

MINIMUM REQUIRED RITUAL FOR THE INITIATION OF NEW MEMBERS INTO URANTIA SOCIETIES

Provided by the Charter Committee of Urantia Brotherhood in accordance with Section 11.10 (item 4) of the Constitution of Urantia Brotherhood

The ceremony shall be conducted by one or more of the society's Membership Committee, normally at a meeting of the society, and usually including additional features chosen by the committee. However, an invitation shall be considered legal if held in the presence of one officer of the society and if it comprises the minimum procedure given below.

THE BASIC MINIMUM CEREMONY SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING ESSENTIAL STEPS:

1. The society states its approval of the candidate's qualifications. The officiating representative of the Membership Committee shall declare that his committee, acting for the (name of society), is fully satisfied, after due examination, that the candidate meets all the conditions required in the society constitution, which include the Standards of Admission issued by the Charter Committee. These requirements refer to the candidate's sincerity of purpose, willingness to co-operate, residence, and age. It is fitting that the candidate formally reaffirm the first two qualifications before those present, by answering the following questions:

- a. Do you desire to learn and understand the teachings of *The Urantia Book*?
- b. Are you willing to accept the Constitution of Urantia Brotherhood and the Constitution of (name of society)?

(These questions may be omitted if the committee so desires)

2. The candidate repeats the Pledge of Dedication, as given in phrases by the leader.

I pledge myself to study *The Urantia Book*, to strive for the establishment of its teachings in my heart and life, and to carry these teachings to those with whom I come in contact. I will co-operate as I am able in the promotion of the interests of the Brotherhood and in the dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.
To this end I dedicate my effort in the work of this Urantia Society.

3. The candidate signs the official membership roll.

4. The society declares the candidate's membership. The officiating committeemen declares that the candidate is now a member of the (name of society), and, by virtue of that fact, is also a member of Urantia Brotherhood.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FEATURES OF THE INITIATION CEREMONY TO BE USED AT THE OPTION OF THE SOCIETY

The Charter Committee recommends that the initiation ritual be not merely the transaction of society business, but that, when possible, it be made an impressive and memorable ceremony for the inspiration of all the members, new and old. We therefore offer the following examples of additional inspirational items, which may be chosen by the society and arranged in appropriate order on their program.

1. The Lord's Prayer, p 1620. Perhaps excerpts from other prayers on pp. 1620 to 1624.
2. Statement of the purposes of Urantia Brotherhood.
 - a. As given in Article II of the Constitution of Urantia Brotherhood .
 - b. As implied in *The Urantia Book*, in references regarding what "such a brotherhood of dynamic believers" can be and do. Selections to be made from Sections 9 and 10 of Paper 195, pp. 2082-2086.
3. Readings from *The Urantia Book*.
 - a. Selections from Paper 196, The Faith of Jesus, p. 2087
 - b. Selections from pp 2082 to 2086, on the general idea of the world's great need for the true life of Jesus, and the unparalleled challenge to us, who have it to give. ("The time is ripe...", "Urantia is on the brink...", etc.)
 - c. Introduction to Paper I, the Father's invitation-command to the finite universes of space, "Be ye perfect." pp 21, 22.
 - d. The "inevitableities." p 51.
 - e. Glimpses of the alluring, age-long adventure ahead.
 - p. 365, par 4. "There is in the mind of God a plan..."
 - p. 354, par 5. "Evolutionary mortals are born on the planets of space..." omitting the sentence regarding Granfanda.
 - p. 1191, par 1. "You humans have begun..."
 - etc.
4. Meaning of the emblem of the three concentric circles, and its historic use. p. 606, par 1, and p. 1016, par 5.
5. The communion Service, for groups accustomed by church life.
- 6 The last paragraph on p. 55, the "Benediction."