

**1990 Report of the Secretary to the
General Council of The Fellowship**
Brent St. Denis

May 20, 1990

To: General Council Fifth Epochal Fellowship

From: Brent St. Denis, Secretary

Re: Annual Report of Secretary

It is my pleasure to present to the Council this, my first annual report to the General Council as your Secretary. It has been an exciting year to say the least and one which I believe we can look back upon as a watershed year for the Urantia movement. I have been genuinely impressed with the high rate of attendance at Council and Executive meetings, the frank and honest discussion and the great degree of commitment exhibited.

Specifically I would like to report the following to you;

a) On your behalf it was my duty to accept the resignation of Phil Rolnick from the Council under circumstance which might be described as "unusual." In view of the widely distributed version of events as described by Phil I would like to share with you my report to the Ex. Comm. which outline my part in the matter as your Secretary.

On Monday evening, January 22/90 Phil called me in my capacity as Secretary to advise that he had a letter which he wanted read to the General Council and the Plenary (with society presidents and ACs) both scheduled for the coming weekend. With the weekend's agenda already set the only commitment I felt I could make to him was that I would raise the matter at the Officers meeting scheduled for the Thursday afternoon. I made this clear to him and suggested that he had the option of writing to each Councilor directly. We agreed that he would send the letter to me by Special Delivery mail addressed to the Conference Center in Scottsdale.

The letter did not arrive in time for the the Officers meeting but the matter was discussed and it was agreed that if the letter arrived in time it be brought to the Ex. Comm.'s attention at the meeting scheduled for the following day.

I recall that the letter arrived sometime Friday morning. There being only a single copy

provided I checked with the Conference Center Office to inquire as to the cost of photocopies just in case a decision were made to distribute copies at the meeting. Their machine was broken.

Phil's letter was read aloud to the Executive Committee, at its request, later in the meeting. It was the clear consensus that time not be taken at next morning's General Council meeting but that at an appropriate time during the meeting the entire Council be advised that a letter from Phil had been received and that any Councilor who wished could see the Secretary to borrow the letter. I recall that four or five Councilors asked me after to see it.

I should mention that on the Wednesday after Phil's phone call I apprised David, out of courtesy, that a letter was coming. I was able to give him only a general outline of its contents because I did not go into detail with Phil.

It is my opinion that the utmost respect was accorded Phil's request in view of the circumstances. At no time did I feel we trampled on Phil's rights as a Councilor. Not being aware of any procedure to cover this situation I could only depend on my past experience as Secretary-Treasurer of a municipal corporation. For a period of six years I was responsible for Town Council meetings, including the agenda, which were held several times each month. I believe my actions and the response of the Officers, Executive Committee, and General Council was appropriate and proper.

b) An agenda-setting procedure has been proposed by Vice-President Marilyn Kulieke and a resolution form introduced which should make it easier for Councilors to become involved in the agenda process as well as providing for advance notice of resolutions where desired.

c) Since early this year each society has been requested to submit its annual census of members in accordance with past practice. As of this writing over half have responded but a significant number have not. No doubt the vents of the last year are partly to blame. I will provide exact figures at our next meeting.

Best wishes,

Brent

1990 REPORT OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Bob Bryun

TO: General Council

FROM: Bob Bruyn, Chairperson
Special Projects Committee

DATE: June, 1990

SUBJECT: Annual Report

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

MEMORANDUM

During the 1989-1990 year the Committee has been served by the following members: Tony Finstad, Bothel, Washington; CeCe Forester (secretary), Chicago; Bill Hazen, Dallas; Jim McNelly, St. Cloud, Minnesota; and Mike Wood, Overland Park, Kansas. Adjunct members include: Barbara Kulieke, Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin and Ken Raveill, Independence, Missouri. Scott Forsythe serves as the Committee's liaison with the central office. Their participation and contribution is greatly appreciated!

RESOURCE GUIDE:

Throughout the past year, the Resource Guide project has continued its historic roller coaster ride. The divorce between our organization and URANTIA Foundation first postponed and then fostered the process for implementing the General Council's decision to produce the Resource Guide for Secondary Works of The Urantia Book.

As you may recall from last year's report, submitted materials had already been received at headquarters and entered into the computerized data base. However, progress had come to a complete stop because of the Foundation's failure to proceed with the copyright and trademark review of the works -- one part of the overall review process which was originally agreed upon in cooperation with URANTIA Foundation on September 10, 1988.

During the remaining six months of 1989, the Resource Guide project was on hold. In January, 1990, the Executive Committee decided to proceed with the project as soon as possible and to modify the review

process, necessitated by the change in our relationship with URANTIA Foundation. The recommendation of Special Projects Committee included the following steps for implementation:

To release the Ad Hoc Review Committee of its charge to review secondary works.

To have the office staff review the materials using the established Guidelines as criteria and update the computerized data base.

To make the Resource Guide be as inclusive as possible of the secondary works currently available to readers.

To not involve ourselves in matters of monitoring and enforcing copyright and trademark, for which URANTIA Foundation assumes sole responsibility. Any concerns about copyright or trademark are best worked out between URANTIA Foundation and each author. (Each contributor was provided URANTIA Foundation's Copyright Permission Guidelines pamphlet as well as our pamphlet Copyright Considerations.)

The office staff and Publications Committee has been working diligently with Special Projects Committee toward the goal of having the Resource Guide for Secondary Works of The Urantia Book finished in time for the 1990 International Conference.

RECORD OF DECISIONS:

As reported last year, Phase I of the Record of Decisions project is now complete. Minutes of the General Council, dating from 1955, were manually categorized by Special Projects Committee and the information entered into a computerized data base. The project demonstrated the utility of retrieving information to give a historical record of decisions made. Such a record also seems to have instructional value in orienting new members of the General Council to the history of the organization.

Phase II of the Record of Decisions project consists of developing a computerized text file of General Council and Executive Committee minutes. This will give even greater access to the information documented in the minutes by allowing nearly unlimited ways of sorting the information and presenting the actual text of the minutes desired.

Implementation of Phase II awaits Executive Committee authorization for the purchase of 1) an optical scanner and associated software which will allow us to "read" past minutes into a computerized text file and 2) a software program to index and retrieve text from the minutes. Associated with this capital expenditure is I authorization of the staff time needed to complete the tasks.

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.

Participants -- The Committee has accumulated the names and addresses of 34 people who participated in the Forum and Seventy and who are still living. Rather than solicit information from all of them simultaneously (as by questionnaire), the Committee decided to proceed with one person at a time (using personal interviews). This method would allow us to focus on the quality of information (the personal). It also allows us to learn from each interview experience and to apply it to subsequent interviews.

Procedures --

1. **Initial Contact --** A "Letter of Introduction" for participants has been developed which explains the origin and purpose of the project, solicits their cooperation, provides a list of the general topics to be covered in the interview (so they have some idea of what to expect), provides the list of participants, and asks for help in identifying others that we may have missed. Hopefully, the more information the participants have and the more active their involvement, the less anxiety about the project.

2. **Telephone Contact --** The letter is to be followed by a personal telephone call in order to help establish rapport, answer any questions, confirm their participation, and set up a personal interview.

3. **Interview**

a. **Preparation --** A set of "Interview Instructions" for interviewers has been developed in order to: a) confirm among ourselves the project's purpose, goal, philosophy, and interview strategy/procedures, and b) convey this information to those who will assist in conducting some of the interviews. Information adapted from *The Life Stories Interview: CREATING A PORTRAIT ON TAPE*, a handbook written by Paul G. Friedman, Ph.D., professor in Communications at The University of Kansas, includes suggestions on gaining participant involvement, selecting the time and place, and general preparations.

b. **Content --** A set of "Interview Questions" has been developed and grouped into topical or chronological categories. This outline is intended to provide the interviewer and the interview with some structure and an orientation about the kinds of information that the participant may be able to give us.

c. **Approach --** We will strive to use the most personal approach available. The order of preferred contact is personal interview, then telephone interview, and finally, questionnaire.

d. **Method --** We will strive to use the most comprehensive method of documentation. The order of preferred documentation is videotape recording, then audio recording, and finally, note-taking.

Time Table -- Decisions about when to begin the interviewing and who should be the first participants will be made at the Special Projects Committee meeting to be held during the 1990 International Conference.

cc Special Projects Committee

**1990 Annual Report of the Charter Committee
to the General Council of the Fellowship**
Avi Dogim

Charter Committee activities this year culminated in the installation of Grand Canyon Society for Readers of the URANTIA Book, the first society to be installed after the unfortunate break between the URANTIA Brotherhood and the URANTIA Foundation. Several members of the Executive Committee as well as three members of the Charter Committee were present at this joyous and momentous event held in Phoenix on May 19. All of us are looking forward to working together with this fine group of people from Arizona as we continue to navigate through oftentimes troubled waters.

Telephonic survey by yours truly of society presidents regarding their groups' position on the current rift between Fifth Epochal Fellowship and the URANTIA Foundation strongly suggests that society members all over are "sick and tired" of the inter-organizational struggle. Most societies have chosen not to take a formal position on the matter and are content for the moment to remain automatically affiliated with FEF. Only two societies thus far have formally declared their support of the Foundation and a third is likely to do so in the near future.

The rest has been reported on earlier.

Best wishes for the coming year to all of us.

**1990 Annual Report of the
Domestic Extension Committee of the
General Council of the Fellowship**
Harry McMullan

June 12,1990

Our committee is able to report a busy year just passed. Most of our activity, like every other committee, was in response to the disruptions of Urantia Foundation, which in many ways had the unfortunate effect of diverting us from our intended and chosen work. Nevertheless, much productive work was done. What follows is a summary thereof.

1. Area Coordinator Program

As of last year's report, we were able to report the appointment of 91 ACs. Since then, 11 have resigned, some due to moving, some for other personal reasons, and a very few due to their acceptance of the Foundation's positions. Nine more have been appointed, bringing total ACs to 89. We feel especially fortunate to have had this magnificent group of workers available to reassure individual readers and study groups during this trying year. Special thanks to each of the committee members, and to Michael Painter and Berkeley Elliot for their help on the program during the year.

2. Library Gift Book Program

Urantia Foundation ceased providing free books for this program in October, 1989, and for that reason the program essentially ground to a halt until a reader's generous donation provided funds for it to be restarted. During the year, 50 books were placed in libraries by volunteers. Special thanks to Tom Allen for his selfless help on this program during the year, as during so many previous years.

3. Society Conclave

A conclave of Urantia Societies was held at Lake Forest College last summer. The conclave produced several resolutions which were passed along to the Executive Committee and General Council. Special thanks to David Kulieke, a former Committee member, for his help on that conclave. Another conclave will be held in conjunction with our General Conference at Snowmass.

4. General Conference Activities

In addition to the aforementioned Society Conclave, the Committee will be facilitating a Roundtable of independent Urantia Book-related organizations, and a major Area Coordinator meeting at this summer's Snowmass conference.

General Comments

In conjunction with General Council discussions on the topic six years ago, I stated that I felt it improper for committee chairmanships to be occupied indefinitely by the same person, and that I would resign at the end of my term, which I am doing.

It has been my privilege to chair the Domestic Extension Committee through the entire eventful decade of the '80s, and to take part in Executive Committee discussions over that period. Those early years seem like ancient history, in the days when Christy and Martin were both on the Committee. Those not personally present can hardly imagine the disillusionment and frustration experienced by the still-idealistic new members on the Executive Committee at that time. It reminded me of the saying that one should never watch sausage or law being made.

Over the decade of the '80s, the Brotherhood opened up and became active in many new ways. Lives were touched with the liberating teachings of the Urantia. Book, and our organization became more and more representative as each successive TDA cycled new people onto the Council. This past decade has been a testimony to the effectiveness of evolutionary progress.

With Waldine Stump, Tom Allen, Mo Siegel, Michael Challice, and David Robertson as members, I feel that I leave you a Committee which is one of the strongest in the Fellowship. I thank the Council for having given me the opportunity to serve as Chairman of this Committee for the past eleven years.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry McMullan, Chairman

1990 Vice President's Report to the General Council of the Fellowship

Marilynn Kulieke

For me, the past year has been a year that can not begin to be described in a written report. The best that I can do is outline some of the activities that I worked on as Vice President with the hope that this will convey the material aspect of my work over the past year. However, like many of you, the thinking and praying that has been a part of the experience that we have been through over the past nine months can not be adequately expressed. This report of activities is divided into two parts: continuing activities and activities related to Brotherhood/Fellowship and Foundation relationship.

Continuing Activities

Mailing List Subcommittee: Originally, the mailing list sub-committee was a joint subcommittee between the Brotherhood and Foundation which I chaired. In March, John Hay, Michael Painter, Brent St. Denis and I worked together to draft a report which includes a philosophy, guidelines, and set of procedures for the mailing list. This report was accepted, although not reviewed, at the April meeting of the Executive Committee and is currently on the General Council agenda as an action item.

Editorial Review for the Bulletin: Over the past year I have continued to review Bulletin copy and have gotten involved with writing some articles due to their political focus. Jim Johnston, Scott Forsythe, Nancy Johnson and others have done an outstanding job this year in terms of the quality and timeliness of Bulletin. They deserve a great deal of credit.

General Conference Computerized Registration: I worked in an advisory capacity with Michael Painter and Matt Block who "have done a fantastic job in working with a computer consultant to design a computerized registration program which could be used for the 1990 International Conference. Additionally, this program can be adapted for other seminars or conferences that the Fellowship sponsors. This is a great step forward in our ability to register conference participants in an efficient way.

Agenda: Over the past six months we have been working on reorganizing the agenda so that the agenda is more complete in advance of the meeting, individual members have a clearer opportunity to have an item included on the agenda, and agenda items are organized according to four categories: action, discussion, reports, and other. This format seems to focus thinking on what is being requested for each item, helps prioritize the agenda items and ensures that all items are either covered or tabled.

Activities Related to Brotherhood/Fellowship and Foundation Relationship

Reports and Correspondence: Over the past year I have worked on a variety of reports including the special report to readers in October and the report of the January meeting in Phoenix which included councilors, society reps, and area coordinators. Additionally, I participated in the review of a wide variety of correspondence.

Presentations: To help clarify the position of the Fellowship I have participated in the following presentations: with other members of the Executive Committee at Nordic Hills (November), with Lynne Kulieke at a First Society meeting (December), and with Gard Jameson, and Lucile Faw at a meeting sponsored by the San Francisco Society (January).

Name Survey: I worked with Mo Siegel and Dave Elders on the name survey which was distributed in January. Particular thanks are due to Scott Forsythe and Joanna Spinus who spent a great deal of time preparing over 500 responses for analysis.

Appreciation and Welcome Dinner: At the March Executive Committee meeting I worked with Gloriann Harris to organize a dinner/orientation for EC members and office staff. The dinner was sponsored by Executive Committee members to thank the office staff for all of their contributions over the past months of transition. The orientation was organized by Gloriann to acquaint EC members with the building and jobs that each office staff member performs. My hope is that the event helped to create a more integrated and cohesive team dedicated to the work that we are pursuing.

Program and Planning Subcommittee of the EC: I was volunteered to chair a subcommittee of the EC which was charged to develop some new programs and plans for the Fellowship. This subcommittee consisted of Bob Bruyn, Avi Dogim, Berkely Elliott, Gard Jameson, Jim Johnston, Peter Laurence, Dan Massey, and Harry McMullan. After some initial work that I presented on using a modified strategic planning approach as a framework for our planning efforts, the subcommittee decided that this would be a helpful approach. After some further work defining the mission, purposes, and goals, a smaller subgroup of Bob, Gard, Jim and myself worked on the remainder of the strategic plan: beliefs, strategic parameters, strategies, and some sample action plans. After a final committee review, we are submitting this plan to the Council at their July meeting as a starting place for discussion and to determine how we should proceed in developing the plan further.

Office Staff: While working on several projects, I had the opportunity to visit the office. From these visits, I would like to share the following observations with you.

-The number of different projects that the staff are working on is really impressive.

-The clarity of decisions made by the General Council and Executive Committee is important in the implementation of a project.

-As we continue in the process of redefining our organizational philosophy, it seems important that this philosophy be communicated with the office so that there is alignment between the philosophy in the

office and the organizational philosophy.

Personally, I believe that we owe much appreciation to the staff for all that they have done during the past months and am greatly impressed by the efforts that each staff member has made to help us move through this transition. Conclusions

This past year has been like none other that I have ever experienced. There are so many people in our organization who have contributed significant amounts of time, money, thinking, and support to others throughout the organization. All I can say is that it has been an honor to serve with those persons whose commitment to our organization and each other as well as their integrity to act consistently with their beliefs has been so evident.

1990 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Gard Jameson

Contribution Report: To date Urantla Brotherhood has raised \$70,300. Total budgeted contributions for 1989 are \$362,000. Based upon year-to-date results and special donor commitments, it is anticipated that annual contributions will be somewhere between \$300,000 and \$350,000 by year end. Donor support was strong at the beginning of the year but has tapered off to more historic levels of giving. Of concern to the Finance Committee is the fact that of the projected \$350,000 of contribution revenue, \$200,000 represents special donations which are not necessarily recurring. We have been blessed to have had such support during these transitional times. It is however not wise to continue to base budgets upon such support. Please note that in 1989, of the \$305,000 that was raised over \$200,000 was from special donors. Without the help of our special donors our contributions are more realistically around \$100,000 to \$150,000 annually.

As you can see from the Contribution Report above it appears that the organization will have enough contributions in 1990 to support raising such funds in future periods. Our support and provision of programs and activities needs to take into account the reality of limited resources.

Finance Committee Recommendations: During its annual meeting in October the Finance Committee made the following recommendations to the Executive Committee:

1) evaluate office functions and services, 2) study personnel costs for performing these functions, 3) study office functions that might be decentralized or relegated to societies or area coordinators, 4) Implement volunteer staff program at central office, 5) appoint a staff member to function as a fundraiser, 6) keep the proposed budget in effect during transition with close monitoring as to fiscal performance for the first six months of 1990, 7) develop an updated budget at that time to reflect current operating assumptions, 8) table the membership fee consideration (you may recall that a survey was done last August to assess the viability of a fee) during the transition period. Consider adding a voluntary membership fee on the pledge card which reflects the costs of being a member, ie., mailings and associated costs.

1990 should be viewed as a transitional year. By the end of 1990, It is critical that the bearings of the organization be set and that there be a realistic appraisal of its ability to support the course that it is setting for itself. This involves taking some of the above recommendations into consideration as it prepares itself for 1991 and future years. Strategic Plan: The new strategic plan that is in the process of being developed is a bold step forward for the organization; one that is viewed by the Finance Committee as necessary in assessing the organization's programmatic priorities and allocating its resources toward the achievement of those programs. The strategic plan is viewed as vital in the process

of creating stability for the organization.

Response to Urantia Foundation's Special Report: The Foundation made numerous allegations in its report regarding financial matters. The attached memo represents a response to those allegations.

Building Report: The office at 529 Wrightwood was secured in early April. We have arranged financing through a local financial Institution. Once again, we have a group of special donors to thank for helping us secure and finance our new home.

The 1989/1990 period has been a most trying time for all of us. We now have a real opportunity to look at and plan ways to accomplish our stated purposes. They are lofty purposes and there is much work to be done. The Finance Committee stands ready to assist in supporting the fulfillment of those purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Gard Jameson, Chair

Committee Members: Marta Elders, Bart Ice, Melissa Wells, Dan Tyler. Adjunct: Chuck Burton.

1990 REPORT OF THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Peter Laurence

Last June the committee held the second of its annual meetings with members of the clergy who are also students of The Urantia Book. There were eight ministers who joined our group at that time, and most of them actively participated during the 1989 Summer Seminars. At the Seminars the committee sponsored a worship service, fashioned on a traditional Protestant model but using text from The Urantia Book. There was also a panel presentation and discussion which brought together members of the clergy and the other participants. Enthusiasm for the process by the clergy attending the Seminars led them to request another joint meeting to be held during the 1990 International Conference. There appears to be considerable comfort and mutual support arising from the gathering of clergy who are attempting to use The Urantia Book in some fashion in their ministry.

We were also privileged to have a professor of sociology from Lake Forest College, an Iranian Muslim, speak to the attendees at the Summer Seminars. He participated in a number of workshops during the week and spent much time in discussion with members of the Fraternal Relations Committee and other readers. We left him with a gift copy of the book.

One final presentation by the committee at Lake Forest involved a series of simulated talks about the book by volunteer presenters, including a panel who were interviewed as if they were appearing on a talk show. Much was learned about the hazards of dealing with unsympathetic audiences and interviewers, and the participants did a terrific job of being unsympathetic.

Later in the year, the committee carried out the responsibility for conducting the first roundtable discussion between the General Council and representatives of organizations whose activities focus, in some way, on The Urantia Book. It was felt by many that this gathering produced a significantly greater sense of unity of purpose and understanding among the people involved.

The committee was also responsible for facilitating the meeting of General Councilors with Area Coordinators and Society representatives in Phoenix last January. This was just a beginning step in the process of involving a broader scope of the readership in focusing our efforts and planning for the future.

our series of articles on world religions has continued to appear In The Bulletin, and a program has been planned for the 1990 International Conference to present a panel discussion on the conference theme with representatives of two of those world religions. In this time of institutional transition, the (work of

relating to religious groups and activities outside of the "movement" may seem an unnecessary distraction from the urgent matters at hand, but it may well provide a helpful antidote to the dangers of excessive internal focus for our organization. To the extent that we remain, or increasingly become, a closed system, we run the risk of cutting ourselves off from the very rich religious environment that surrounds us, and with which we must inevitably interact. The work of the Fraternal Relations Committee is critical in maintaining that openness.

THE COMMITTEE

Dick Bain
Scott Forsythe
Steve Law
Michael Painter

Peter Laurence, Chair

ADJUNCTS

Marvin Gawryn
Gard Jameson
David Robertson
Wesley Smith

**1990 REPORT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
of THE FELLOWSHIP
Berkeley Elliott**

A most important start in our International Area Coordinator Program has been made this last year. We are attempting to make even further inroads in this program. We now have approved 12 additional members, since our report last year, making a total of 15, and we are working to add additional ones this year.

We have also initiated a type of "adjunct" program to our Committee, called "Advisory Committee Members" since we feel our Committee of six, is just too small to do the work. We will be adding more "Advisory" members as time goes by.

Twelve of us made the trip to Finland last year for the chartering of the Finnish Urantia Society, going by way of London and Norway. It was a beautiful ceremony and we all enjoyed being there. On the way home we spent the night in London and met with two members of their Study Group.

The first of August I attended the Second Encounter near Paris, France. It was a great gathering of people from all over the planet, and each workshop was done in both French and English. This gives each time to think about what was discussed before the next point was made. It is a great privilege to attend this meeting.

Several of us attended the Chartering of the Couchiching Urantia Society of Ontario. It was very exciting having two International Societies chartered the same month, and the first in the history of our movement.

I recently returned from a trip to Europe, and while there visited with students of The Urantia Book in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark and Poland. Personal contact with our brothers and sisters is a very special experience!

The International Conference at Snowmass starting June 30-July 5, 1990, promises to be a very inspiring program. We anticipate having at least 1,000 present, perhaps more. This is a beautiful setting for a spiritual high!

It is truly a privilege to serve on this Committee. We have a great group, with much help from headquarters at 529 Wrightwood Avenue in Chicago, and each member of our Committee. Brent St. Denis resigned when he became Secretary of Fifth Epochal Fellowship, but he still works with us. It

does become more and more obvious the importance of service and the abundant opportunities to practice "service" in our daily lives.

Warm Regards,

Berkeley Elliott, Chairperson International Fellowship Committee

Neil Francey

Douglas Fraser

James E. (J. J.) Johnson

John Hales

Advisory Committee Members:

Lyn Lear

Mary Snider

Brent St. Denis

1990 JUDICIAL COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Steve Dreier

The Judicial Committee conducted an analysis of the proposed constitution of the recently chartered Grand Canyon Society of Urantia Book Readers, and number of suggestions for modification were made. Some work was done on a proposal to institute an oath of office requirement for General Councilors, culminating in a negative recommendation.

The events of the past year resulted in significant disturbance of the regular work of the Judicial Committee. The separation of Fifth Epochal Fellowship from URANTIA Foundation raised a wide range of atypical legal issues. Professional legal counsel has been employed to advise and represent the Fellowship in these matters. The nature of these questions along with the associated time constraints has required that study and action be taken directly by the Executive Committee.

During the past year our general membership has devoted an unprecedented amount of thought to matters or organizational structure and procedure. Many suggestions have been made for constitutional modifications. Among these are proposals to: develop a separate and independent judiciary; provide legislative representation of each Society; provide representation for members-at large.

It appears that we will shortly begin a detailed examination of our constitution, with the intent of incorporating the experiential insights of our thirty five years of existence into improved organizational structures and procedures. Hopefully this process will involve the active participation of our entire membership. During this coming year the Judicial Committee will seek to encourage all members to give serious thought to these matters. The committee will seek to coordinate and integrate this work into concrete and generally agreed upon recommendations for adoption.

Committee Members:

Steve Drier, Chair

Tuckey Hayes

Tom Kendall

Ellen Montgomery, Secretary

David Owen

Dan Young

Submitted by Steve Dreier
