country could serve on departmental committees. This methodology would make it possible for most committees to operate effectively with one or two "face to face" meetings a year. The wealth of leadership now available in the Brotherhood certainly makes it unnecessary to elect any person to two or three departmental committees!

The third priority which I suggest that we consider is that we initiate practices which would change operational procedures of Urantia Brotherhood from that of a modified oligarchy to that of a participatory democracy. In addition to the suggestion that we make constitutional changes which would make it reasonably practical as well as possible to elect a broader base of leadership predicated primarily on ability rather than geography, I would like to see all nominating committees present a minimum of two names for every position to be filled. I would further hope that we might establish a tradition of making some nominations from the floor.

Beyond these election changes, it is my intent to promote very open meetings to encourage the expression of minority views. A word of caution here is probably in order. When you have expressed your opinion and defended it with reasonable vigor, please do not attempt to monopolize the discussion. Should this happen, the chairman will simply have to exercise a firm hand. We should all strive to be cheerful losers when our fellows do not agree with us.

I recognize this report does not advocate maintaining the status quo! It is likely to disturb some of the faithful. Nevertheless, I believe it is time to openly discuss these issues. It is also a truism that incumbents seldom adopt policies which threaten their power base. But I like to think (idealist!) that power orientation is not typical of leaders of Urantia Brotherhood.

If I am expressing a minority concern, as I well may be, our discussion hopefully will at least have some educational value and I shall love you all the same! You have given us wise advice and heart warming support during the past year for which I am most grateful. Most of all I am enriched by the experience of fellowship - a sense of brotherhood - where we are bound together as persons working for common, yet far-reaching and inspiring purposes. And the best is yet to come!

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