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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
GENERAL COUNCIL OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD  
August 12, 1978

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The annual meeting of the General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood was held at 10:00 A.M., August 12, 1978, at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Arthur C. Born, Arthur M. Burch, M. Inez Burch, Bernard Burton, Helen Butler, Helen C. Carlson, Hoite C. Caston, E. L. Christensen, Lewis A. Clark, Edith E. Cook, Berkeley Elliott, Julia K. Fenderson, Scott Forsythe, Clyde C. Goodman, David R. Gray, John W. Hales, Mary Lou Hales, William M. Hales, Katharine Harries, Carolyn Kendall, Thomas A. Kendall, Barbara N. Kulieke, Lynne B. Kulieke, James C. Mills, Martin W. Myers, Robert W. Myers, Anna Rawson, Harry E. Rowley, Marian T. Rowley, Herman A. Schell, K. David Schlundt, Paul Snider, Meredith J. Sprunger, Kenton E. Stephens.

W. Allen Brazell and Frank Sgaraglino were absent.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Meredith J. Sprunger, with Marian Rowley acting as Secretary.

The minutes of the last annual meeting, held June 25, 1977, were read and approved.

The Secretary read the census reports for the ten societies as of December 31, 1977, as follows:

First URANTIA Society 122 First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles 89 URANTIA Society of Glenview 22 First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma 108 Orvonton URANTIA Society of Chicago 34 First URANTIA Society of Fort Wayne, Indiana 22 First URANTIA Society of Wenatchee 18 First URANTIA Society of Houston 31 First URANTIA Society of Western Springs 9 San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society 25

Total Society Members 480

Members-at-large 160

Total Brotherhood Members 640

Upon motion made, seconded, and carried the meeting was recessed for informal discussion.

The Chairman asked for a one-minute limit on speeches.

The Chairman opened the discussion with a short report.

Dr. Sprunger asked for comments on the annual reports which had been sent previously. A few comments were made on some of the reports. It was suggested that the President's report should be read at the meeting in addition to being sent out in advance.

A sheet containing six recommendations for discussion was distributed.

The first recommendation concerned the matter of the Houston society not signing the Licensing Agreement, although all other nine societies had signed it. It was Dr. Sprunger's recommendation that we make a greater effort to understand and accommodate the objections of the Houston society. He suggested that he go to Houston with John Hales, Tom Kendall, and Lloyd Root to meet with the members of the society in an attempt to reach a meeting of the minds.

After much discussion it was generally agreed that although Houston has had a great deal of time to work out the problems, we should continue to be patient and do everything possible to accommodate them.

The second recommendation concerned preparing study groups before their application for charters. The Charter Committee is working on guidelines to better prepare study groups for becoming societies.

Discussion brought out that there need be no change in the constitution. The Charter Committee has the authority to revise the procedures with the approval of the Executive Committee.

The third recommendation was to find some way to get qualified people on the General Council so that they could be named as departmental committee chairmen. This could be done by constitutional amendments to increase the size of the Council or to elect departmental committee chairmen who were not on the Council. It was also suggested that an emeritus General Council might be formed to give more chance to elect young people to the Council.

The Chairman called a very brief recess.

When the meeting reconvened, the Chairman presented the fourth recommendation which proposed that the constitution be changed to permit the Executive Committee to meet monthly or quarterly to improve the efficiency of operation. It was agreed that the Executive Committee should have flexibility, but that the matter should be carefully studied.

The Chairman recessed the meeting at 1:00 P.M. for lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 2:10 P.M. There was a sincere expression of thanks to the Special Projects Committee which had provided the lunch.

Recommendation No. 5 was that all nominating committees of the Brotherhood be advised to present a minimum of two names for each position to be filled, unless there was a lack of qualified candidates.

Discussion brought out the point that the present system seems to be working well, but that openings for elected positions should be publicized to the field so that suggestions for qualified leaders could be made.

The Chairman asked for a recess of 10 minutes.

When the meeting reconvened the Chairman presented the sixth recommendation concerning Field Representatives. He recommended that the office of Field Representative be continued under the April 15, 1977, guidelines formulated with the help of Field Representatives by the president of the Brotherhood and informally approved by the Executive Committee. He explained that there was an Ad Hoc Committee investigating the role of Field Representatives, and some people were concerned about what the Field Representatives were doing. There was considerable discussion and a strong point was made that the Ad Hoc Committee should work with the Field Representatives before finalizing their report.

The Chairman asked if there was any further business to be brought up or if the Councilors had any suggestions or questions with regard to the departmental committees.

Mr. Kendall presented briefly a training program for leadership which had been prepared by the Domestic Extension Committee.

It was suggested that small conferences on a regional level be held to foster the beginning of stable study groups in that area. This would be in the field of the Domestic Extension Committee.

Upon request, the Chairman gave a brief report on the present situation with Clyde Bedell and the Concordex.

The meeting was reconvened in formal session.

The Chairman appointed Katharine Harries and Robert Myers as tellers. Ballots were distributed containing nominations for committee members.

John Hales, as Secretary of the Executive Committee, read the nominations presented by the Executive Committee. The Chairman asked for nominations from the floor. Kenton E. Stephens was nominated to replace Edith Cook on the Judicial Committee for a term of six years. Harry McMullan III was

nominated to replace Geraldine Hahn on the Domestic Extension Committee for a term of six years. The nominations were closed and the members then proceeded to vote.

The Chairman declared a brief recess.

Upon reconvening the meeting, the tellers reported that 34 votes were cast and the Chairman declared the following elected:

Judicial Committee Kenton E. Stephens 6 years Charter Committee Irene L. Sprunger 6 years Fraternal Relations Committee Vern B. Grimsley 6 years Domestic Extension Committee Harry McMullan III 6 years International Fellowship Committee Mary Snider 6 years Committee on Education Lynne B. Kulieke, Chairman 6 years Publications Committee Michael A. Painter 6 years Finance Committee Gloriann Harris 6 years Special Projects Committee Edmond Kulieke, Jr. 6 years Special Projects Committee Ruth E. Burton 5 years

The Chairman then appointed Helen Carlson and Hoite Caston as tellers and John Hales distributed the ballots covering the six recommendations which had previously been discussed.

A motion was made and seconded that it was the sense of the General Council that everything should be done to arrive at a mutual understanding with the Houston society by the Executive Committee and the officers of the Brotherhood and that the General Council request a report on the actions taken for a resolution of the issue at the next meeting of the General Council.

A motion was made and seconded that the General Council approve and encourage the Charter Committee in their efforts to work out pre-charter counseling and chartering procedures designed to help study groups make wise decisions in charter applications.

A motion was made and seconded that the General Council request the Executive Committee to take under advisement and make a report of such to the General Council at the next meeting, the following methodologies for securing new, active, and qualified leadership on the General Council:

- A. A constitutional amendment permitting members of the URANTIA Brotherhood who are not General Council members to serve as departmental committee chairmen;
- B. A constitutional amendment giving the Executive Committee or the President the prerogative of appointing a temporary Councilor to fill any sudden vacancy, such appointment to be confirmed subsequently by the Triennial Delegate Assembly;
- C. The creation of a General Council Emeritus to act as an advisory body to the General Council;
- D. An active education: program for the Triennial Delegates to insure that the wisest leadership is selected;

E. A search for further solutions in addition to the foregoing.

A motion was made and seconded that the General Council recommend to the Executive Committee that it consider the feasibility of meeting less frequently than monthly, including quarterly, and report its conclusions to the General Council at the meeting next succeeding, for final decision.

The matter of recommending that all nominating committees of the Brotherhood present a minimum of two names for each position was discussed, but no motion was made to implement this, so No. 5 was stricken from the ballot.

A motion was made and seconded that the Ad Hoc Committee continue its study of Field Representatives in association with the Field Representatives.

The Councilors then proceeded to vote and the tellers left to tabulate the votes.

Upon motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting was recessed for informal session.

Berkeley Elliott suggested that the Triennial Meeting of the General Council be held before the Triennial Delegate Assembly rather than after the meeting as the constitution provides. There were objections to this plan and it was agreed that the Executive Committee should refer it to the Judicial Committee for study.

The meeting was reconvened into formal session.

The tellers reported the following votes on the five motions - 33 votes cast.

1. Houston situation 31 for 2 against
2. Charter recommendations 33 for None against
3. Leadership on General Council 28 for 5 against
4. Executive Committee meetings 31 for 2 against
5. Field Representatives 30 for 3 against

All motions were declared carried.

Martin Myers commended Dr. Sprunger for the splendid meeting. He then gave a brief inspirational speech.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:45 P.M. sine die.

(Signed) Marian T. Rowley, Secretary

APPROVED: (Signed) Meredith J. Sprunger, Chairman