



URANTIA BROTHERHOOD  
533 DIVERSEY PARKWAY CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60634

March 7, 1975

TO: Members of URANTIA Brotherhood

At the March 3rd meeting of the Executive Committee we approved a new form for membership-at-large, a copy of which is enclosed.

The final draft of the form, as approved, contains only four requirements for membership-at-large, and you will note the deletion of two others which were in the suggested form.

There were a large number of comments on the proposed requirement to "be ever obedient and subservient to the laws of this country and of all other countries wherein URANTIA Brotherhood may extend." All of the comments were negative; many of them were expressed with considerable vigor.

In listing this as a potential requirement, the words were taken verbatim from Article 2 of the Constitution of URANTIA Brotherhood. It is interesting to note that in our 20-year history, the same words which have so recently aroused so much feeling have been read by more than 1,000 Urantians without comment. Perhaps the important thing is the context in which the thought is expressed in the Constitution.

Although this was not self-evident to many who commented on the form, it should be further noted that the requirement was intended to portray the spirit in which Jesus lived his life as "a law abiding citizen," giving to Caesar the things which were Caesar's and to God the things which are God's. (See pages 1114, 1580, and 1899, among other references.) And I am sure that each of you will agree that the good of the URANTIA movement will be best served if we so live our lives.

Nevertheless, because it is in the Constitution, which each applicant pledges to uphold, the requirement was deleted from the application form to reflect the concerns of those who objected to it in this particular setting.

The other suggested requirement which was deleted from the form was that of offering "financial support to the URANTIA organizations to the extent to which you are able."

To a number of people who commented on this, it smacked of "churchiness," and implied an untrusting attitude by the Executive Committee. It was

stated in some letters that whether or not this is an expectation of the Committee, it should not be a specific requirement for membership. In deleting the provision, the Committee expresses agreement with the spirit of these objections.

Perhaps a footnote should be added regarding the reason for suggesting the financial support requirement. Both URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood are subject to a provision of the Internal Revenue Code which makes our bookkeeping and accounting system very complex. I will not attempt to outline these complexities here, but only to suggest that our nonprofit and tax status is seriously hindered if we cannot demonstrate a broad base of financial support. Or, to say it another way, our financial position in both organizations is greatly helped if we can show that there are many small contributions to the work we are trying to do.

Over the years, approximately one out of every six Society members, and one out of three members-at-large, makes some kind of financial contribution to the URANTIA organizations. We would like to see the level of financial support exceed 80% of the membership, even if the contributions are only \$1.00 a year. Some Urantians hesitate to send only a dollar, but we hope to bring the message to the Brotherhood that every dollar literally helps -- every dollar contributed enlarges the broad base of support which is so necessary to the establishment of orderly financial operations at headquarters. In suggesting the financial support provision, the Committee had hoped to create a more explicit understanding which would enable us to achieve this objective.

I wish to thank personally everyone who wrote or called with opinions about the tentative form. Each one of you has participated in a direct and meaningful way in the decision processes of URANTIA Brotherhood. The comments and suggestions you made provided more reference points for our consideration in the Executive Committee. And by working together in this way we will be able to make increasingly better decisions on future issues.

Warmest regards.



Paul Snider, President  
URANTIA Brotherhood

PS:ms  
Encl.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP-AT-LARGE IN URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Background \_\_\_\_\_

Special Skills or Talents \_\_\_\_\_

How did you become acquainted with The URANTIA Book? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you wish to become a member of URANTIA Brotherhood? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By whom recommended? \_\_\_\_\_

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

To be accepted as a Member-at-Large of URANTIA Brotherhood, you must . . .

- Have read the entire URANTIA Book and herewith affirm your belief in its teachings;
- Be willing to continue to study The URANTIA Book and attempt to live your life according to your highest comprehension of its teachings;
- Have read and be willing to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of URANTIA Brotherhood;
- Pledge to protect the integrity of the copyright of The URANTIA Book and the use of the URANTIA trademark and symbol, in cooperation with URANTIA Foundation.

All applicants for membership must be recommended by a General Councilor or Field Representative of URANTIA Brotherhood. Where such individuals are not available, the Executive Committee is empowered to make a judgment regarding suitability for membership based upon methods of its own determination.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants for membership must be confirmed by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee.