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**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE CHARTER COMMITTEE**

**Avi Dogim**  
June 1997

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A couple of things made the life of the Charter Committee a little more interesting this past year than in previous years. First, thanks to the dedication and hard work of a group of our mid-western friends, there was the installation of the First Wisconsin Society on September 14, 1996 in Sheboygan Falls at the lovely Villager Restaurant owned by one of the society's founders, Rosemary Eigenberger. In addition to the Wisconsin group and yours truly, present at this historic event, the first society installation since 1989, were Steve Dreier and John Hales.

Next, the committee was involved in setting standards of admission of "Fellowship Associates", a new form of affiliation approved by the General Council in its August, 1996 meeting. The purpose of this new affiliation mechanism is to allow for the formal inclusion of groups whose purposes are consistent with those of the Fellowship but who do not meet the requirements for society formation. Soon after the announcement of this new affiliation option, an application for "Fellowship Associate" status came from the Korean Outreach group of South Korea. The group, which now includes 14 members, was admitted as a Fellowship Associate at the February General Council meeting and was presented with its official certificate on May 18th by International Fellowship Chairman, John Lange, at the Korean Book Fair in Seoul.

Reaching out to individuals and to groups of Urantia Book readers all over the world and finding effective ways of working cooperatively with them is a continuing challenge for the Fellowship. Our traditional approaches and structures may have served us well during the first forty years of our existence, while our outreach has been directed primarily at the US and, by extension, at non-US based western cultures. Yet, if we are to play a pivotal role in the social outworking of the Fifth Epochal Revelation on this planet, we need to look for new and varied ways of appealing to non-members. In many instances, the new ways may be defined by cultural elements still unfamiliar to most of us. We need not endeavor to change our basic structures in order to appeal to other

cultures, but we need to remain open to and actively search for modes of communication and relational mechanisms which take cultural sensitivities into account.

Respectfully submitted by Avi Dogim, Chairman

Larry Bowman  
Robert Bruyn  
Tom Choquette  
Francyl Gawrynn  
Dale Sztejnberg

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## **Report on the Activities of the Special Projects Committee**

David Kantor

June 1997

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By far the greatest amount of effort on the part of the Special Projects Committee over the past year has been the development of Internet related services for the readership. This project has grown so large in scope that it has become a project of the Executive Committee rather than Special Projects. The reason for this is that Internet services impact most of the other committees--particularly Education, Translations, Publications, Domestic Extension, and International Fellowship. This requires a higher degree of coordination and management than is normally the case for committee projects.

The technical nature of the Internet undertaking necessitated the incorporation of individuals with requisite technical skills into the undertaking. There are presently some twenty individuals contributing on a regular basis to the continuing development of the website and its associated services in eight languages. The Executive Committee is acting as a web oversight committee.

A number of tasks have been assigned to Special Projects over the past decade which have found some degree of completion within the scope of the website and are continuing to be developed under the oversight of the Executive Committee.

### **Resource Library**

A readership resource library has been developed. A growing collection of documents (now over two hundred and fifty) is currently available on the website. This includes major conference presentations delivered over the past forty years, significant articles from readership publications, study aids, monographs and commentaries.

### **Readership History**

Historic documents are being digitized and published on an on-going basis. The history attributed to Dr. Sadler is available as is a brief

history written by Emma Christensen. Histories written by other leaders such as Henry Begemann, Meredith Sprunger and Paul Snider are also available. An historical time line has been developed which contains a growing collection of links to important historic documents and photographs.

### Special Interest Groups

A number of specialized E-mail groups have formed based on special interests. Among them are the Family Life group, the Theological and Philosophical Working Group, fuente--a study discussion list for Spanish speaking readers and special E-mail services for internal use such as the Translations Committee, the Executive Committee and the General Council.

Two of the members of the Special Projects Committee continue to be heavily involved with the website project and I am nominating Lawrence Brown, an experienced network administrator, to fill the vacancy created by Tony Finstad's request to be moved to the status of adjunct. This group, in association with other adjuncts, will continue to develop Internet-based services for the readership and the internal use of the Fellowship.

### Other Special Projects

The primary outstanding project of the committee is the oral history project. At its August 1996 meeting, the committee voted to continue pursuing this project. Barbara Kulieke agreed to get a list of currently living candidates for interviewing, and to draw up a budget and operational plan for finishing this project. Interviews have been recorded with Meredith Sprunger, Bill and Mary Lou Hales, Kenton Stevens, and Tom and Carolyn Kendall. It is anticipated that some degree of completion will be brought to this effort in the coming year.

### Need for Document Archiving Procedures

Potentially important documents and photographs are currently sitting in cardboard boxes in people's attics and barns and other sundry locations. Some of the problems associated with sorting and long-term archiving of these documents have made themselves known as a result of the digitizing project currently being undertaken in association with the website.

I have begun the task of seeking out informed people who can help with this effort and have located two professional librarians amongst the readership. We also have a professional archivist--Scott Forsythe--on the Council. It is my intent during the course of the coming to have the Special Projects committee, in consultation with these professionals, develop an outline of several options and submit them to the Council for further direction.

It continues to be a great privilege to work with the group of dedicated readers who have formed themselves into the Fellowship and its various committees for the purpose of enhancing their abilities to be involved in the extension of the revelation to the peoples of our world.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kantor

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## **Society Representation on the General Council A Review of the Process from 1991-1996**

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June 1, 1997

To: General Council

From: Marilynn Kulieke, Chair of Judicial Committee

Re: Annual Report

### Society Representation in the Fellowship Historical Timeline

The Judicial Committee has been somewhat inactive over the past year. With the conclusion of a five year process to change the constitution to allow for society representation on the General Council, our committee is currently regrouping and will spend the upcoming year working on issues of committee functioning in the Fellowship and increasing General Councilor knowledge of the protocols established by Robert's Rules. Since there have been a number of questions about the process that led to the vote last August not to change the constitution and by-laws to allow for society representation, the Judicial Committee report this year will focus on a summary of the actions taken by the Fellowship with regards to this issue.

#### **1991**

A resolution from the Triennial Delegate Assembly (TDA) was given to the General Council to review our organization's constitution and make appropriate recommendations for change. This included the concept of a representative structure which included direct representation for societies. This review was assigned to the Judicial Committee.

#### **1992**

Under Judicial Committee chairman, David Elders, two ad-hoc committees comprised of Fellowship members who had expressed an interest were

formed. They were "The Fifth Epochal Principles Research Committee." Both these groups met in November, 1992 to consolidate input provided by each group member and create a comprehensive report.

## **February, 1993**

A report was made to the General Council which included the following provisions:

- 1. The active membership of societies would directly elect a Councilor to service on the Society Council. The TDA would be abolished.
- 2. The Executive Council would be elected by the Society Council from among eligible Fellowship members not already on the Society Council.
- 3. The Judicial Council would be elected by the Society Council from among eligible Fellowship members not already on the Society Council.
- 4. Members at large could affiliate with any chartered society.
- 5. Amendments to the constitution would be proposed by the Society and must be approved by 60% of the active voting membership of The Fellowship.

A resolution was passed by the General Council which said that General Council approved in principle the report and that the Judicial Committee should send the proposal to all Fellowship members and societies for their comment. The proposal was to be brought back to the General Council.

## **April, 1993**

The proposal was sent out for member and society review with feedback requested by June 1.

## **August, 1993**

Due to a minimal level of response to the request for comments both from individual members and societies, several of which stated that they did not have sufficient time to discuss the topic, the General Council voted to place the topic on the 1994 midyear meeting agenda. The proposal was also discussed at a society conclave committee which was attended by 11 of 18 Fellowship societies.

## **January, 1994**

A revised copy of the proposal was developed which included the pros and cons for each suggested change (1-5). A copy of this proposal is Attachment A. It was sent to General Councilors, Society Delegates and TDA Representatives.

## **February, 1994**

The midyear Council meeting, which included society representatives, was devoted to discussing this issue of society representation. Each society was asked to report on their society's reaction to the proposal for structural reorganization. The feedback was varied. A motion was made, seconded and defeated which stated that the General Council direct the Executive Committee to initiate procedures to amend the constitution to allow each society to elect one General Councilor for a 3 year term. The TDA would continue to elect 36 General Councilors as currently provided for in the Fellowship constitution. Other motions that were presented at this meeting and failed were to establish an annual delegate assembly with delegates each having a three year term and also to allow each society to elect one general councilor for a 3 year term. A motion was made to reconsider the first resolution (to allow societies to elect Councilors for a 3 year term) and it passed this time.

## **April, 1994**

The Executive Committee passed a resolution dealing with the issue of fairness relating to the minimum standard for a society. The resolution that passed provided that 10 persons was a minimum number of members needed in order to receive voting privileges to elect a delegate.

## **August, 1994**

Judicial Committee chair David Elders became secretary and Marilynn Kulieke was elected to replace him.

## **November, 1994**

In November, a report was presented to the Executive Committee which outlined a strategy for approaching structural changes in the Fellowship. This report contained the following three suggestions.

- 1. Develop language for constitutional changes which did not relate to the structure of the Fellowship but are needed to better match the way that we currently function. An example might be to change the name of the charter committee or change the description of the charter committee's responsibilities.
- 2. Develop language for constitutional revisions which included those changes made in #1, but in addition include the concept of an annual delegate assembly which passes its work on directly to the General Council.
- 3. Language for constitutional revisions which include those changes made in #1, but in addition included the concept of a General Council in which societies have direct representation.

The general direction from the Executive Committee was to proceed in direction #3.

### **July, 1995**

The General Council again discussed constitutional revisions allowing for society representation. A series of straw votes were taken which were as follows:

**Size of the Council** Increase the size of the General Council rather than hold it at 36 with additional local society General Councilors (24 out of 29 - yes).

**Numbers of Representatives from Societies** There should be one representative from each society rather than proportional representation (24 out of 29 - yes).

**Length of Term** The term of the General Councilors elected by the TDA should be 9 years (24 out of 29).

The term of the General Councilors elected by the Societies should be 3 years( 26 out of 29)

**Criteria for Societies to have Representation** There should be some kind of criteria for societies to have representatives (23 out of 29)

The Fellowship should determine the criteria (23 out of 29)

There should be 20 or more active members (9 out of 29)

There should be 10 or more active members (21 out of 29)

Equity All Council members should be of equal status, whether society elected or TDA elected (27 out of 29)

### **October, 1995**

Judicial Committee members Steve McIntosh and Duane Faw both provided drafts of constitutional and by-law language which was aligned with concepts from the straw votes which were supported by the General Council. A copy of the language can be found in attachment B.

The Executive Committee accepted the constitutional language of the Judicial Committee and sent it to the General Council. The Judicial Committee also made some suggestions about how to share this information with the societies. The suggestions included:

- 1. Write a letter for societies and ask for their support or opposition.
- 2. Have a forum at the International Conference which would give society representatives an opportunity to discuss the changes.
- 3. Include society representation at the midyear meeting for the discussion of these proposed changes.

### **February, 1996**

The Executive Committee and General Council affirmed the revised language of the constitution and by-laws and agreed that a survey should be sent to societies asking for their input.

### **March, 1996**

A survey was sent to each society and the society was asked to meet to discuss the proposed language changes in the Constitution and by-laws and return the surveys to the Fellowship by August. A total of 12 societies had a meeting and completed the survey.

### **August, 1996**

At the meeting of the Society Conclave which was held prior to the General Council meeting, societies discussed their viewpoints on the constitution and by-laws revision. It did not appear to be an important issue in most societies. At the General Council meeting, a presentation of the survey

report was made and each society was given an opportunity for a representative to express their opinion about the proposed constitutional and by-law changes. Discussion on the Council continued. A motion was made, seconded and did not carry to accept the language for the change in the constitution and by-laws by a 2/3 vote.

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This ends my recounting of the historical time line of the Fellowship restructuring process. I feel that we owe the many individuals who spent great amounts of time and energy on this process a debt of gratitude. These individuals include: members of the Fellowship, members of the general council, the original subcommittee members (Virginia Brown, Steve McIntosh, Larry Mullins, David Owen, Lee Smith, and Carolyn Kendall), the Judicial Committee members (Duane Faw, Tom Kendall, Steve McIntosh, Ellen Montgomery and David Owens) and particularly David Elders, who allowed a group of people to think outside of the box and dream about a wholly different way to run our organization.

Although many are disappointed with the decision that was made, those who had strong feelings about the "rightness" or "wrongness" of changing the way we structure ourselves need to remember that our organization and those who work to bring its success need to view this from the framework that The Urantia Book so beautifully sets up for us... "Failure is simply an educational episode--a cultural experiment in the acquirement of wisdom--in the experience of the God-seeking man who has embarked on the eternal adventure of the exploration of a universe. To such men defeat is but a new tool for the achievement of higher levels of universe reality." (p. 1780).

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# President's Triennial Report

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC  
July, 1997

Steve Dreier

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Our efforts in the Fellowship never seem to proceed very far without unexpected developments that disturb our plans and force us to grapple with difficult and unwelcome problems. Clearly, the June 10, 1997 appeals court validation of URANTIA Foundation's copyright is such an event.

Publishing The Urantia Book has been a major Fellowship preoccupation for nearly three years. The success of the initial efforts generated considerable enthusiasm in our community, spawning plans for a variety of additional publication and distribution projects. Suddenly, the immediate future of these activities appears uncertain. In prudent anticipation of potential legal ramifications, all sales of the Uversa Press edition of The Urantia Book have been suspended, along with plans for a second printing. Contact with URANTIA Foundation has been initiated, but, as of this writing, there is no clear indication of how the Trustees intend to proceed.

The situation raises two general areas of concern. First are the practical problems involved in the resolution of this matter. What do we do with the remaining books? What damage claims will the Foundation seek? Is there some way to continue printing the Uversa Press edition? If not, will there be difficulties obtaining sufficient copies of the Foundation's book for Fellowship outreach efforts? An extensive list of similar practical questions could be posed here, none of which have clear answers at this time. They must await the outworking and interaction of organizational processes in both the Fellowship and the Foundation. These material consequences, whatever they turn out to be, are the smaller part of the matter. The depth of experience, cleverness and talent in our assembly has always been able to handle any practical problem presented to it; nothing about this matter is likely to exceed that collective ability.

The second and more important consideration is found in a theme from the Quickeners of Morality: "*Even the work of this world, paramount though it is, is not nearly so important as the way in which you do this work.*" (39:4.13) It is important to remain calm, balanced, resolute, enthusiastic, prayerful, intelligent, resourceful, insightful, wise, practical, undaunted, hopeful, teachable, tactful, - in short, virtuous: "*Virtue is righteousness--conformity with the cosmos. To name virtues is not to define them, but to live them is to know them. Virtue is not mere knowledge nor yet wisdom but rather the reality of progressive experience in the attainment of ascending levels of cosmic achievement. In the day-by-day life of mortal man, virtue is realized by the consistent choosing of good rather than evil, and such choosing ability is evidence of the possession of a moral nature.*" (16:7.6) Opportunities for virtuous achievement are before us each time we find ourselves faced with unexpected and difficult circumstances. When correctly understood they are pearls of great price, worth all they cost and more.

Of course, we may not all agree on what constitutes virtue in this or any other matter, and that is as is should be. Soon we will assemble to hear from one another our various understandings. We will consider all views fairly, without prejudice, and then determine our course of action by majority vote. This being a triennial year, that will occur in two separate forums - the Triennial Delegate Assembly and the General Council. To the degree that we each bring to these processes our sincerest personal concepts of virtue, along with a respectful regard for the concepts of others, the results are certain to be of value, both to ourselves and, through the Supreme, to all.

The Fellowship is now over forty years old, the "age of discretion" as some interpret the teachings. It has survived many difficulties, sudden disturbances and threatened disasters. As a body, there is no group of Urantia believers that has accumulated anything near the collective experience and wisdom concerning the social response to The Urantia Book. No group has been better prepared to face these challenges and difficulties than the Fellowship community.

Each generation has its own peculiar problems to grapple with. I am reminded of the prayer of some of our early Andonite ancestors: "... *deliver us from the curse of the ice, save us from our forest enemies...*" (63:6.6) We are not much concerned with ice anymore. Our attention, while still occupied with immediate practical considerations, pursues far more complex goals; it seeks to better comprehend and integrate our efforts with those of a near infinite and divinely

coordinated cosmos.

In fact, the ice was not a really a curse to our ancestors; it was an inescapable stimulus that brought forth their latent potentials for progressive growth. Our presence here is sufficient evidence to indicate that they rose to the occasion, benefiting themselves and all their posterity. We also must contend with our ice, and, like our ancestors, find within ourselves those untapped resources which await supreme evolution through cooperative human achievement. We will also rise to our challenges, whatever they are, and leave both ourselves and the cosmos a little closer to its supreme destiny than it was before.

Concerning other specifics, I can only observe that prior to its publishing efforts the Fellowship had developed a wide range of services and activities; some - like expo participation, international conferences, study group directory, and experiments in outreach - are unique. Now it appears that circumstances will refocus our creative energy on these areas, along with others yet to be developed.

The Urantia Revelation is still very young. There are virtually unlimited opportunities for significant service in support of its planetary mission. These potentials manifest through the spiritized creative imagination of beings who are wholeheartedly committed to this effort. It is entirely possible that current circumstances are merely a redirecting fatherly hand, pointing our attention to areas we might otherwise neglect, in which we shall find answers to our prayers for meaningful service assignment that far exceed what we now see, or can even imagine. I prefer to believe that this is the case.

By the time we assemble in Vancouver, I expect that any tendency towards disappointment or discouragement connected with recent events will have passed, and we will all be prepared to go on with our work enthusiastically, cheerfully, energetically, purposefully, and with the full conviction that the best is yet to come.

This is my final report to you as the Fellowship's president. For six years you have seen fit to entrust me with the duties of that position. During that time I have received continuous support, cooperation and encouragement from Fellowship members, especially from the members of the General Council and Executive Committee with whom I have worked most closely. The experience has been among the most outstanding and treasured of my life. I hold a genuine affection for each

of you.

I am always impressed at the ability of our community to confront difficult issues, arrive at intelligent conclusions, and provide the resources and talent necessary to achieve what has been decided. I do not suggest that we always arrive at the best decision, or that we have nothing more to learn; obviously that is not the case. But I do believe that we are engaged together in a sincere effort to find God, both as Father and as Supreme, and that we will continue that search with renewed determination as we move into the future. I intend to remain with you in this adventure in some capacity until the “end.”

In affection, fellowship and gratitude,

Steve Dreier

# Triennial Delegate Assembly Delegate's Guide

Prepared by Harry McMullan III

In this document:

- [A. Selection of Delegates and Alternates](#)
- [B. Constitutional Requirements](#)
- [C. Other Procedures and Traditions](#)
- [D. Election Process](#)
- [E. Resolutions Process](#)

## **A. Selection of Delegates and Alternates**

The Triennial process begins with a notice to the Secretaries of all Fellowship Societies from the Secretary of the Fellowship that a meeting of the TDA will take place at a given time and location. Not less than 60 days prior to this date, each Society must elect a Delegate and Alternate. Within 15 days notice of this election, certified by the Society President, must be given to the Fellowship. The Delegate and Alternate must each certify to the Fellowship that he or she has read The Urantia Book in its entirety.

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## **B. Constitutional Requirements**

The only binding characteristics of a Fellowship TDA are those set forth in Article VI, Article VIII section 2 of the Fellowship Constitution, and Chapter VI of the Fellowship By-Laws.

Section 6.3 of the Constitution requires that the TDA be conducted according to *Robert's Rules of Order*, except in respect to the order of procedure, which shall be as follows:

- (a) Assembly called to order and address of welcome.
- (b) Report of Credentials Committee and seating of delegates.
- (c) Appointment by the President from the floor of a Committee on Nominations and a Committee on Resolutions.

- (d) Reports of outgoing officers and chairmen of Departmental Committees.
- (e) Report of Nominations Committee and election of members of General Council.
- (f) Report of Resolutions Committee.
- (g) Consideration of old business.
- (h) Consideration of new business.

(I) Reading and approval of minutes unless Assembly votes to waive such reading or designates some other manner of approving minutes.

- (j) Adjournment.

The primary purposes of the TDA are:

1.) To elect General Councilors. Any individual is eligible for election who:

- has given *prior consent* (Constitution, Sec. 8.2),
- is *a member of THE FELLOWSHIP in good standing* (*ibid.*, Sec. 8.3), and
- *has read The Urantia Book in its entirety* (*ibid.*, Sec. 8.3).

The elections are

- by *secret ballot* (*ibid.*, Sec. 8.2)
- decided in favor of the *candidate receiving the majority of the ballots cast* (*ibid.*, Sec. 8.2).

2.) To present resolutions to the General Council. These resolutions are forwarded to the General Council, which may confirm, study further, or decline to carry out the resolutions. In the latter situation, the General Council must fully report the action at the next TDA.

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## C. Other Procedures and Traditions

1. Subsequent to the reports to the TDA of Fellowship officers and committee chairs, these individuals should leave the room, except, or course, for those who also happen to be Delegates or Alternates. In recent years, guests have been welcome to attend the TDA through these reports, but not thereafter. Should any Delegate desire guests present, the TDA must first approve.
  2. The President of the Fellowship appoints a Delegate or Alternate to serve as temporary chairman of the TDA pending election of a chairman by the TDA itself. The function of the temporary chairman is merely to provide order during the election of the permanent chair.
  3. One point must be established prior to the election of the permanent chairman. Since only the Delegates actually represent the Societies, the temporary chairman must request a vote on the issue of whether Alternates shall be permitted to speak. This has been the tradition at least since 1979. The Alternate votes only in the absence of the Delegate.
  4. The temporary chairman then proceeds with nominations for a permanent chairman. The TDA may choose to elect one chairman, or separate chairmen for elections and resolutions.
  5. Routine voting is normally carried out by a counting of raised hands: those for, those against, and abstentions. (Delegates only.)
  6. Upon election, the (permanent) chairman should solicit nominations for, and proceed to elect, a secretary of the TDA, who shall be responsible for recording the proceedings.
  7. At this point, role should be taken of those officially present. In this process, Delegates and Alternates traditionally dilate a bit on where they are from and how long they have been reading the book.
  8. The Constitution refers to nominations being processed first by a Committee on Nominations, and to resolutions being processed first by a Committee on Resolutions. Traditionally, these committees are “committees of the whole”  $\frac{3}{4}$  i.e., the entire TDA.
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## D. Election Process

9. In the elections process, nominations for Councilors are completed before any

discussion of the candidates takes place. Each counselor should have been provided a list of candidates with biographical sheets. The TDA may vote to accept this list of individuals as automatically nominated, or may do a quick run through to determine that there is at least one Delegate willing to support each candidacy. (A person is not automatically nominated simply as a result of having indicated his or her willingness to serve.)

10. For clarity, the candidates' names should be written on a blackboard for all to see. Alternatively, photocopies of the complete list should be distributed.

11. Some characteristics worth noting in prospective Councilors are: length of time reading the Urantia Book and dedication to its teachings; quality and length of previous organizational service, both local and national; study group attendance; regional and national conference attendance; consistency of financial support; time available to serve if elected, and; particular skills which may be important to the operation of the Executive Committee. All other matters equal, Delegates sometimes invoke issues of geographic representation and gender balance.

12. Candidates for General Councilor who are also either Delegates or Alternates should leave the room during discussion of their candidacy.

13. Traditionally, voting is for the nine-year slots first, then to fill any vacancies, with the longest remaining terms first.

14. Any candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast is declared elected and removed from the slate. No low-polling nominee should be removed from the slate, since (at least theoretically) all those who voted for a successful candidate might later vote for someone who earlier received no votes. Voting continues until one candidate for each position receives a majority of the votes, regardless of how long this process takes. The chairman should permit additional discussion of the candidates between ballots.

15. The success of the election process depends on forthrightness regarding the qualifications and past performance of the nominees. It does no service to the Fellowship to withhold unflattering information; however, the Master said, "Speak not hearsay." The Assembly should consider the advisability of a pledge of confidentiality regarding matters discussed in the election process.

16. The above election procedures are actually the work of the nominations committee of the whole. Once all positions have been filled, the President of the Fellowship is invited back into the room, where he calls a formal vote on the slate nominated. This completes the election phase.

## E. Resolutions Process

17. Having supervised the election of General Councilors, the President then withdraws so that the TDA may consider resolutions. If the TDA has not already elected a chairman for the resolutions phase, it should do so now.
18. Each Delegate and Alternate should have been provided with advance printed copies of each resolution which is proposed to be made. However, there is no restriction on any Delegate introducing any resolution even if no advance copy was distributed.
19. At the beginning of the resolutions phase, the Chairman should assemble all resolutions and lead the process of numbering each for clarity in reference. If several resolutions are more or less the same, they might be grouped together.
20. In order to afford each resolution a theoretically equal chance of consideration, the TDA may find it helpful to adopt rules limiting debate. Several TDAs have proceeded as follows:
  - a.) a motion to pass a resolution x is made and read aloud. (Per Robert's Rules, the resolution dies unless seconded.)
  - b.) brief and specific questions may be asked the mover regarding the meaning of the motion.
  - c.) The chairman invites discussion of the motion by a supporter for not more than 2 minutes; then discussion on the same basis by someone opposed for a total of 3 speakers in favor and 3 opposed shall have spoken. At the end of 12 minutes, discussion is summarily stopped and a vote is called.
  - d.) Any Delegate may move to extend debate for any number of additional 6 minute periods by non-debatable motions so to do. These motions require a only majority for passage, not two-thirds. Inasmuch as this procedure limits the rights of Delegates under Roberts' Rules, it cannot be used except by prior 2/3 approval of the TDA.
21. It is incumbent upon the chairman to evidence a spirit of fairness in managing discussion of resolutions so that all sides enjoy full opportunity to be heard. While adhering to whatever rules the TDA adopts, in doubtful situations, the chairman should err on the side of permitting additional debate.
22. Resolutions from the floor may be made subsequent to consideration of those which

are “on the agenda” as a result of prior action of the TDA.

23. When no further resolutions are forthcoming, the chairman should invite the Fellowship President to return to confirm the vote on the resolutions which were passed. (It is unnecessary to consider those which were not passed.) This completes the TDA process.

hm:7/97

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## **ANNUAL REPORT of the SECRETARY**

David Elders  
Year Ending July 12, 1997

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It is with a sense of deep gratitude that I submit this last formal report to the General Council of The Fellowship. I feel very fortunate both to have had the opportunity to serve the organization for these last years and to have been able to serve with such a fine group of dedicated colleagues and friends. While I am retiring from formal service in the central organization, I have no doubt that service to this great work we have been given will continue until Paradise and beyond and I look forward to many more years of service with all of you. It is my view that the continued strength and health of The Fellowship in the coming years will rely at least in part on the development of experienced leadership gained through service at all levels in the organization. Indeed, our constitution was de- signed to insure the development of that broad base of experience by providing for balanced turnover designed to blend new people, ideas, ideals and energy with the experience of long and faithful service.

Though these past years of struggle with the Foundation have been characterized in many ways, some unkind, I believe that there is validity to the notion that we and the Foundation and its members are engaged in a natural, evolutionary process to strengthen and broaden the capabilities of those groups of people committed to this revelation. While our human natures sometimes imbue such a process with the tones of anger and confrontation, I have come to view our interactions as akin to the leaving-home struggles of a young adult, albeit it with a bit more rancor and legality than is standard fare. And, just like that young adult, we must learn to function in the world in a productive, responsible manner, especially in view of the importance of this work. Just five times in the mil- lion-year history of human beings has epochal revelation shined its light on our planet!

So far, I believe that our Fellowship has taken its initial steps as an adult in a strong and honorable fashion. However, there are at least two issues that I believe need to be addressed as we approach the next century. First, we and the Foundation must find a way to co-exist with each other in a friendly, respectful, productive, strategic, and mutually-

beneficial manner. Second, the leadership of The Fellowship needs to help guide the organization toward the fullest achievement possible of its apparent originating destiny. While the first of these may require a new generation of leadership not vested in the struggles of the past, the second is within our grasp today. Specifically, I would urge now that the book has been published by us as well as the Foundation and the inertia of rigidly-controlled book sales and distribution broken, that renewed energies be applied to the other elements contained in our organizational purpose:

The purposes of THE FELLOWSHIP are the study and dissemination of the teachings of The Urantia Book; the promotion, improvement, and expansion among the peoples of the world of the comprehension and understanding of Cosmology and the relation of the planet on which we live to the Universe, of the genesis and destiny of Man and his relation to God, and of the life and teachings of Jesus; and the inculcation and encouragement of the realization and appreciation of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man--in order to increase and enhance the comfort, happiness, and well-being of Man, as an individual and as a member of society, by fostering a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology which are commensurate with Man's intellectual and cultural development, through the medium of fraternal association, ever obedient and subservient to the laws of this country and of all countries wherein THE FELLOWSHIP may extend.

Noteworthy to me among the various objectives set forth in this paragraph is the phrase "...by fostering a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology which are commensurate with Man's intellectual and cultural development, through the medium of fraternal association...." In my view, this is the primary purpose of our organization and while more difficult than the important, but material acts of publishing and distribution, will have the greatest effect on the planet over time. I believe it is the more difficult objective because while book publishing can be done well even by non-believers, we simply cannot do the other without modeling our own religion, philosophy, and cosmic consciousness commensurate with our commitment to making these teachings alive in our individual and collective lives. It is a certainty that these living manifestations of the teachings of The Urantia Book will one day grace this planet; our choice today is either to set forth on a course which fosters these principles or, if we continue to focus mainly on our materialistic work, abdicate this role to someone else.

Finally, as I ponder the events of the past 25 years, both those I saw as

positive and those I felt were negative, I am struck by the deep dedication of all of the participants in this process, including the members of Family of God Foundation, the channeler community, CUBS, CERDH, the Trustees and the members of IUA, the Brotherhood/Fellowship and its Societies, those on both sides of the copyright and trademark issues, and the many other groups and individuals who contributed along the way. Despite the many misunderstandings and disagreements between these parties, I believe that virtually all were and are committed to the same essential cause: to do what each believes is best and right in bringing this revelation to the attention of the peoples of the world and to change our own lives and those around us in the process. I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to play a small part in that grand endeavor.

Yours respectfully,

David N. Elders, Secretary

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## 1997 DOMESTIC EXTENSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Paula Thompson

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1997 was a challenging year for the Domestic Extension Committee. Even amidst great changes we were able to preserve our core programs while initiating some new ones. With the help of hundreds of volunteers we were able to accomplish the following:

### Booth Outreach

We did 18 shows in 17 different cities, which included: Pittsburgh, Seattle, San Francisco, Pasadena, Boulder, San Diego, Spokane, Denver, Ft. Collins, Sacramento, Austin, Chicago, Boston, New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Toronto. All of the following literature was purchased with a personal "one on one" recommendation:

Urantia Books 361

El Libro De Urantia 41

Concordex 26

Glossary 9

Introductions 569

Fellowship Brochures 500

Life After Death 115

UB Basics 15

UB Brochures 2,276

Angels Coloring Book 51

21 Steps 23

Mustard Seeds 5,060

Secondary Books 67

One God Buttons 203

Exposure 500,000

Names Added 680\*

Volunteers 170\*.

New Volunteers Trained 68\*

(\* indicates a close approximation based on averages)

Please note:

June 1996 to June 1997 we sold only Uversa Press Urantia Books at shows - 496 sold

June 1997 to June 1998 we sold only Urantia Foundation Books at shows - 272 sold

Sales dropped 45% when selling just the plain blue book :-(

So far in 1998 we have done shows in Albuquerque, Baltimore, New York, San Francisco, Minnesota, and Spokane, with shows planned for Ft. Collins, Austin, Cleveland, Sacramento, Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Boston, Portland, and Toronto.

## Public Introductions & Workshops

Domestic Extension did public lectures in 7 different cities last year to nearly 250 people. Each time we do a public lecture on The Urantia Book we include local readers who typically give personal testimonies. We continue to encourage follow-up workshops in the cities where we do expos. The expos have provided a wonderful opportunity for local Urantia communities to promote other activities such as workshops, conferences, and retreats.

## Uversa Press Distribution

While we were helping with distribution for Uversa Press we sent out thousands of fliers, placed beautiful display ads in dozens of trade publications, and exhibited the book in Book Expo America and the International New Age Trade Show. Since Uversa Press' book has been out of distribution we have shipped hundreds of books to numerous Urantia societies and study groups for placement according to the guidelines established between The Fellowship and Urantia Foundation.

## The 97-98 International Study Group Directory

LuAnn Harney is currently working on this year's directory. We hope to have it done for distribution at the Summer Seminar.

## Committee-Changes

In July of 1997 Paula Thompson became the new Chair of Domestic Extension Committee. In addition we added the devoted service of LuAnn Harney who has worked with DEC as an ad hoc member for several years now. We will miss the servant leadership of our long time chair and good friend Mo Siegel. His love, vision, and dedication made DEC a dynamic and effective committee. We wish him well in his new appointment as Urantia Foundation Trustee, and we offer him our heartfelt thanks for his years of unselfish service!

## Plans & Progress

In late 1997 we initiated a new program called the Study Group Host program. This program was created to replace the Area Coordinator program with a more direct approach to serving the needs of study groups. From here we hope to explore new avenues of service to study groups and their hosts. Our desire is to facilitate the formation of new study groups as well as support existing ones.

As always we are ready to serve and ever grateful for the opportunity!

In faith and friendship

Paula Thompson, Chair

Domestic Extension Committee

## **1997 DOMESTIC EXTENSION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mo Siegel

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Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of over 200 volunteers, the Domestic Extension Committee was able to preserve our core programs while stimulating progress on new initiatives. Most specifically, the Committee's work has dramatically increased with the publication of The Fellowship's new book. We are continually blessed with much work to accomplish and a fine lot of spiritually dedicated Urantians to do it!

### **1996 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **Booth Outreach**

With the support of a cadre of local volunteers, Paula Thompson organized and operated outreach booths at 22 shows in 19 cities over 22 weekends! This outreach program has introduced new readers to The Urantia Book in Pittsburgh, Fort Lauderdale, Pasadena, Seattle, Ashville, Dallas, San Francisco, San Diego, Denver, Boulder, Spokane, Atlanta, Austin, Santa Fe, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Toronto, and New York.

Statistics are as follows:

Urantia Books sold 518

El Libro sold 27

Concordex sold 47

Paramony sold 7

Life After Death sold 193

Introductions distributed 2,062

Brochures distributed 4,017

Mustard Seeds distributed 15,120

Fellowship brochures 800

People who saw our booth 500,000\*

Names added to mailing lists 805\*

Volunteer booth workers 226\*

(\* indicates a close approximation)

Note: Since the introduction of The Fellowship's new book, The Urantia Book sales increased from a 20 book per show average to a 37 book per show average. Wow, an 85% increase!

In 1997 we have gone to Pittsburgh, Seattle, and San Francisco with Pasadena, Boulder, Denver, Chicago, Spokane, San Diego, Sacramento, Austin, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Boston, New York, and Toronto still ahead. I stand in deep admiration and appreciation for all the service Paula Thompson and her team give to the Revelation. They donate their weekends to bringing new people to The Urantia Book and to our Heavenly Father. I am fully convinced that the Whole Life Expo Urantia Book program has directly led to the large book sales increases over the past three years.

## Introductory Workshops

We continue to encourage Expo follow-up workshops in certain cities. The follow-up workshops are the next step in bringing newly introduced Expo converted readers into existing study groups, initiating new study groups, and making contact with individuals who put their names on the booth sign-up sheets. This year local groups conducted successful follow-up workshops in San Diego, Toronto, Fort Lauderdale, Seattle, Las Vegas, Pittsburgh, and recently San Francisco.

## The Urantia Book Distribution

Eight North American distributors have been secured for the Uversa Press edition of The Urantia Book. In late Spring, we will display the Uversa book at Book Expo America in Chicago and then the International New Age Trade Show. Our hope is to sign up new distributors in all English speaking countries. Already more than three-fourths of the first printing of the fancy cover books have sold. To support distribution, ads have been placed in trade publications with seven different distributors and sent out over 10,000 full color fliers to thousands of bookstores. In addition, continual resources are being expended toward creating user friendly improvements for the new double column, paper, section, and paragraph referencing Uversa edition. Along with improvements come reprinting efforts for the second and third editions.

## Area Coordinators

Brian Smith has taken Ann Garner's place as National Area Coordinator Director. Brian has initiated an exciting book distribution project with Area Coordinators. He mailed full color fliers to Area Coordinators with instructions on how to interest bookstore owners and buyers in carrying the beautiful new edition of The Urantia Book. We also hope that unlimited availability of books will be just the incentive needed to increase outreach activity and reader growth within the entire movement. We are looking forward to working closely with area coordinators on some fun and rewarding projects in 1997.

## The 1996-97 Study Group Directory

This year's edition, currently in production on Mary Ebben's computer, is scheduled to be completed in July 1997. So far a significant number of new groups have listed this year. Mary hopes to see increases in both domestic and foreign study groups.

## Training Teachers

Before each Expo, new volunteers are trained how to answer difficult questions along with learning creative listening skills, booth etiquette, logistics, goals, purposes, and Jesus' outreach techniques. We also touch on what to do when someone wants to argue and ways to diffuse irate religionists. In terms of training, nothing matches the superb experiential wisdom that comes from actually talking to interested persons at the booth. As these efforts continue, more experienced volunteers come back year after year to work at the booth.

## New Reader Introductions

The Domestic Extension Committee continues to conduct, support, and encourage public introductions to The Urantia Book. Our main objective is to show local readers how easy it is to hold introductory classes for new and potential readers.

As you read this report, you will see that this Committee is blessed with much work. Thank you, Paula, Brian, Robin, Larry, and Mary! These faithful servers and friends of this Committee make it happen!

In His service and ever grateful for the opportunity,

Mo Siegel, Chair The Domestic Extension Committee

## THE DOMESTIC EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Mo Siegel - Chair

Paula Thompson - Secretary and Outreach Director

Brian Smith - National Area Coordinator

Robin Jorgensen - Study Group Development

Larry Geis - Special Projects

Mary Ebben - Special Projects

# **From Urantia Brotherhood School to Fellowship Summer Seminars: Evolving a Viable Philosophy of Readership Education**

Report of the Education Committee to the  
1997 Triennial Delegate Assembly and General Council  
*L. Dan Massey, Chairman*

This document contains a history of Brotherhood/Fellowship efforts to mobilize educational services for the readership along with some commentary on constructive roles which the Fellowship might play within the developing readership community.

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Forty-two years have now passed since the establishment of Urantia Brotherhood. During that period the role and vision of the Brotherhood's Education Committee has undergone almost as many changes as the Brotherhood itself. In the original Brotherhood constitution, the Education Committee was charged to "find, prepare, and train teachers of the Urantia Book" and to interest others in doing likewise. In addition, the original constitution charged the Education Committee to ordain Teachers of the Urantia Book.

The early committee took these mandates quite seriously and set about the creation of a Brotherhood School with a formal academic program leading to eventual ordination. As we look back at the training and teaching materials prepared by these early enthusiasts, their viewpoint of the requisites for training a religious teacher seem shockingly provincial. The work of the early Brotherhood School consisted, apparently, of examining paragraphs from the Urantia book, collected according to topic, and attempting to summarize the meaning of the paragraph in one's own words, while conforming the concepts to the standard established by the instructor, who was generally either Dr. Sadler or Warren Kulieke.

When we look at the limited record of these times we see little to indicate that the Brotherhood School students or their teachers were concerned with

the relationship of the text or teachings to the larger body of human knowledge or to the cultural context of the revelation. The sole exception seems to have been some attempt to examine the Book in relation to the Bible and the Apocrypha. Anything a student acquired of ministerial, counseling, or teaching ability or training would have come from somewhere other than the Brotherhood School.

Eventually the Brotherhood School ceased operation, although a number of readers from the Chicago area had attended some of its classes and at least two readers are reported to have eventually graduated and been ordained as "Teachers." Agitation for reopening the school continued within some parts of the Brotherhood for a number of years; however, in 1976 the Education Committee, which was ultimately responsible for the school, announced in a formal position paper that the educational purposes of the movement would be better served by fostering enhanced educational programs in study groups and periodic regional, national, and international conferences. At the same time, the committee recommended amendment of the Brotherhood constitution to remove the provision for ordination of Teachers.

Concurrently with the operation of the Brotherhood School, there had evolved a tradition of holding an annual Summer Seminar at 533 Diversey, and it was on this tradition the committee relied as a vehicle for its constitutional charter. During the Forum and early Brotherhood years, summer picnics had been held on the shores of Lake Michigan. As these affairs came to include increasingly elaborate study sessions and grew in scope they were moved to the large front meeting room on the second floor of 533. For several days each summer a number of students of the book would meet, by invitation, to ponder and debate the meanings of the book and, increasingly, the place of the text and its students in the larger world.

Beginning with the 1975 General Conference, and continuing with the 1976 International Forum, the Education Committee formally sponsored a multiday program of study groups and workshops open to any reader. With the establishment of the Summer Seminar at Lake Forest Academy (1979-80) and, subsequently, Lake Forest College (1982-92), the committee's focus became the conduct of these programs (during years when a General or International Conference was not held). Frequently, but not invariably, the committee also developed a significant part of the General Conference program (1975, 1978, and 1984).

The task of preparing Summer Seminar programs consumed most of the committee resources, although periodic attempts were made to provide a form of organizational outreach in which the most knowledgeable students

of the book would attend regional conferences as presenters or participants to leaven the event. An unsuccessful attempt was made to launch a "Speakers' Bureau" to assist in scheduling such resources and most such efforts were limited by Brotherhood financial constraints. Only a few such "guest appearances" occurred under committee auspices.

In 1983, the committee held its "most popular" Summer Seminar at Lake Forest College, with over 160 in attendance. At the same time, the committee was apparently troubled that these events might be losing their educational focus in favor of a more conference-like atmosphere and determined to embark, for the next eight years, on a complete sequential study of the entire Urantia Book. During this period there was gradual decline in seminar attendance, prompting significant re-evaluation of the seminar program in planning for the 1994 event.

Attendance at Summer Seminars since 1976 has been completely open to all interested readers. The fact that these programs (except for 1976) were all held in the Chicago area somewhat limited the opportunities for attendance. In addition, the programs were mostly held during the week, so that full participation required attendees to take vacation time from work\_time that might otherwise have been spent with family or in more recreational activities. It appeared that a considerable effort was being expended to develop and maintain this "educational" program, but that relatively few readers were being served thereby.

Throughout the Lake Forest period, the typical attendee would be someone with a serious, usually longterm, personal commitment to the Urantia book and the movement community. This generally included members of the General Council, TDA delegates, persons likely to be elected to the General Council, and other regionally active study group leaders and/or Society organizers. From one summer to the next, there would be a change of less than 20 persons in the roster of Summer Seminar attendees. In one sense, these people were selecting themselves, by their commitment to this process, as the teachers and leaders of the Urantia movement.

So it was entirely appropriate that the Education Committee seek to serve the needs of this group. Unfortunately, very many qualified persons who chanced to live inconveniently far from Chicago or who were unable to take the time or afford the expense of travel to Chicago were not well-served by this arrangement. This was particularly true of the many readers in the far West and the international community. At the same time, the Brotherhood was undergoing the re-evaluation of its relationship to the Urantia movement that has led to its evolution into the present-day Fellowship.

Gradually, the decision-makers in the organization were coming to understand that its role should not be to direct what the readership did in service of the movement but to facilitate what the readership would do for the movement.

This changing attitude led to a shift in Education Committee priorities for the Summer Seminar program. Rather than hold the Seminar in Chicago, it was decided that it should be held in different parts of the country where there were significant numbers of readers. Rather than have the program defined and composed centrally, with speakers drawn from the small pool of chronic Seminar attendees, it was decided that program participation should be encouraged from the local group. Essentially, the committee determined that it would combine its efforts with the efforts of a local group preparing a regional conference to create a composite effort. The committee would offer its experience in planning and organizing educational programs to leaven the work of a local team.

By bringing councilors and TDA delegates to the augmented regional conference, we would foster a broadened exchange of ideas and understanding of the Book, as well as enhancing the connections of friendship between those working within the formal organization and those serving the revelation in other, local and regional capacities.

The first such Summer Seminar was held in 1994 in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma group had taken responsibility for holding the Third Scientific Symposium and it was decided to combine this with a Education Committee program. The Education Committee worked with the Symposium sponsors and the local group to create an educational program that complemented the scientific program in theme and provided talks and workshops led equally by Oklahoma students and other movement resources.

In 1995 another, similarly planned seminar was held in Teaneck, New Jersey. Although this program was more modest in scope than 1994 (no Scientific Symposium was planned and this was not a TDA year), a similarly high degree of participation from the local community was achieved. For 1997 we have worked closely with readers from the Pacific Northwest to allow the current program to address regional needs and interests, while also serving as a prototype for portions of the 1999 International Conference. As part of this, we have also invited program input from the team working on the 1999 conference program. The 1998 seminar is tentatively planned for the Washington, D.C. area and will entail

further programmatic exploration for 1999 as well as topical material organized with the collaboration of readers in the national capital region.

It is a bit early to evaluate the success of this type of organizational "outreach". So far we have learned that the concerns and attitudes of each region vary widely, and each seminar has presented its own unique requirements for integrating with local needs and desires. This summer the seminar has been given a far more "conference-like" flavor than ever before, without compromising the opportunity for educational participation. I, for one, see no reason that, as it grows, our movement would not have annual large-scale conferences, with full educational tracks. On the other hand, considering the effort involved in such productions, and the limited volunteer resources of our movement, these events will probably not become so established for a number of years.

Concurrently with an interest in geographical "outreach," our committee also began to consider how it might serve the needs of readers with a less formally academic approach to mastery of the teachings. The Scientific Symposium, organized by an independent team of readers, had shown one type of such alternative program. The originators of these programs have indicated an interest in the continuation of such studies under the auspices of the Fellowship, and the Education Committee is considering how this obvious need and interest might best be addressed. There is a small scientific component in the current program and will likely be more a extensive one in the future.

For many years readers have urged greater recognition of the artistic and intuitive side of learning and spiritualization. We had thought it might be feasible to organize an "Artistic Symposium" at some future time, somewhat along the lines of the successful science programs. This summer's preconference artistic retreat is an initial undertaking to assess the feasibility of and reader interest in such a program. I hope to be able to report more fully on this matter in the future.

Some six years ago the Education Committee embarked on the Wrightwood Series of programs to promote in-depth study of topics from the Urantia book perspective. Three of these invited seminars were conducted, after which the participants prepared and presented program elements at International Conferences and published papers summarizing their discussions and deliberations. I believe this program has been quite successful. We have not been sufficiently energetic in the last few years in developing Wrightwood events and should work to facilitate additional programs of this type, possibly by following our own example and relaxing

the amount of control we have insisted on in the past.

From time to time readers have urged us to prepare more general educational material based on the Book. Particular interest has been expressed in developing programs for parents to use in training their children in Urantian moral and spiritual principles. The Education Committee has always been most reluctant to embark on such an enterprise and has hesitated even to impose informal "educational" programs on children who attend seminars with their parents. This attitude stems in part from a belief that it is inappropriate to take advantage of a personal relationship to seek to coerce another to adopt one's own belief system. Children, of course, are especially vulnerable to parental authority and pressure. While parents have responsibilities for the education and training of their offspring to function effectively in society, and while the spiritual viewpoint is a major adjunct to this process, that obligation will not be well-served by coercive indoctrination.

We believe that the spiritual education of children is properly the province of parents in the home. While it is possible that programmatic material can be prepared to guide that process, yet retaining the requisite degree of ethical sensitivity, such an effort is almost surely beyond the wisdom of a committee like our own, focused on the educational and intellectual process. In this respect we encourage the efforts of the ad hoc Family Life committee to draw on multiple sources of expertise and wisdom in working towards this end. The Education Committee will support the Family Life committee in its work, but recognizes the need for a broader perspective.

Another continuing concern of the committee is the role it should play in dissemination of information about the socialization of the revelation and the activities of the Fellowship itself. The constitutional charter of the committee has long been read very narrowly to apply exclusively to teaching the contents of the text of the Book. On the other hand, it is clear that the text does not exist apart from the movement, and that the traditions, history, and activity of the movement, while not changing the text at all, do affect the way in which successive generations of readers react to and interpret the text.

As a case in point, for almost eight years the Fellowship and its governing bodies and members have been the targets of an intermittent barrage of deceptive and deceitful negative propaganda foisted upon the readership by various Trustees of Urantia Foundation, acting in their official capacities, and by individual proponents of the Trustees' sociopathic and egocentric interpretations of their alleged rights and responsibilities under the

Declaration of Trust. Throughout this entire period, the Fellowship has taken no actions (except when forced by Foundation-initiated litigation) to set the record straight or to instruct readers, confused and mislead by the Foundation's activities, in the historical facts and organizational events of this period.

At the same time, increasing public awareness of the Urantia Book and its readership has begun to trigger opposition from the polar extremes of skepticism and fundamentalism. The well-known skeptical fanatic Martin Gardner has produced a highly colored and frequently inaccurate critique of the text and its origins. At the same time we can look forward to reading "UFO Cults and Urantia" from the radically fundamentalist Zondervan publishing house, if anyone can find a copy.

With the revelation and its socialization under three-sided attack from one of its own publishers, a popular science writer, and fundamentalist Christian cultists, the question of defense naturally comes to mind. One can argue, of course, that the appropriate response to this sort of thing is transcendence. However, organizations are not personal, much less transcendent beings. What one may do as an individual under attack does not necessarily apply to what an organization should do. In particular, the Fellowship must consider how its response (or lack thereof) to these events (and other, more serious ones surely to come) can best serve the readership.

If the Fellowship were a church or trying to be a church, there is little doubt that it would aggressively indoctrinate people in an "officially correct position" on all the matters raised by its opponents. On the other hand, if the Fellowship were a publisher exclusively concerned with printing an accurate text and not caring a bit for what happened next, it would be justified in completely ignoring these external events. I believe that the latter materialistic attitude, inherited by Urantia Brotherhood from years of close association with Urantia Foundation, is what has prevailed in our governing bodies and has been mistaken by its proponents for spiritual transcendence.

In actuality, the Fellowship is chiefly a social organization. It does not pretend to divine authority, although it may facilitate the acts of others in attempting to grow spiritually. It likewise should not ignore the social context of its work, although it may chance to publish a revealed text. As a social organization, the Fellowship could choose to help the readership learn the facts of the socialization of the revelation, just as it has chosen to help the readership understand the meaning of the text of the Book. Rather

than present an official, dogmatic history and interpretation of events, the Fellowship could facilitate the work of other, interested parties in compiling this information and advocating their purely personal viewpoints.

At the same time, the Fellowship could serve the readership by providing a forum for the public discussion of these significant events.

I do not think such an initiative would contravene the purposes of either the Education Committee or the Fellowship itself, and invite you, as a councilor or TDA delegate, to consider your response to these thoughts.

Submitted for the Education Committee.

Dan Massey, Chairman

Matthew Block

Irwin Ginsburgh

Michelle Klimesh

Patrick Yesh

Stephen Zendt

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[Site Index](#)

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DATE: July 1, 11997

TO: Triennial Delegates and Alternates, and General  
Councilors

From: Carolyn Kendall, Delegate, First Society, Chicago  
Re: Report of Education Committee to 1997 TDA and General  
Council

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I found several points in the report concerning the history of the Urantia Brotherhood School that beg for clarification or correction, First, it should be pointed out that not just "the original Brotherhood constitution" but also the present Fellowship consitution charges the Education Committee to "find, prepare, and qualify teachers of The Urantia Book."

1) In the committee report, the "teaching materials prepared by these early enthusiasts" which were used to train teachers are viewed as "shockingly provincial." It was impressed upon the early students that The Urantia Book is a complex, structured, many-faceted system of revelatory truth and evolutionary fact. It has been likened to a symphony, a gigantic puzzle, or a multi-layered social, intellectual and spiritual enterprise.

Rather than "examining paragraphs" which the teacher or students would then "summarize...in one's own words," special care was taken NOT to establish official interpretations. The intent was to draw attention to the basic and unique concepts of The Urantia Book, as well as to its doctrines and theology, by stating a concept as a "proposition" and supporting it with appropriate quotations.

2) The faculty of the school was trained for two years, at the end of which time they were presented with the title of Ordained Teacher. Seven of these 10 long-time students were professional educators. Five out-of-town long-time students

were also bestowed with honorary Ordained Teacher Status.

The report understates the number of persons who graduated from the School, saying "at least two readers eventually graduated." The school began with 71 students and auditors in 1955 on Wednesday evenings, and continued with an average of 30 students and 20 auditors each year. At the end of a three-year course one received a Certified Leader award. At least 20 persons were certified. As many as 10, and possibly 13, went on to complete the Ordained Teacher program.

The courses were tough. One was expected to attend all classes, study, do research, pass written examinations and assume teaching responsibilities in one's local study group. Courses included educational psychology and public speaking. By the early 1970s, they ran out of people who could devote themselves to the rigorous program, and the School ceased to exist in that format. It continued for a few more years as a non-credit Wednesday evening program.

3) The Lake Michigan beachfront property mentioned in the report *had* been purchased by the Sadlers in Beverly Shores, Indiana with the intent of becoming a teacher training facility. It was soon realized that the only people who could devote sufficient time would be teachers on summer vacation, the retired, or the unemployed. They hosted many summer picnics at the lodge, but it was never used by the Brotherhood School, nor for any study sessions.

4) The "Speakers' Bureau" cited in the report was an outline devised by the Fraternal Relations Committee to guide anyone who might in the future be invited to a group to speak about The Urantia Book.