The Urantia Book
FELLOWSHIP

Founded 1955

TRIENNIAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

July 2, 2000

ANNUAL REPORTS OF

OFFICERS

DEPARTMENTAL CHAIRPERSONS

AND

AD HOC COMMITTEES

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FIFTH EPOCHAL FELLOWSHIP CORPORATION
Statement of Financial Position
May 31, 2000
(Unaudited)

Assets

Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 115,000	
Accounts receivable (Note 1)	11,437	
Supplies inventory	500	
Prepaid expense	2,109	
Total Current Assets		$ 129,046
Long-Term Investments:		
Stocks, bonds, and land at market (Note 4)		214,992
Property and Equipment: (Note 1)		
Land	$ 81,500	
Building	293,500	
Building improvements	27,376	
Office equipment	141,938	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(225,836)	
Total Property and Equipment		318,478
Total Assets		$ 662,516

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable & accrued expenses		$ 25,651
Mortgage payable - current		13,726
Total Current Liabilities		39,377
Mortgage payable - long term portion		46,958
Net Assets: (Note 1)		
Unrestricted	$ 536,536	
Temporarily restricted	39,645	
Total Net Assets		576,181
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		$ 662,516

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

FIFTH EPOCHAL FELLOWSHIP CORPORATION
Consolidated Statement of Activities
For the Five Months Ending May 31, 2000
(Unaudited)

Revenues:	Actual	Five Month Budget	Annual Budget
Contributions (Note 1)	$ 52,882	$ 141,333	$ 339,200
Sales	377	0	0
Tithes	833	833	2,000
Interest earned	2,012	1,667	4,000
Dividends earned	1,264	625	1,500
Total Revenues	$ 57,368	$ 144,458	$ 346,700
Expenditures:			
Gift books-postage	$ 91	$ 0	$ 0
Cost of goods sold - Perspectives on Race	896	0	0
Salaries	22,367	21,708	52,100
Part-time employees	4,917	8,333	20,000
FICA expense	1,711	1,613	3,871
Unemployment comp		2,917	7,000
Group health insurance	7,136	7,500	18,000
Insurance - workers' comp	203	208	500
Accounting fees		2,500	6,000
Audit		2,750	6,600
Legal fees	988	417	1,000
Committee expense	19,574	37,042	88,900
Other meeting expense	3,207	1,042	2,500
TDA annual allocation		83	200
Special programs	31,217	38,292	91,900
Bank service charges	456	208	500
MC/VI merchant fees	501	417	1,000
Postage	3,353	2,083	5,000
Telephone	2,628	3,333	8,000
Office supplies expense	1,524	1,250	3,000
Travel	2,534	1,667	4,000
Equipment maintenance	2,531	833	2,000
Miscellaneous expense	5	417	1,000
Gas	579	833	2,000
Electric	442	833	2,000
Water	123	94	225
Building repairs & maintenance	200	1,667	4,000
Mortgage interest	2,574	3,125	7,500
Janitorial services	796	833	2,000
General insurance	1,397	2,750	6,600
Real estate taxes	260	0	0
Total Expenditures	$ 112,210	$ 144,748	$ 347,396
Excess--Expenses over Revenues (Note 3)	$ (54,842)	$ (290)	$ (696)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

FIFTH EPOCHAL FELLOWSHIP CORPORATION
Schedule of Standing Committee Expenses
For the Five Months Ending May 31, 2000
(Unaudited)

Committee	Actual	Five Month Budget	Annual Budget
Charter	$ 0	$ 417	$ 1,000
Judicial	0	208	500
Fraternal Relations	0	833	2,000
Domestic Extension	3,487	5,000	12,000
International Fellowship	6,798	10,417	25,000
Education (Note 2)	(5,247)	1,375	3,300
Publications	11,322	14,125	33,900
Finance	3,072	4,167	10,000
Special Projects	142	500	1,200
Total Committee Expense	$ 19,574	$ 37,042	$ 88,900

FIFTH EPOCHAL FELLOWSHIP CORPORATION
Consolidated Schedule of Special Program Expenses
For the Quarter Ending May 31, 2000

Committee	Actual	Five Month Budget	Annual Budget
Family Life	$ 431	$ 500	$ 1,200
Public Relations	1,521	3,750	9000
FLOWERS	500	833	2,000
"Simplification of the Foreword"	4,400	6,208	14,900
Website	24,365	27,000	64,800
Total Committee Expense	$ 31,217	$ 38,292	$ 91,900

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

FIFTH EPOCHAL FELLOWSHIP CORPORATION
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets
For the Quarter Ending May 31, 2000
(Unaudited)

Net Assets :	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Balance, January 1, 2000 (Note 4)	$ 535,414	$ 52,600	$ 588,014
Excess--Expenses over Revenues	(54,842)		(54,842)
Net assets released from restrictions		(12,955)	(12,955)
FMV adjustment to state investments at market net of sales	55,964		55,964
Balance, May 31, 2000	$ 536,536	$ 39,645	$ 576,181

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

FIFTH EPOCHAL FELLOWSHIP CORPORATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MAY 31, 2000

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Revenue and Expense Recognition

Contributions are recorded when cash is received. Other revenue is recorded when received or earned, and expenses are recorded and recognized when incurred.

(b) Contributions

Contributions are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless restricted by the donor. Revenue from grants restricted by the donor is segregated within the net assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently restricted net assets include funds received from donors with the stipulation that they be permanently retained by the organization in perpetuity and that only the income and/or use of the assets are available to the organization. At May 31, 2000, there are no permanently restricted net assets.

The organization has adopted SFAS No. 116, "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made." Donated services are received by the organization in the form of volunteer help, pro bono professional services, and other non-cash contributions. The programs of the organization utilize volunteer services as well as other in-kind donations. No amounts are recorded for such goods and services because no clearly measurable basis is available to value such donations. However, a substantial number of volunteers have donated significant amounts of their time to the Fellowship's program services.

(c) Depreciation

Property and equipment are recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the assets.

FIFTH EPOCHAL FELLOWSHIP CORPORATION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

May 31, 2000

(Continued)

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(d) Uncollectible Accounts

The organization considers accounts receivable to be fully collectible. Therefore, no allowance for uncollectible accounts is required. If amounts become uncollectible, they are charged to operations when that determination is made.

(e) Net Assets

The accompanying financial statements are presented in accordance with the Statement of Accounting Standards No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations." Under SFAS No. 117, the organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets, based upon the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

(2) PROGRAM EXPENSES

Education Committee expense includes $2,138 related to SS 2000 and is reduced by $7,726 in SS 2000 pre-registration fees.

(3) 10% CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT

At the end of fiscal 2000 an amount equal to ten percent of gross revenues from operations will be credited to the board-restricted net assets.

(Continued)

(4) NET ASSETS

The books of account are being analyzed in preparation for the closing of the revenue and expense accounts for 1999. Accordingly, the balance at January 1, 2000 reflects year end adjusting journal entries which have been entered since the most recently published reports and does not reflect year end adjusting journal entries which will result from the auditing process.

(5) NATURE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Annual Report of the Charter Committee
June 2000

The main activity this year for the Charter Committee was establishing that the requirements for society formation by The Urantia Book Aloha Society (TUBAS) has been satisfactorily met by fourteen founding members and TUBAS was granted society status as the 26th society of *The Urantia Book Fellowship*.

Charter Committee reviewed and recommended Lee Farmer, Michael Shengout and Shelly Upholster as Members at Large and the Executive Committee subsequently approved all.

The Charter Committee will have one opening on the committee. Larry Bowman, Secretary will not be returning after many years of faithful service. The Charter Committee is grateful to Larry for his longstanding service and we all look forward to serving with him in the future.

In our Eternal Father's service,

Robert Burns, Chair
Larry Bowman, Secretary
Robert Bruyn
Dale Sztejnberg
Bob Arkens
John Causland

Fraternal Relations Committee

Annual Report 2000

The primary activity of the committee in the past year involved our participation in the 1999 World Parliament of Religions (see report below), which was an outstanding opportunity for all who attended to fellowship and share the revelation with our sisters and brothers of different faiths.

Also, thanks to the persistent contributions of Beth Bartley and Richard Omura (our committee web liaison) , we have established an FRC webpage at http://urantiabook.org/fef/frc with a section on rites and rituals, pictures and reports on the Parliament, and a chat space for interfaith discussion. Recent discussion has focused on posting materials on how readers new to interfaith involvement can get started. Thank you Beth and Richard!

Our participation in the North American Interfaith Network continues. I will be attending the annual conference at the end of July in Fullerton. If anyone is interested in participating let me know and I'll forward registration information.

Respectfully submitted,
Marvin Gawryn, Chairman
Fraternal Relations Committee

Urantia Book Readers Share the Revelation at the *Parliament of the World's Religions* In Capetown, South Africa

The readers I knew who attended the second Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1993, without exception, said it was one of the most powerful spiritual experiences of their entire lives. So, as I departed the U.S. for the third Parliament, I was prepared for something special. But it far surpassed my expectations. Up until these eight days in Capetown (Dec. 1-8, 1999), I knew with my mind that all the people of Urantia were my sisters and brothers. But in Capetown I was immersed in the living truth of God's diverse family on this remarkable planet

The depth of the conversations with Parliament participants was breathtaking. They moved almost immediately to how we each experienced the inner encounter with God, how the paths were many and the Truth one, how we all were sisters and brothers in one family, beloved children of God, at home in a universe filled with undreamed of opportunities for service and growth.

The Fellowship's booth attracted a steady flow of visitors. We also offered a panel presentation, featuring members of both the IUA and Fellowship, which was quite effective. Over the 8 days we gave away all of the Fellowship's eighty books to people who wanted first to read it themselves, and then agreed to place their copies in public or organizational libraries.

I was amazed at how people immediately recognized the unusual nature of the book. The record for brevity probably goes to the leader of the Muslim Youth Education Association. Dressed elegantly all in white except for his black turban, accompanied by one of his wives wrapped in flowing black silk from head to toe except for her expressive eyes, he looked intently for a full minute at the front cover with its pictures of Jesus, an angel, and the earth floating in space. Flipping it over, he read the back cover, opened the book, read briefly, shut the book and said, "I want this. How much is it?" I explained the library placement program's free book offer. He looked me full in the eyes, smiled broadly, filled out the form, and left holding the book tightly with both hands.

One day I left the booth for a while, with one of the books opened to Jesus' "Discourse on True Religion", which had proven to be good "bait" with other passers by. When Mike McIsaac came by an hour later he found two young men, security guards, scribbling furiously, trying to copy the entire section into their notebooks. They said they had never seen such a book, and asked "How can we get one?" Ten minutes later they left with faces shining, each with a book. The next day one of them came back saying, "Did you realize this is an incredible revelation?" We all laughed and embraced.

Halfway through the Parliament, a woman, who had received a book on the first day, came back to the booth with profuse thanks. She said she had not been able to put the book down for three days.

And then there was the young girl from Capetown, a student at an all girls highschool, who sat quietly at the back of the booth reading some suggested sections for two hours while I chatted with others. She was so sweet, asking, "How long can I read this book before I place it in my school's library." "Of course, as long as you wish," I replied. She was beaming as she walked away, book in hand.

One woman explained how her husband, a wealthy aquatic engineer living in Spain, had had a remarkable revelation of Jesus, "the Master". He subsequently wrote several books, and together they had started a worldwide ministry. After looking at several sections in the Urantia Book, the last being the passage where Jesus and Ganid ministered to two ladies of the night in Corinth, she pulled her husband over and read him the section out loud, both with tears in their eyes. When she finished, they looked at each other with amazement. They left a little later, both expressing great excitement at the prospect of reading the entire book and sharing it with others in their travels.

The leader from the Cao Dai sect in Vietnam was most appreciative of the gift of the book for their main library. Their founder was a great teacher who received a powerful revelation in the 1920's, centered on all people being children of God in the heavenly Father's universal family, while all religions were paths to the one truth. Their group was expanding rapidly in many parts of the world, with more than six million adherents.

We had an outstanding exchange with the Executive Director of the Legion of Good Will, the leading spiritual and social ministry organization in Brazil. They minister to more than 3 million people annually, and are working closely with the top leaders of the Brazilian government on many projects, including introducing a multi-faith spiritual curriculum to all of the public schools in Brazil. He was fascinated with the Urantia Book, and took two copies back to place in the main libraries in Brazilia.

Each of us at the Parliament had so many of these rewarding encounters. Steve Rohrbach was able to get a copy of the book to Nelson Mandela, and Gard Jameson was able to give one to the Dalai Lama.

My favorite response to the book came from an envoy sent by the Scottish parliament to invite the Dalai Lama to address that body. After reading several sections, this cheery fellow exclaimed in a thick Scottish accent, "I thought the Course in Miracles was a doorstopper! But this really takes the biscuit!"

Here is one last story. One day I had an extensive conversation with a young woman from Johannesburg, an enlistee in the South African armed forces, who was overjoyed at being able to receive a copy of the book. Later that day I was talking with another woman, who introduced herself as the first woman's sister. She said she could not believe their good fortune at having a copy of the book. She had been by the booth the day before, and wanted so much to read through the book's descriptions of the afterlife. But she was convinced she could never afford the price of such a fine volume, and so she left without ever inquiring. Her eyes brimmed with tears as she told of how her sister burst into their room to share the news that they both could now learn the truth from this great revelation.

Our attendance at the third Parliament of the World's Religions was successful in so many ways. The next such gathering is planned for 2005. Hopefully many more readers can attend, and so enjoy a remarkable opportunity to share truth and love with thousands of sincere religionists from around the world.

1999 Domestic Extension Committee Report

1999 was a great year for DEC. With the work of our dedicated committee and hundreds of volunteers we introduced the Urantia teachings to thousands of individuals, helped distribute hundreds of gift books, produced the Study Group Directory, and initiated a new project to bring Urantia Book readers together and create study groups.

Booth Outreach

In 1999 we did 12 shows in 12 cities, including: San Francisco, Baltimore, Ft. Lauderdale, Denver, Spokane, Minneapolis, Sacramento, Phoenix, Austin, Chicago, New York, and Atlanta.

There is a considerable amount of work that goes into creating these events. Before the show, there is a need to coordinate with show producers (booking booth space, securing electricity, shipping materials, and applying for speaking opportunities), make travel arrangements for the facilitator, and coordinate with a local UB community liaison who lines up volunteers for the booth and arranges accommodations and transportation for the facilitator. During the show the facilitator, always a trained DEC member, arrives one day early for booth set up and training, and is there to provide expertise and continuity for the entire event (about 30 hours in a three day weekend). After the show there is an accounting to be made of literature distributed as well as mailing list updates. DEC members agree that this work is of vital importance for UB promotion as well as training teachers and leaders. It should be obvious that these efforts involve a great deal of participation and support by local reader communities, without which, this outreach would be impossible.

Heartfelt thanks goes to the tireless efforts of committee members LuAnn Harney, Robin Jorgensen, and Mary Ebben for giving up one or more weekends to facilitate expos in 1999, and special thanks to ad hoc member Maria Downing who learned the ropes. May our Heavenly Father richly bless each and every one of you!

The following literature was distributed at these shows:

Soft Back UB	224
Hard Back UB	13
Spanish UB	18
UB Excerpt Brochures	4,378
Life After Death Magazine	167
M. Sprunger Brochures	900
Concordex	10
Fellowship Brochures	600
Study Group Directories	600

In addition, we made personal contact with hundreds of people who signed our mailing list, provided over 120 Urantians with the opportunity to serve as outreach volunteers

(many paid travel and accommodation expenses to do so) and exposed the book to well over 100,000 potential seekers.

Sadly, because of budget cuts we had to limit the amount of shows we did in 1999 and will do even less in 2000. This is a shame because these Expos are the only project our Fellowship sponsors on a regular basis that provides hands on local community participation. If these were not popular or deemed of value by local Urantia communities, we would not have people asking us to come back and be willing to volunteer for them year after year.

Uversa Book Distribution

With the help of Jesusonian Foundation, Domestic Extension shipped 158 Uversa Press books to numerous individuals, represented by the following breakdown:

Youth Book Program	38
International Gifts	18
FlOWERS	25
Societies	65
Prisoners	10
Website	1
Library/Institution	1

Work With Other Fellowship Committees

Domestic Extension helped IFC distribute the following gift foreign language Urantia Books internationally:

Spanish	36
Russian	4
French	6
Finnish	1

Domestic Extension helped Fraternal Relations at the Parliament of The Worlds Religions in December by providing the booth, a facilitator, and all the literature that was distributed there, including securing the 70 Uversa Press books (previously sent for Norman Ingram's outreach) that were placed in religious libraries all over the world from there.

The 1999 – 2000 Study Group Directory

The directory was completed in time for distribution at IC99, as well as being mailed to every study group that listed in the directory including international groups. As always, each group listed receives several copies for their own use. The directory is a huge DEC project every year, which includes at least three mailings to study groups to get their input. Study group input is essential to the accuracy of the directory. Committee

member LuAnn Harney deserves our deep appreciation for providing this loving service and hard work for the past four years.

Public Introductions & Workshops

Members of Domestic Extension Committee did several public introductions to the Urantia Book in 1999. Notably, two were given at Whole Life Expos and one to the UFO conference in Mesquite Nevada. All in all, over 200 people we introduced to the remarkable teachings of The Urantia Book in this way.

Creating New Study Groups

Over the years in has become apparent to us that certain areas have a good number of readers yet do not have a study group. We concluded that it could be because they don't know about each other. In addition we have met many individuals who would like to host a study group in their area. They often call us for names of readers, and although we can't give them the names of individuals, we can and do send out a letter on their behalf to every name we have in that area. In one case we had a gentleman in Oklahoma who wanted to start a group. He composed a letter of introduction, which we sent out to about six UB readers who live nearby him. He now hosts a wonderful study group of 12.

The Study Group Directory includes a category called "Will Host." This category represents individuals in a given area who have no study group but would be willing to host one. In every area where we have a "Will Host" listing, we are sending out letters to other readers in that area to let them know that a study group opportunity exists. DEC members Doreen Heyne and LuAnn Harney are working together on this effort. We'll let you know how it goes.

It is our hope that in the very near future (perhaps even with the 2000 – 2001 directory) we will be able to send one copy to every person on the mailing list. This seems to be the best way to let people know of study groups in their area, increasing participation in existing groups while creating new ones.

Annual Meeting

The members of DEC met during IC99. We discussed current projects and new possibilities. We discussed the possibility of the Fellowship sending the best of our conference speakers and presenters to local communities. In other words, a sort of "Fellowship Speaker's Bureau" that sends individual presenters to local communities to present topics of interest to Urantia Book students. DEC member Brian Smith graciously offered to promote and host the first one in Southern California. It was later determined that this type of project falls more into the realm and function of Education Committee. Ed Com agreed to work with DEC on this project and funds were allocated for it. The Executive Committee felt it was important to give cities with Fellowship Societies the first opportunity to host such events. Nothing has happened with this project yet, but we hope it will soon.

We have also discussed creative ways to advertise the UB. One idea is to run a simple and compelling quote from the book that has universal appeal to most people. This could be done with a cost effective display ad that includes our web address and toll free number at the bottom. Fred Harris' study group recently ran similar ads in a Florida newspaper, but the ads included only the quote and its source (The UB) not a phone number. Apparently, enough people called the newspaper to find out about the book that the newspaper called the Study Group to ask permission to give out their phone number. Doreen Heyne has researched the cost of such ads in various publications and we hope to try this out before the end of the year. More about that in future reports.

As always, it is a pleasure to be able to do this work on behalf of The Urantia Book Fellowship. We look forward to increased opportunities to serve. I extend warm praise and deep appreciation to the unselfish service of the following members of Domestic Extension Committee:
LuAnn Harney
Robin Jorgensen
Doreen Heyne
Mary Ebben
Brian Smith
Maria Downing (ad hoc)

In faith and friendship,

Paula Thompson, Chair
Domestic Extension Committee

Report of the International Fellowship Committee
June – 2000

At the dawn of the new millennium international interest in *The Urantia Book* grows at a fast pace. The greatest stimulus for interest has been through contact with our website. Interest has also been generated through book fairs, individual missionary efforts, and by those who live and work in the field. It is the challenge of the IFC to foster, encourage, and support these activities.

IC99 ended with a renewed interest in international activities. The IFC held a weekend retreat in Chicago during September to regroup and refocus our efforts. With so many activities occurring in so many places around the world, we felt the committee should have a more communication and coordination than a hands on function. We decided on several initiatives:

- Support focused international visits
- A book distribution program
- Timely communication and appropriate handling of inquiries
- Technical and translation support
- Each committee member would be knowledgeable regarding activities in one part of the world

These initiatives are now in various phases of implementation.

There have been several international visits during the past year. David Kantor and Augustin Arellano attended a meeting of readers in Brazil where they made presentations. Charles Olivea and Dr. Paul Premsagar attended The Delhi Book Fair during February in New Delhi, India. Christilyn Biek and Marvin Gawryn attended the World Parliament of Religions in Capetown, South Africa during December. Fellowship members worked side by side with IUA and Foundation representatives in these last two events.

Our website provides virtual access to the Fellowship, but not as many international readers are on line. Therefore, we have decided to provide key international readers with laptop computers as a portal for networking, communication, and to download educational materials. Thus far we have presented laptops to Prince John in Ghana, Jose Manuel in Columbia, and Augustin in Mexico. I also paid a visit to Mexico recently and gave Augustin a HP laserjet printer so that study aids and secondary works can be available to readers throughout Mexico.

The remainder of this report will be devoted to our Latin American involvement. During the seven years since the publication of *Il Libro de Urantia*, the growth of the Urantia Revelation in Latin America has been dramatic. The Fellowship has supported this phenomenal growth in ways previously mentioned but too often on an uncoordinated, ad hoc, and individual basis. Our challenge at this time is to transform these individual acts of generosity into a sustained professional effort.

At the April meeting, the Executive Committee voted to dedicate the proceeds from the next fund raising drive to the current needs in our Latin American outreach. We chose the following four initiatives as the best way we can serve our Latin American readers:

- Employ a bilingual reader to coordinate Spanish and International reader services.
- Support book fair participation and book distribution
- Provide internet and technical support
- Sponsor travel-work-study scholarships

These initiatives will serve to build an infrastructure of support to serve as a model as we constructively engage other world cultures.

Latin America offers to the greatest potential for the near future growth of the Urantia Revelation. This arena of activity has generated strong grass roots support amongst our members and societies. Through our outreach activities we have developed deep and abiding relationships. Augustin applied and was accepted as a member at large during the last meeting of the executive committee. Soon we will be extending the hand of friendship and membership to many others. In essence, our Latin American friends will soon become a more close knit and integral part of our reader family. And we will be challenged to become a fully bilingual and bicultural organization. It seems that on the road to internationalization, our first major step is to become The Urantia Book Fellowship of the Americas.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lange, Chair

For the committee,
Lila Dogim
Douglas Fraser
Susan Ransbottom
Stephanie Shafer
Adrienne Jarnagin

The Urantia Book Fellowship

From: Michelle Klimesh <mklimesh@linkzone.com>
To: Fellowship Office <fellowship@urantiabook.org>; <dkantor@linkzone.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 28, 2000 12:38 PM
Subject: EdCom year end report

FYI! XOX, MRK
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The Education Committee Report Summer 2000

This past year the Education Committee has been occupied with the organization of the Summer Study Session "Science, Ethics, and Religion" in Elmhurst, Illinois.

A cooperative effort between the Education Committee and the Domestic Extension Committee produced a set of materials that we call the Study Group Starter Kit. Included in this package is a series of topical studies suitable for new readers, plus information about how to start and nurture a local study group.

The Wrightwood on Race, chaired by Bobbie Dreier, is now in it's second printing. The Wrightwood on The Deity Adventure, chaired by Alison Gardner, is still in pre-publication. The panelists for the planned Wrightwood on Parables, chaired by Stephen Zendt, have been seated. Potential panelists for a future Wrightwood on Family have been identified.

Our plans for a speaker's bureau have been put on hold. Long range plans for developing a teachers track at summer conferences are being developed.

On behalf of the Education Committee, I thank the General Council for the opportunity to be of service to the revelation.

Very Truly Yours,

Michelle Klimesh, Chair
Alison Gardner
David Holt
Charles Olivea
Nick Stefero
Stephen Zendt

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE
June 2000

I am pleased to report on behalf of the Publications Committee that over the past year the committee's goals have been met. The *Mighty Messenger* continues to be published quarterly and *The Fellowship Herald* appears twice a year. The fourth issue of the Herald should be at the printer's within the next few weeks.

The work distribution in the committee continues along the lines reported on last year. Editorship of *The Fellowship Herald* rotates among Carolyn Kendall, Linda Buselli, Gary Deinstadt and yours truly. Sage Waitts continues to enhance the look of the Herald with her fine graphic artistry and Nancy Johnson ably lays out the *Mighty Messenger* at regular intervals.

Once again, the committee wishes to thank all those who have contributed material to the publications throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Avi Dogim, Chairman

Committee Members:
Carolyn Kendall, Secretary
Linda Buselli
Gary Deinstadt
Nancy Johnson
Sage Waitts

The Urantia Book Fellowship

From: David Kantor <dkantor@rdkantor.org>
To: <council@urantiabook.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 10, 2000 7:39 PM
Subject: Council: Special Projects Annual Report

--- Confidential to the Fellowship's General Council
Annual Report of the Special Projects Committee
June 2000

Special Interest Groups

The primary undertaking of the Special Projects Committee this past year has been the development of an organizational capability to offer and manage a variety of Special Interest Groups. This project has been fostered by Lee Smith. Beginning in February of this year we began offering a sign-up page on the website whereby interested persons could respond. In May we completed installation and testing of the software which will support Internet-based groups. This includes the ability to host real-time chat sessions for registered users. We anticipate significant usage of this resource to develop over coming months.

Study Group book donations

A project currently being mobilized is an effort to challenge every study group to donate at least one book each month to international distribution. This is being done in liason with Paula Thompson and individuals from the IFC.

Oral History

The oral history project remains incomplete. Barbara Newsom took charge of this project two years ago. She indicated that she would use Ticky Harries and perhaps Carolyn Kendall as adjuncts to help her with this. To date nothing has been provided to the committee in terms of developed materials and for the
past year Barbara has failed to return any correspondence. I suggest formally dropping this project until someone demonstrates interest and ability to bring it to some degree of completion. A substantial amount of historic materials have been gathered and published as part of the website project. This will continue to develop as a reader resource.

Committee

Both Tony Finstad and Lee Smith are past members whose terms expired but who desired to stay on as adjuncts. Tony's participation has been minimal due to personal health problems. As chair, I did not install replacements when positions became open, preferring to wait until a project was assigned and
then to find individuals qualified and interested on a project basis. There

are thus three open positions including that of the chair whose term has expired.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kantor

--- The Urantia Book Fellowship

Annual Report on Website Activities

June 2000

By the end of June, 2000, the Fellowship website will have served out over 1,000,000 page views since the start of the new millennium. We are currently serving out between 6,000 and 8,000 page views every 24 hours. This represents well over 50,000 individual accesses to the website in a month, more than half of which are for documents in Spanish. Even cutting these numbers in half to account for individuals who stumble onto a web page while searching for something else and then leave, we are still left with a substantial number of individuals discovering The Urantia Book and using related resources.

Our third most popular language group is Portuguese, consistent with the general high level of interest in Latin America. As there is currently no complete translation, we are publishing reader translations of individual papers. This is stimulating the development of regional social infrastructure. In Brazil a network of over 50 interested readers has formed over the past year as a result of contacts made through the website and interest generated by translated papers. It is my hope that this type of activity will be repeated in other language groups as well.

Dennis Shields and Sonny Schnieder have been working to create web-compatible audio files out of the Malibu series of Bill Sadler recordings. Digital noise reduction technology is making possible the reclamation of much clear reproduction than was possible even with the original tapes. This is a tedious and ongoing process. Additional recordings should be made available later this year including excerpts from the 95 hours of the Oklahoma series.

We continue to build our history archive. Recent additions have included correspondence related to the first French translation as well as correspondence with Sir Hubert Wilkins, a noted Arctic explorer who was a member of "The Seventy."

The website is currently providing email list services for nine different special interest groups and has begun to provide web hosting services for selected readership groups such as the Retreat Network (http://retreatnetwork.org)

The website is the result of integrating the work of several informal sub-groups consisting of the following individuals:

1. Programming and technical support group: Morgan Rauh, Larry Watkins, Mark Turrin, David Kantor

2. Domestic inquiry response group: Gary Deinstadt and New York Society members, Larry Watkins, Marty Greenhut, Paula Thompson, Francyl Gawryn, Ann Garner, Beth Bartley, Meredith Sprunger

3. International inquiry response group: Susan Ransbottom, Rosey Lieske, Agustin Arellano (Mexico and Central America), Juan Paulo Vega (Chile and other Latin American countries),

Ana Maria Nacimento Roberto (Brazil), Olga Lopez (Spain), Ken Glasziou (Australia). Several of these individuals have their own sub-groups which provide further assistance with responses and follow-up.

4. Document preparation group: David Kantor, Julianne Clerget, Richard Johnson, Larry Watkins, Ken Glasziou, Richard Omura

5. Administration group: David Kantor, Susan Ransbottom, Mario Caiole, Richard Omura, Ana Maria Nacimento Roberto, Angel Sanchez-Escobar, Ken Glasziou, Joy Brandt

6. Copyright and Trademark oversight: Dan Massey

7. Other support: Marvin Gawryn, Sara Blackstock, Sondra Seeger, Christel Garrick, Robert Reno, Anibal Pacheco, Dennis Shields, Sonny Schneider, Bud Kagan, Duane Faw, Saskia Raevouri, Les Jamieson, Lee Smith

(I should also thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee who have spent a great deal of administrative time this past year addressing the many complaints received from Urantia Foundation regarding our Internet activities. I would also like to thank John Hales, who manages the additional accounting tasks created by this undertaking.)

But even with all these individuals involved, there is still a need for additional volunteers. The most critical area of need at present is for someone willing to put in several hours a week helping with administrative tasks.

This past year a server was installed at the Chicago office along with 100 mb Ethernet service. This is currently being used to create a backup system so that website and email services will continue uninterrupted should there be technical difficulties with the California installation. This system also can provide a foundation upon which administrative work can be distributed and processed at locations other than the Chicago office as well as over an office network. Administrative use of this resource has yet to be mobilized but much of the infrastructure is in place and operational. This past year we switched from T1 service to DSL service in both California and Illinois nodes and realized a significant cost savings in the process.

In the works:

A great deal of thought and effort has gone into the presentation of website materials in a manner which will minimize the amount of time we have to spend responding to complaints from Urantia Foundation about copyright and trademark violations. At present, all of the translated materials which have been created independently of Urantia Foundation efforts are being migrated into the new Planet Urantia webspace where users must register and acknowledge copyright issues in order to access the resources. It is important to appreciate that the Internet publication of these materials has stimulated the development of new regional readership groups, so there is more going on here than the simple act of publishing documents. The Planet Urantia software provides services for private groups as well. In this mode, when a user logs on to the sytem, only those services for which he or she is registered will appear as options on that

person's screen display. If you have need for such services, please contact me.

More communication services are being planned for the website, particularly in the area of providing support for Special Interest Groups. Internet technology is continually changing and over the next year there will be a significant upgrading of our formatting technologies in order to accommodate a new generation of wireless Internet display devices. More audio files will be published. Several new Latin American websites will be coming online in the next few months and we are working to develop a cooperative network and to minimize the duplication of effort. Bill and Kaye Cooper have contributed a complete set of back issues of their newsletter, "The Circles," which will be scanned and published in the newsletter archive. (While we've been able to collect a significant number of old copies of the "Agondonter" it would be nice if the Los Angeles Society could undertake the digitizing of these documents and make them available to our history archive or publish them on their website -- it would be a significant contribution to the documentation of readership history.)

There is a threefold purpose to the website:
1.) To make it as easy as possible for people to discover and explore The Urantia Book and to make contact with near-by readers.
2.) To provide services to readers; to encourage study and provide tools with which these readers can engage in their own efforts to propagate the revelation and spread the gospel of the kingdom.
3.) To provide administrative services for the Fellowship and its Societies.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kantor

Larry,
Your input into the Committee is much appreciated!
See you in a couple weeks.
Bob

MEMORANDUM

TO: General Council

FROM: Bob Bruyn, Chair
Special Projects Committee (SPC)

DATE: May, 1991

SUBJECT: Annual Report

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:
Special thanks go to the individuals who have given their time and energy during the '91-'92 year for the projects being worked on. Their efforts are greatly appreciated!

Members	Adjunct Members
Bob Bruyn	Ticky Harries
Tony Finstad	Larry Mullins
Cece Forrester	Ken Raveill
Barbara Kulieke	Bill Rocap
Lee Smith	
Larry Watkins	

MEETINGS:
SPC held a planning meeting on June 26, 1991, during the 1991 Summer Seminars, though a quorum was not achieved. SPC also had a meeting on February 1, 1992, during the General Council's visit to L.A., with a quorum in attendance.

RESOURCE GUIDE:
SPC is now working on a complete revision of the *Resource Guide for Secondary Works of The Urantia Book*. Due to the many changes in current listings and the many new works that have become available, a second edition of the *Guide* is being developed instead of a supplement to the original.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCE PROJECT:
Please note the new name given to the Record of Decisions project. This name better reflects the enlarging scope of the project. Electronic access to all past General Council and Executive Committee minutes is now seen as just the first phase of making information more accessible to the organization. With the development of Archival and Resource Libraries, we hope to make some of these materials available by computer. The equipment now being purchased and the additional equipment needed to complete the recommended configuration reflects this expanded purpose.

Jim Jarnigan is now purchasing an optical scanner (Hewlett-Packard) and OCR software (OmniPage Professional) at his wholesale cost. He has also volunteered to install the equipment at headquarters. He has recommended the purchase of a LARGE hard drive to store the scanned information which could include organizational, archival library, and resource library sources. A generous donation of $3000 has been made for this project. However, from $1600 to $2000 is still needed to complete the configuration as recommended. We may pursue soliciting specific donations for this project or request the additional expenditure from Fellowship funds. Mid-summer is the target for complete installation.

ARCHIVAL AND RESOURCE LIBRARIES:
An exciting development since last year's annual report is the decision to establish an archival library and a resource library at headquarters. An archival library would include not only organizational records, but also 1) the records/files of individuals who have had historical involvement with the Revelation, 2) periodicals and publications related to the Urantia Movement, 3) secondary works related to *The Urantia Book*, etc. The purpose is to collect information that would provide an historical record of the activities of the past and present.

A resource library would include 1) reference works of the world's major religions, 2) sources that portray human knowledge at the time that the Urantia Papers were indited (early '30s), 3) a copy of the dictionary used during the transmission of the Papers, 4) relevant materials identified during the Wrightwood Series of topical seminars, 5) materials that may have been used for the concepts presented in the Papers, etc. The purpose of having these materials is to assist current and future students of the Revelation in their religious study.

A list of major religious works and other works that may be referenced in *The Urantia Book* has been compiled and the readership community will be asked to help locate and obtain these works for the Library. (A complete 1929 edition of *Encyclopedia Britannica* has already been donated.) All Urantia Movement publications are being solicited to contribute copies of current and back issues. All authors or distributors of secondary works are being asked to make a copy of their work(s) available to the library. An article in the next *BULLETIN* will announce the project and ask for assistance.

We will need volunteer assistance, especially from individuals with library science background and experience, to help with the organization and preservation of these materials.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:
Background -- A resolution passed by the 1988 TDA and accepted by the General Council for implementation, called 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."

Initial Plan -- SPC developed materials and procedures for conducting personal interviews of the living members of the Forum and Seventy. It was thought that videotaped interviews would be of value for our historical archives -- having both human interest and potential research interest for future historians. However, the project was stalled because of logistical problems in finding, training, and sending interviewers throughout the country.

Current Plan -- The Executive Committee recently endorsed continuation of this project because it is so sensitive to the passage of time. Each year some of the former Forumites make the passage to the Mansion Worlds, making personal interviews quite difficult! Future generations would likely cherish viewing these individuals as they share their personal experiences of the early days.

Thanks to Marilynn Kulieke who has volunteered to organize an effort to interview Marian Rowley and to John Lange who has agreed to take do the same with Bill and Mary Lou Hales. Marilynn and John have been furnished with copies of the materials initially developed by SPC. We hope they are of help.

HISTORY TASK GROUP:
Last year saw the establishment of a History Task Group composed of Carolyn Kendall and Scott Forsythe, with editorial assistance provided by Mark Kulieke. Based on a growing awareness of the need for an accurate historical record of the early days of the Urantia Movement, the task group was asked to undertake the gathering of necessary information, writing the manuscript, and publishing the work. The Special Projects and Publications Committees act in an advisory/assistance capacity.

Due to personal and family obligations (job search, weddings, surgery, etc.), Carolyn and Scott have been unable to proceed on the writing of the history narrative. However, an example of what could be produced through the history project is the article which Carolyn and Scott wrote for the last issue of the BULLETIN.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE:
Last year Charles Lilly of Carbondale, Colorado, reported to SPC that *The Pronunciation Guide* published by URANTIA Foundation, contains discrepancies in the phonetic spellings. He suggested that a new guide be written using dictionary pronunciation keys. Following endorsement by SPC and approval by the Executive Committee, Charles developed a first draft of words and terms that could be incorporated into a pronunciation guide. Then Dave Elders "took the bull by the horns" and produced an excellent draft of a pronunciation guide. SPC members (especially Larry Watkins) served in a resource capacity by reviewing the material and providing feedback. The finished product could be available around the time of the General Council meeting.

cc Special Projects Committee