

STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS:
STANDARDS FOR ACTIVITIES:

2 DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS

THE BROTHERHOOD SCHOOL

The purpose and function of the Brotherhood School is determined by the nature and goals of the URANTIA Brotherhood. The URANTIA Brotherhood was organized to promote the study and dissemination of the teachings of the URANTIA Book among the peoples of the world. This purpose is being actualized primarily through the instrumentalities of individuals, study groups, and societies.

The URANTIA Brotherhood during the first twenty years of its existence has dedicated itself to a leavening, spiritual ministry. It is our conviction that this should always characterize the URANTIA Brotherhood's relationship to society. Just as Machiventa Melchizedek exacted a pledge from each teacher never to organize exclusive congregations for worship or function as a priest; so we should never become a "church" or exercise an institutional ministry.

The kingdom of God is an invisible and spiritual brotherhood which is destined to become a living organism which transcends social institutions. It is our conviction that contemporary religious institutions can and will furnish an adequate source of religious ministrations for our society. The greatest contribution which the URANTIA Brotherhood can make to all of the individuals and institutions of our society is to always maintain a prophetic, leavening, spiritual ministry rooted in the Fifth Epochal Revelation. Translating these teachings into specific social-institutional responsibilities will be the task of the various individuals and institutions of our society.

In the light of this picture of the URANTIA Brotherhood, we regard "URANTIA Brotherhood School" as a generic term designating educational activities anywhere in the URANTIA Brotherhood. We see individuals, study groups, and societies as the basic channels of educational activity. Just as the URANTIA Brotherhood does not aspire to become an institutional church; so the Brotherhood School does not plan to become an educational institution: Our task is to act as a perpetual spiritual leaven to the individuals and institutions of our society.

The Committee on Education would encourage individuals and groups to actualize educational experiences according to their own best wisdom. We primarily wish to be a stimulator, facilitator, coordinator, or advisor to individuals and groups interested in educational experiences which are related to the URANTIA Book. Translating these teachings into specific educational-institutional responsibilities will be the task of the various individuals and institutions of our society.

We shall strive to serve individuals and groups by making educational materials and resource leaders available. The Committee on Education plans to research and define standards of excellence for teachers and educational activities which will help teachers in self-evaluation and growth as well as furnish criteria for evaluating educational effectiveness in groups and institutions. In time we hope to present suggested curricula which might facilitate competence in religious education at various levels. In cooperation with the Fraternal Relations and Domestic Extension committees, the Committee on Education hopes to promote the development of educational material and activities designed to introduce insights of the URANTIA Book to the basic institutions of our society.

How does this description of the Brotherhood School coincide with views expressed in over 130 returned questionnaires and many letters evaluating our needs and goals? Quite well. Urantians throughout the country have emphasized three basic areas:

1. We need a greater knowledge of the URANTIA Book and more study and teaching aids.
2. We should strive to create conditions which will encourage spiritual growth.
3. We generally should not get involved in striving for social change, establishing learning centers, or building a structured educational institution.

The Committee on Education should like to thank all who took the time to fill out and return questionnaires. We especially appreciate the excellent letters we have received. It is our hope that you will continue to share with us your ideas and insights.

Meredith J. Sprunger
Chairman
Committee on Education

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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

I. Purpose

The purpose of educational activities of the URANTIA Brotherhood is to promote conditions which will facilitate the actualization of the Father's will on two basic levels:

- A. Individual-personal.
Educational activities should strive to stimulate spiritual growth and personality development in individuals.
- B. Social-institutional.
Educational activities should be structured to lead and challenge the institutions of our society to fashion their goals of service and methodology of operation to be reflective of the highest insights of human wisdom as it is guided by divine revelation.

Educational activities of the URANTIA Brotherhood should strive to promote maximum freedom and diversity within a framework of the unity of common spiritual goals and ideals.

II. Actualization of Purpose.

- A. The Committee on Education should set up standards of excellence for teachers and educational activities which will help teachers in self-evaluation and growth as well as furnish criteria for evaluating educational effectiveness in groups and institutions.
- B. Each study group and society should be encouraged to organize classes, workshops, and educational experiences according to their own best wisdom.
- C. The Committee on Education should strive to serve study groups and societies by making educational materials and resource leaders available.
- D. The Committee on Education in appropriate situations should sponsor regional, national, and world educational activities and serve generally as a stimulator, facilitator, coordinator, and advisor to individuals and groups interested in educational experiences which are related to the URANTIA Book.
- E. The Committee on Education should present suggested curricula which might facilitate competence in religious education at various educational levels.
- F. In cooperation with the Fraternal Relations and Domestic Extension committees, the Committee on Education should promote educational material and activities designed to introduce the URANTIA Book and/or its insights to the basic institutions of our society.