

## **1989 REPORT OF THE CHARTER COMMITTEE OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD**

Avi Dogim

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To: General Councilors From: Avi Dogim

### **URANTIA Brotherhood MEMORANDUM**

Date: May 38, 1989 Subject: Annual Report of the Charter Committee

#### **Upcoming Society Installations:**

The principal activities of the Charter Committee this year have centered on the business of chartering two new societies outside the United States, one in Finland and the other in Ontario, Canada. Installation of Finnish URANTIA Society is scheduled for June 3, 1989 and that of Couchiching URANTIA Society of Ontario for June 10, 1989. Drafting these societies' constitutions have been rather lengthy processes, probably more complex than their equivalents in earlier cases involving U.S. societies. The reasons for this are most directly attributable to differences in legal systems among various countries as they pertain to the status of not-for profit organizations.

**Sample Constitution:** A by-product of the work, particularly that of the URANTIA Foundation's attorneys, involved with drafting the Finnish URANTIA Society constitution, is the development of a sample constitution which could be used by any group in the process of forming a society. The sample constitution has yet to be formally approved by the Brotherhood, but even in its present draft form could be very helpful to groups who are in the process of writing their constitutions.

**Charter Applications:** Charter applications have been submitted by groups in Florida and in Arizona. Both groups may be installed as societies by this coming winter, provided that all of the preliminary work is satisfactorily completed by that time.

**Inquiries:** Several other groups had made inquiries regarding standards of admission of societies and information was sent to them.

**Brotherhood Membership Criteria:** The Charter Committee has been charged by the Executive Committee, during the latter's April meeting, with the task of review and evaluation of Brotherhood membership requirements as they pertain to both members-at-large and members through societies. The need for this review became apparent during the Executive Committee's recent deliberations regarding

the status of a number of members-at large with whom there had been no contacts for relatively long periods of time.

cc: Scott Forsythe Charter Committee

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# **1989 REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD**

Marilynn Kulieke

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May 15, 1989

To: General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood

From: Marilynn Kulieke

Re: 1988-89 Report from the Vice President

During the past year I was assigned to work on three resolutions from the Council. In response to Resolution 10, Lynne Kulieke, Dan Massey and I wrote a letter to the Foundation inviting the Trustees to attend General Council meetings. The Trustees declined to attend, feeling that their presence would not serve the deliberative process of either the Council or the Foundation. They thanked us for our considerate offer. Resolution 8, improving interaction among URANTIA Societies, was reassigned to Domestic Extension since their work on a survey to URANTIA Societies and the Society Conclave directly related to the intent of this resolution. Finally, for Resolution 3, the nominating subcommittee of the Executive Committee suggested that we contact Brotherhood members asking them if they have an interest and would commit to serving on Brotherhood committees. There was general agreement in the Executive Committee that this was a good idea and would aid in finding qualified people who are interested in serving on various Brotherhood committees. The specifics of this plan have not been determined.

Over the past year there has been discussion about the need to review the joint mailing list policy for URANTIA Foundation and Brotherhood. John Hay and I have been working on this project. Since the development of policy is the domain of the General Council, the Executive Committee has recommended the following for the approval of the Council.

A mailing list subcommittee of URANTIA Brotherhood/Foundation be formed for the short term purpose of developing a policy statement on the use of the computerized data base in terms of Brotherhood, Foundation, Society, Study Group and individual usage. This policy statement would guide the development of office procedures which are consonant with the policy.

It is recommended that the subcommittee will be comprised of Gloriann Harris, Martin Myers, Frank Sgaraglino, Polly Friedman, John Hay, Marilynn Kulieke, Brent St. Denis and Michael Painter (Director of Reader Services UB).

We are in the beginning stages of planning a celebration for the work and efforts that office staff have made to create a more professionally organized office. This celebration will take place in September before the Executive Committee meeting begins. It is hoped that this effort will help show our appreciation for the increased efforts that have been made to create a fully functional central office staff.

As a part of URANTIA Brotherhood Corp, John Hay, Gard Jameson, Jim Johnston and myself have been appointed to the Sales Agency Oversight Committee. This committee will oversee the sales agency function for the Corporation. The committee has met several times and has begun to develop plans to oversee the Sales Agency.

I feel that it has been a great year for the Executive Committee. The commitment of so many individuals acting together to advance the work of the Brotherhood has been really exciting for me. It has been a great privilege to serve with this group.

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## 1989 Special Projects Committee Report Bob Bruyn

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During the '88-'89 year the Committee has been served by the following members: CeCe Forester (secretary), Chicago; Dan Glazer, Chicago; Bill Hazen, Kansas City, Missouri; Jim McNelly, St.Cloud, Minnesota; and Larry Mullins, Oklahoma City. Dan Glazer resigned from the Committee in April because, "My family responsibilities make it impossible for me to give the Committee's work the time and attention it deserves." We want to thank Dan for his involvement in the Committee during the past three years.

As an Adjunct Member, Michael Wood, Overland Park, Kansas, has also served the Committee. The following Adjunct Members have recently joined the Committee: Tony Finstad, Bothell, Washington; Barbara Kulieke, Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin; and Ken Raveill, Independence, Missouri. Since the Committee is now responsible for additional projects and some of these are potentially complex, we look forward to their interest and assistance. Scott Forsythe serves as the Committee's liaison with the central office.

### RESOURCE GUIDE:

A task group composed of representatives from URANTIA Foundation, URANTIA Brotherhood, Special Projects, and Office Operations met on September 10, 1988, to develop procedures for implementing and administering the development of a Resource Guide for Secondary Works. The steps for implementation are as follows:

- I. Solicitation of Works --- Readers of The URANTIA Book have been informed of the project by articles in the Bulletin and letters sent to societies, groups which have produced materials, and those putting out newsletters.
2. Information Packet -- over 350 people requested the packet of information for submission of materials, which included: Cover Letter Procedures and Guidelines pamphlet Copyright Considerations pamphlet Copyright Permission Guidelines pamphlet New Listing Form Distribution Agreement
3. Receipt of Materials -- Over 75 Secondary Works have been submitted and more are coming in. A computerized data base has been set up by in the central office and Vin Meyers enters descriptive information about each work.
4. Copyright and Trademark Review -- The first step in the review process is for central office staff to

screen secondary works for any copyright or trademark problems. Because of the scope and the ongoing nature of this project, URANTIA Foundation decided that the Foundation staff should first meet with the copyright/trademark attorneys to discuss the review process and to clarify the procedures. However, the attorneys have been unable to attend the meetings scheduled at various times during March through May. Another meeting date will be scheduled in June.

This unfortunate and unexpected delay in the implementation of the copyright and trademark review has caused a temporary delay of subsequent steps, as well as the expected date of completion. The President of URANTIA Foundation has expressed the Foundation's regrets to the Ad Hoc Review Committee and has reassured us that this delay does not in any way imply a lack of support for this worthy project!

**5. Review Committee --** An Ad Hoc Review Committee was established to review each Secondary Work submitted and to determine if it follows the spirit of the guidelines for being included in the Resource Guide. The intent of the review process is best summarized in the paragraph following the guidelines, which states:

"In considering the above guidelines, it is important to note that our review of material submitted for the Guide is not done with the aim of weighing the merit of each work -- that is for the readers to decide - but merely to screen out anything which specifically and obviously violates the spirit of these guidelines. The guidelines themselves are intended only to provide a set of consistent criteria which will be uniformly and fairly applied to all material submitted. It is the intent of URANTIA Brotherhood and URANTIA Foundation to encourage educational efforts, and our hope is that the vast majority of material created and submitted in good faith will be included in this Guide."

The Review Committee has representation from several 'standing committees and consists of the following members: Dick Bain, Fraternal Relations; Bob Bruyn, Chairman; Cece Forrester, Special Projects; Jim Johnston, Publications; Marilyn Kulieke, URANTIA Brotherhood; Dan Massey, Education; and David Robertson, Domestic Extension.

We hope that members of the Review Committee will begin receiving Secondary Works in July. Each member will review a portion of the works submitted, using the Guidelines as criteria and documenting the review on the Review Work Sheet. If a reviewer has concerns about one of the works, it will be forwarded to another member of the Committee for a second review.

**6. Publication --** During the fall, the computerized data base will be completed and given to the Publications Committee for printing.

#### RECORD OF DECISIONS:

Phase I of the Record of Decisions has been a project to categorize the minutes of the General Council and to put the information into a computerized data base. It was hoped that information could then be retrieved to give an historical record of decisions made on a specified topic. This part of the project is

now complete.

A copy of the revised and updated Record of Decisions will be included in the manual currently being prepared for all General Councilors. The central office staff is now responsible for maintaining the data base and updating it each time that the General Council approves minutes from a prior meeting.

Phase II is now being evaluated and the Special Projects Committee will make a proposal for making the entire text of General Council and Executive Committee minutes available in a computerized data base. This text file will allow even greater access to information. It would probably be easiest to start with current minutes that are already being prepared on a word processor and later add prior minutes with the aid of an optical scanner.

## ORAL HISTORY RESOLUTION:

Background -- The resolution passed by the 1988 TDA and accepted by the General Council for implementation, provides for the "... compilation of an oral history from early readers, to the end that a sense of the problems and excitement of those days can be preserved."

Definition -- An Oral History is a narrative of the events and experiences of the people who participated in the activities of the time (and ideally, as reported by these people). This kind of historical information is contrasted to the written documentation found in an organization's records and minutes of meetings.

Procedures -- The Committee has defined its task in the following manner:

1. Scope -- The initial task would be limited to gathering information. The compilation and writing of a history based on this information would wait for future need, perspective, and resources.
2. Time -- The initial task would be limited to the period of time before 1955 to cover the individuals involved in the Forum and the Seventy. The next phase might be limited to the period following 1955 and then an "ongoing" oral history.
3. People -- Identification of the people who were involved in the URANTIA movement prior to 1955 who are still available to provide information.
4. Techniques -- A "standardized open-ended" interview is currently being developed to facilitate and organize information gathering. Questions and "memory triggers" will attempt to elicit information on background/ demographics, experience, and feelings.
5. Method -- Videotape seems to be the best method for obtaining and recording the greatest amount and most meaningful information. A video camera can be rented at most locations throughout the country.

Resources -- Area Coordinators and volunteers are being considered for training in order to conduct the

interviews.

cc Special Projects Committee

Ad Hoc Review Committee

## **1989 Report of the Judicial Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood to the General Council**

Stephen Dreier

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I regret to report that Duane Faw has resigned from the Judicial Committee due to a serious illness. Duane served as Judicial Committee chairman for many years, consistently making extensive and significant contributions. We will miss his great depth of knowledge and wise counsel. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

During the past year the Judicial Committee continued consideration of a bylaw amendment to replace the current provisions for removal of a General Councilor. There was much discussion and consultation, including meetings with attorneys. The work is now virtually complete. Unfortunately this proposed amendment cannot be presented for adoption at this meeting of the General Council owing to the failure of the Judicial Committee to attain a quorum at its last scheduled meeting. The matter is expected to be on the agenda of the next council meeting.

Proposed local society constitutions from groups in Finland and Canada were examined. Movement of society activity outside the borders of the United States led to reconsideration of constitutional requirements for local URANTIA societies. Legal requirements and social customs vary across national boundaries and the need for adjustments to policy became necessary. Invaluable assistance was received from URANTIA Foundation in the form of a draft proposal for a new sample society constitution of a generic international nature; the document was researched and constructed by URANTIA Foundation attorneys. While we regard this proposed sample constitution as an excellent document, we feel it best to study the matter carefully before proposing formal adoption once adopted, this document will likely remain in place for many years. Among other things we would like to have experienced members of existing URANTIA Societies study the document and give us their feelings about the functionality of its various provisions.

These same international considerations may require amendment of URANTIA Brotherhood Constitution. We found that certain of our provisions regarding financial contributions and due process were inconsistent with Finnish law. These have currently been resolved on an interpretation basis, however it is not at all clear that this is the most desirable method for resolving such conflicts. We need to take a closer look at URANTIA Brotherhood Constitution requirements for URANTIA societies. This matter, in conjunction with the proposed sample constitution, constitute the current work of the Judicial Committee.

Respectfully submitted

Steve Dreier Chair, Judicial Committee



## **1989 REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD**

Berkeley Elliott

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We had a good showing from the US at the International Conference near Sydney, Australia October, 1988. Ten of us attended and had a totally wonderful time. It was really special. (David & Marta Elders, Darien, CT; Mary Lou Hales and John Hales, Chicago, IL; Larry Geis, San Francisco, CA; John Lange, Ft. Smith, AR; Helen Butler, Charlene Morrow, Jeralie Scanlin and I, from Oklahoma City, OK, were the lucky ones.)

On the way home from this trip John Hales and I met with URANTIA Book readers in Iloilo, Philippines. They were a warm, knowledgeable, group and they are working hard to share the teachings. They have about 10 dedicated readers, and they were so pleased we would spend time and money to visit them.

Mary Snider resigned from the Committee and John Hales was named in her place. Mary promises to continue meeting with us and helping us in every way possible. We value and need her input.

We are getting great results from the 6,180 mailings to 127 Countries. These were sent to multi-lingual university libraries, for both French and English Books. As of April 17, 1989 51 Countries had responded for a total of 173 English and 18 French Books. We think this is a good response for only a six-months period.

A most important step has been made in the Area Coordinators program. We have three new, active members, and hope to have more before the end of the year. William Wentworth, Australia; Carlos Zapata, South America; and Brent St. Denis, Ontario, Canada, are our new ACs. Referrals are already being made, and it is great having dependable people in these areas to help new and existing study groups and individuals.

We are helping to make our 1990 International Conference in Snowmass, Colorado truly International. We have two very important events coming up this year, the chartering of the first and second International Societies the first and second weeks of June in Finland and Ontario, Canada. This is truly "history-making" and we will report on these two great events later.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve on this wonderful Committee. Thanks to each member and the great help we all have experienced at headquarters!

Warm regards,

Berkeley Elliott, Chairman

International Fellowship Committee:

Neil Francey

Douglas Fraser

James E. (J.J.) Johnson

John Hales

Brent St. Denis

Mary Snider (Adjunct Member)

Julia Fenderson, Emeritus

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## **1989 REPORT OF THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD**

Peter Laurence

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"The Fraternal Relations Committee shall foster and develop fraternal relations, understanding, and good will with organizations devoted to the practice or study of religion, to the end that the purposes of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD may be advanced." This is the definition of purpose for the committee contained in the constitution of URANTIA Brotherhood. Its rather open mandate enables us to engage in a variety of activities.

All of our work, however, must rest on some basic assumptions, using The URANTIA Book as a guide. One such assumption might be that human society has a destiny of ultimate integration -- that the diverse origins of human identity which often cause us to oppose each other, particularly in groups, will some day become the pieces in an integrated human mosaic of exquisite beauty.

Religious organizations have a long history of mutual antagonisms. Even today the conversion of members from one religious group to another is seen as a loss, not only to that organization, but somehow to God.

Therefore the work of the Fraternal Relations Committee is more complex than simply representing URANTIA Brotherhood, or even The URANTIA Book, to other groups. If mutual understanding and good will are to be advanced, then the representation must go both ways. Students of The URANTIA Book need to understand and appreciate the complex world of faith in which we exist, and with which we must interact.

Consequently our committee is presently focusing its efforts in the following areas:

We invite speakers from religious and academic organizations to address students of The URANTIA Book for the purpose of informing readers about the current state of religion on the planet, and also to introduce those guests to URANTIA Brotherhood and to the book.

- \* We help prepare readers for the role of addressing religious and academic organizations when invited to speak about the book.
- \* We prepare articles to inform readers about present-day religions.
- \* We network with representatives of religious and academic organizations to develop a recognition of

## The URANTIA Book and, perhaps ultimately, a relationship with URANTIA Brotherhood.

\* We provide opportunities for the clergy of various religious denominations to develop ways of utilizing the teachings of the book in their ministry.

We plan to continue these efforts, primarily through the URANTIA Brotherhood BULLETIN, through seminars and conferences, through our newly-established gift book program, and through personal contact with individuals who are active in religious and academic organizations.

### THE COMMITTEE

Dick Bain  
Scott Forsythe  
Steve Law  
Michael Painter  
Philip Rolnick

Peter Laurence, Chair

### ADJUNCTS

Marvin Gawrynn  
Gard Jameson  
David Robertson  
Wesley Smith  
Jeff Wattles

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## **1989 Annual Report of URANTIA Brotherhood Publications Committee**

James Johnston

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Ongoing Projects: URANTIA Brotherhood Bulletin. Three issues of the Bulletin were produced during the last twelve months. Subsequent to the Publications Committee meeting in November, the Bulletin's editorial staff was changed to include mostly adjunct members to our committee. An editorial policy for the Bulletin was established and the Bulletin's format was changed starting with the Winter issue. We expect to produce two more issues this year - a summer issue in August and a Fall issue in November. In 1990 we intend to again produce four seasonal issues. Consistent with the growing international character of URANTIA Brotherhood, we started including other language summaries for people whose native tongue is not English. In January, French speaking readers received a summary of the Bulletin in French along with the full English version. In May, Spanish and French readers received translations in their respective languages. In August, Finnish, Spanish, and French readers will receive translations. All of the past three issues of the Bulletin have been printed in-house on the Brotherhood's new printing equipment.

### **Projects Concluded During the Year**

Request for Information Card. Final layout and copy have been determined and turned over to URANTIA Foundation for approval and use in forthcoming editions of The URANTIA Book.

"Suggestions for Sharing The URANTIA Book". The General Council, at its last meeting, voted to publish the work in the Journal rather than produce it as a separate pamphlet.

Key Word Index. The Publications Committee took responsibility for printing and minor revisions. The final version is complete and was offered as a premium in the May solicitation letter.

### **Projects Still In Process**

"URANTIA Book Study Groups, Ideas and Suggestions". Still in review with URANTIA Foundation.

A History of the URANTIA Movement. Slide presentation is being revised and will be converted to videotape. The finished product should be ready by the end of 1989.

Computer Based Reference Aid. The project has been given over to the Education Committee and our committee has agreed to assist them as required.

Constitution of URANTIA Brotherhood. The committee had been charged with reprinting the constitution in a smaller format. Due to the frequent changes made to the constitution, we chose to leave it in its present format which facilitates changes and substitutions. We will be producing copies with a smaller type face to reduce the document's length and weight.

Respectfully submitted:

James Johnston, Chairman

Nancy Johnson

Vin Myers

Bob Buselli

Neil Waldrop

Lisa Carr

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