
THE URANTIA BOOK

FELLOWSHIP

July 20, 1998

Dear Members and Friends,

Last weekend, the General Council held its 1998 annual meeting following the Summer Study Session in Washington DC.

The first order of business was to elect four new councilors to fill current vacancies until the next Triennial Delegate Assembly in 2000. Elected were Bob Arkens from Clintonville, Wisconsin, Adrienne Jarnagin from Burnet, Texas, Phil Geiger from Boulder, Colorado, and Claudia Ayers from Sacramento, California. Two of these Fellowship members come from areas with no representation on the General Council. We feel very fortunate to have such committed believers from diverse geographic areas joining our deliberative process.

The Council reviewed the annual reports from officers and committee chairs, and we invite each of you to review the reports as well, either on the Fellowship webpage (www.ubfellowship.org) or by contacting the Fellowship office for a copy. I have attached the President's Annual Report for your consideration. Comments and questions will be genuinely appreciated.

This spring, members of the General Council and Society presidents were mailed a copy of a draft PR plan for the Fellowship. The objectives for developing this document included expanding awareness of Fellowship service opportunities within the membership and community, and attracting new readers to the book and our organization via the web. We felt a need to reflect our organizational purpose in more creative and inviting ways. Included in the plan was a suggested change of our "working" name, and a logo for quick identification. The General Council voted to adopt the new name, "*The Urantia Book Fellowship*" but to send the logo ideas back to committee for further development. We will begin using "*The Urantia Book Fellowship*" immediately, and will create new letterhead shortly.

We heard reports from the Family Life Committee, which is working on a joint Family Day project with the IUA (International URANTIA Association) and First Society of Los Angeles in the Southern California area. We heard from the Website Committee, which reports that thousands of readers and potential new students are accessing the revelation through our website weekly. We heard from the Fraternal Relations Committee which is gearing up for two major Interfaith conferences in the next eighteen months, organized with direct help from Urantia Book students. The Education Committee plans development of an electronic study program, the Domestic Extension Committee is developing a study group leader program, and the Charter Committee is hard at work developing simpler membership procedures. In addition to these new projects, each committee will continue current projects and administrative work on behalf of the Fellowship.

We also heard a report on IC99 from Steve Dreier, conference chair. Plans are underway to make this the best International Conference yet. We have enclosed a bookmark with themes and dates. Please make plans now to attend, and respond to our fall 1998 conference mailing as soon as it arrives. We expect more than 1200 readers to gather in Vancouver BC during the week of August 7-12, 1999. Individuals from the Foundation and the IUA have been working side-by-side with Fellowship members in key positions across the planning team. The spirit of cooperation is fully functioning and will be beautifully manifest at IC99.

Several members of the Fellowship General Council attended the IUA Glen Ivy conference in June; and members of the Foundation Trustees and the Coordinating Committee attended the Fellowship Summer Study Session in July. The experience was a genuine pleasure for all who attended these outstanding events. We have continued our discussion of trademark and copyright issues with the Foundation, and we hope for some significant progress in the near future. Informal dialogue, in addition to our two formal meetings, has added significant understanding to the process during the past year. We will continue exploring solutions to these complex issues and will report any significant progress to the membership promptly.

We look forward to hearing from each of you, and to working together as we continue our efforts to disseminate the revelation during the coming year.

In Fellowship,

Janet Farrington Graham
President

President's Annual Report
to the General Council and Membership
July 13, 1998

During the past year we have made significant progress in our comprehension of diversity. We have endeavored to illuminate and articulate the reality and beauty of the Father's plan. We believe that an embrace of diversity will deepen our creativity, expand our vision, temper our emotions, and challenge us to dismiss fear as we move into the world, revelation in hand. An embrace of diversity requires that we open our minds and hearts to those who disagree with us as well as to those who agree. We feel so moved by our understanding of the Father's plan that we have sincerely encouraged even those with whom we have significant disagreements to work with us as teammates and friends.

We are all in partnership with the revelators, with the angels, and with the spiritual administration of this world. We understand that our brothers and sisters are called to serve in ways that may seem foreign or even foolish from our limited personal perspectives-, in ways that may even seem threatening to some. But we are advised to "fear not" by the Master. We know that our small, halting steps are matched stride for stride by our unseen friends, that partnership means we manifest only one part of the unfolding. Our halting steps are half-steps by design. When we elevate our unfolding perspective to embrace the seen and the unseen, the global and the cosmic, we realize that every task, every unique, creative, experimental effort to share our beloved revelation either succeeds with the aid of the angels or falls without it. We are not required to judge the dissemination efforts of the other, but to joyously encourage, willingly support, and wisely advise our brothers and sisters as they engage in the service to which they feel called.

During the past year the Fellowship has continued to engage in new and creative efforts to share the revelation with the world. Thousands of people in dozens of countries have discovered and studied the revelation through our website; we seek to reach as many people in as many languages as possible. We have actively encouraged alternative dissemination methods designed to attract truth seekers, solitary readers, families, and friends from all walks of life. We continue to support conferences, expos, fairs, tours, and international activities with financial and human resources.

We are learning that the Fellowship's unique identity evolves from the unique personality of each member, and that our organization gains both wisdom and strength when we embrace the full spectrum of believers and readers. We have committed ourselves to a more proactive method in seeking others to serve with us, a more open and simplified approach to building membership and providing service. We are realizing the fundamental value of relationship; of learning the lessons of teamwork, of engaging in cosmic problem solving with those who hold diverse views. And yes, we have a long way to go before we can celebrate success.

In the coming year the work of the Fellowship will likely progress in three main areas. We will develop our plan for bringing the revelation to the far corners of the planet, and prepare to offer meaningful service to the resulting new students; we will provide opportunities for believers to become teachers and for readers and their families to build personal relationships within our

growing community; and we will seek creative solutions to the complex issues that have challenged our movement since its infancy.

These challenges seem, at times, insurmountable and we have utilized secular and materialistic solutions out of desperation, solutions that promise resolution but seem only to spend our goodwill and community resources with little result. During the coming year we will endeavor to find transcendent solutions, interpretations of law and purpose designed to support an epochal revelation, solutions that foster a unified community freely disseminating an inviolate text. The discovery of these solutions will take time and a great deal of patience from readers and believers in every organization dedicated to revelation service. The old ways of thinking are slowly changing, but each one of us must personally choose to dismiss fear and depend on love if we sincerely desire success.

Love is more than a spiritual attitude; love is a mandate from the Master. To Nathaniel and the apostles during their ordination he said, "My messengers must not strive with men, but be gentle towards all. Measure for measure shall not be your rule. The rulers of men may have such laws, but not so in the kingdom; mercy always shall determine your judgments and love your conduct."

If we are to progressively embrace our role as messengers of the fifth epochal revelation, love must determine our conduct. Always. We can hold beliefs, offer opinions, interpret law but our actions must be determined by love. Jesus lived the highest expression of love on Urantia because he gave his life for his enemies as well as his friends. Within each of us resides the greatest manifestation of love in the universes--our Thought Adjusters. With this divine reality in mind, we can be confident that solutions to these complex challenges are within reach. And we can be certain that every progressive step we take paves the way for the sons and daughters who will follow in this work.

The coming year promises to be one of opportunity and growth as we face the known the unknown realities of revelation service. It is a great privilege to serve with each of you.

In fellowship,

Janet Farrington Graham

**THE FELLOWSHIP
GENERAL COUNCIL**

as of July 14, 1998

Terms Expiring 2000

Elizabeth Bartley
Scott Forsythe
Christel Garrick
Marvin Gawryn
Janet Farrington Graham
John W. Hales
Eef Hoedemaker
David Kantor
Robert Arken (b)
John Lange
Richard Omura (a)
Claudia Ayers (b)

Terms Expiring 2003

Sara Blackstock
Lila Dogim
Avi Dogim
Richard Johnson
Lorrie Krasny (a)
Marilynn Kulicke
Joseph Liszka
L. Dan Massey
Adrienne Jarnagin (b)
Brian D. Smith
Paula Thompson
Stephen Zandt

Terms Expiring 2006

Matthew Block
Robert Bruyn
Robert Burns
Gary Deinstadt
Stephen Dreier
Earlene Green
Philip Geiger (b)
Michelle Klimesh
Harry McMullan III
Dolores L. Nice
Charles Olivea
Stephanie L. Shaefer

OFFICERS: Terms Expiring 2000

Janet Farrington Graham - President
Stephen Dreier - Vice President (c)
Lorrie Krasny - Secretary (c)
Harry McMullan - Treasurer
Marilynn Kulicke - Secretary-General

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES

JUDICIAL

	Term
Dan Massey*	5
Philip Geiger (c)	6
Richard Johnson	1
Christel Garrick	2
David Owen	3
Steve McIntosh	4

CHARTER

	Term
Robert Bruns (c)*	5
Robert Arken s (c)	6
Dale Szejnberg	1
Larry Bowman**	2
John Causland (c)	3
Robert Bruyn	4

FRATERNAL RELATIONS

	Term
Marvin Gawryn* (c)	4
Rebecca Kantor (c)	6
Scott Forsythe	1
Eileen Laurence**	2
Eef Hoedemaker	3
Elizabeth Bartley	5

DOMESTIC EXTENSION

	Term
Paula Thompson*	5
Doreen Heyne (c)	6
Robin Jorgensen	1
Mary Ebben	2
Brian Smith	3
LuAnn Harney	4

**INTERNATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP**

	Term
John Lange*	5
Stephanie Shaefer (c)	6
Adrienne Jarnagin	1
Lila Dogim	2
Douglas Fraser	3
Susan Ransbottom	4

EDUCATION

	Term
Michelle Klimesh (c)*	5
Nickolas Stefero (c)	6
Irwin Ginsburgh	1
Alison Gardner	2
Stephen Zandt	3
Charles Olivea	4

PUBLICATIONS

	Term
Avi Dogim*	5
Nancy Johnson (c)	6
Linda Buselli (c)	2
(vacant)	1
Sage Waitts (c)	3
Carolyn Kendall**	4

FINANCE

	Term
Joseph Liszka*	5
(vacant)	6
Lucile Faw	1
Michael Wisenbaker	2
Jerry Pando	3
Steve Wilsey	4

SPECIAL PROJECTS

	Term
David Kantor*	2
(vacant)	6
Cecilia Forrester	1
Larry Watkins**	3
Barbara Newsom	4
Lawrence Brown	5

Chairman*, Secretary **

Vacancy filled by: (a) General Council 2/6/98 until the Triennial Delegate Assembly, 2000 (b) General Council 7/13/98 until the Triennial Delegate Assembly, 2000. Elected by: (c) General Council 7/13/98