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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
GENERAL COUNCIL OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

August 11, 1984

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The annual meeting of the General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood was held at 10:15 a.m., August 11, 1984, at American Baptist Assembly, Green Lake, Wisconsin.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Charles Burton, Helen C. Carlson, Lewis A. Clark, Stephen Dreier, David N. Elders, Berkeley Elliott, Duane L. Faw, Scott Forsythe, David R. Gray, Nancy Grimsley, John W. Hales, Mary Lou Hales, Katharine J. Harries, Gloriann Harris, John Hay, Bill Hazen, James Jarnagin, Gene Joyce, Carolyn Kendall, Thomas Kendall, Lynne B. Kulieke, Peter Laurence, Harry McMullan III, James McNelly, Daniel Massey, James Mills, Martin W. Myers, Marian T. Rowley, Frank Sgaraglino, Mo Siegel, Paul Snider, Helena Sprague, Meredith J. Sprunger.

Henry Begemann and William Hales were absent. Barbara Kulieke did not arrive until after lunch.

The meeting was called to order by the President, John W. Hales, with Katharine Harries acting as Secretary.

The proceedings began with a short prayer after which a motion was made, seconded and carried to waive the reading of the minutes of the last meeting with the exception of the section covering the election of committee members.

The election results were read and the minutes approved.

The Secretary read the census reports for the fourteen societies as of December 31, 1983:

First URANTIA Society 98  
First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles 107  
URANTIA Society of Glenview 25  
First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma 153  
Orvonton URANTIA Society 39  
Fort Wayne URANTIA Society 26  
First URANTIA Society of Wenatchee 13

First URANTIA Society of Houston 47  
First URANTIA Society of Western Springs 12  
San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society 39  
URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut 42  
URANTIA Society of Dallas 45  
Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver 47  
URANTIA Society of San Fernando Valley 21

Total Society Members 714

Members-at-Large 205

Total Brotherhood Members 919

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to recess for informal session.

The President made his report and passed out copies to the Councilors. He made mention of events of the past year with discussion of each. The report was placed on file.

Annual reports from officers and departmental chairmen had been sent to all members in advance of the meeting. Discussion of each report followed

The meeting was recessed for registration and lunch at 11:40 a.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

It was reported by the Finance Committee that \$96,000 had been received for the Spanish translation plus an additional \$93,000 pledged making a total of \$189,000. We need \$250,000 in order to proceed with the translation. A mass mailing had been sent out July 30, 1984.

A report on the progress of the proposed dust jacket changes for The URANTIA Book was given by Carolyn Kendall. A letter dated July 31, 1984, from the Foundation had been sent to the Brotherhood advising that the dust jacket will not be ready for the 8th printing. The Chairman said there were approximately 300 to 500 copies in inventory of the 7th printing. The 8th will be in possibly by the end of the month or September of 1984. There will be roughly 25,000 books for the 8th printing. It was requested that the Foundation give an update to the Council each year on the progress of the dust jacket.

Marian Rowley gave the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on General Council-Executive Committee Relations passed at the last Council meeting. The report is on file and was published in the Executive Committee letter, October, 1983. The Council concurred there should be a retreat scheduled for Councilors, Foundation Trustees, and Administrative Assistants to be held at least every three years, most likely following the Triennial Delegate Assembly; there should be a regular news letter from the Executive Committee; it is desirable to open meetings with prayer, but it should not be mandatory; a guiding philosophy should be developed as part of long

range planning. After discussion the report was approved, voting that the Executive Committee members would establish contact with Councilors to facilitate personal communication. Formal action was deferred.

The Chairman gave a report on long range planning and appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a philosophy or belief statement consisting of Peter Laurence, Chairman, John Hales, Gloriann Harris, Dan Massey, Jim McNelly, Jim Mills, Mo Siegel, and Helena Sprague. There was discussion and a straw vote was taken on whether to have (1) committee members, as listed, do the work or (2) have the Executive Committee do the work. The vote was #1 - 21 for -10 against - 3 abstentions. The Ad Hoc Committee should involve the Council in the process and report back to the General Council.

There was a 15 minute recess at 3:15 p.m. after which it was stated that the committee would be established. Formal action was deferred.

A report was given by Carolyn Kendall on "Dissemination of The URANTIA Book and Publicity." A four page abridged version was sent to the entire mailing list in September 1983 and a full statement was sent to the Councilors, Societies, and Field Representatives early in 1984. The complete paper is available upon request.

In a report on Errata in The URANTIA Book the Chairman said that the Foundation indicated they were willing to consider it. There was discussion and the Chairman was asked to request the Foundation to continue its positive consideration for establishing an Errata list.

The Chairman reported the history of events as concerns the actions taken by URANTIA Brotherhood in response to activities of the Family of God Foundation in Clayton, California concerning preparations for war. An individual was claiming to be receiving messages from unidentified sources directing this activity. In response to the concern and confusion created among readers of The URANTIA Book, the Brotherhood sent a letter December 15, 1983, to the entire mailing list stating its disassociation from such phenomena. In preparation for the Council meeting, Councilors had been asked to write up their own evaluations of this situation. A lengthy discussion followed. Part of the concerns expressed dealt with the issue of conflict of interest that members of the General Council might have in regards to other personal activity that may impinge upon URANTIA Brotherhood. It was pointed out that the Brotherhood constitution does not prohibit membership in other organizations. While the consensus was that we did not wish to pass judgment upon an individual's personal experience, it is hoped that individuals would carefully consider the particular business under discussion at the Council meeting and what, if any, conflict of interest may exist. Such individuals might voluntarily choose to abstain from participating in that particular item of business.

Another response to these events was expressed in three petitions received by the Executive Committee, each one signed by various individuals requesting that some form of action be taken in regards to some Brotherhood members. Duane Faw read the petitions. After discussion, it was the consensus that no further action was needed. The meeting was recessed at 4:50 p.m. and reconvened at 6:40 p.m.

A resolution was proposed to voice the Council's support for the action of the Executive Committee taken in its letter of December 15, 1984. Discussion ensued which dealt with matters of what should be included and possible wordings.

A recess was declared at 9:10 p.m. with meeting reconvening at 9:20 p.m. After additional discussion, the meeting was recessed at 9:40 p.m. with the Chairman indicating it would reconvene at 8:45 a.m. the following morning.

The meeting reconvened on Sunday, August 12, 1984, at 9:00 a.m.

Discussion continued concerning the proposed resolution. The issue had been narrowed down to whether the resolution should be in support of the letter sent by the Executive Committee or whether the Council should issue an additional statement. The majority wished to affirm the action taken by the Executive Committee.

Before discussion began on the wording of the resolution, Mr. Myers left the meeting and was shortly followed by Mr. Gray and Mrs. Grimsley. Discussion continued and wording was agreed to by a majority of the Council which supported the policy and position of URANTIA Brotherhood and URANTIA Foundation. Formal action was deferred.

The meeting recessed from 10:35 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

Mrs. Grimsley, Mr. Gray and Mr. Myers returned to the meeting.

Under "Other Business" there was discussion of the possibility of asking the Foundation and Brotherhood to fill in the gap of financial support for printing the Spanish translation of The URANTIA Book if we have not reached our goal by December 1. Mr. Sgaraglino said that as chairman of the fund raising drive he would notify the Foundation that a consensus had been reached on giving financial support.

Dr. Sprunger's letter asking that we present two names for nomination for each vacant post was discussed. It was suggested that we consider "can present two names" rather than "must present two names" so that this would be done unless there was a reason for not doing so. A consensus was reached in favor of presenting two nominees for vacancies. Formal action was deferred.

In response to a question about contingency planning for the Brotherhood office in case of emergency the consensus was that such matters should be given to the Executive Committee as part of long range planning.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 1:25 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened in formal session.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report on revision of the dust jacket.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report on the implementations of the Ad Hoc Committee on General Council-Executive Committee Relations with the exception that Executive Committee members will initiate contact with Councilors to facilitate personal communication.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried for appointing an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a belief or philosophy statement for URANTIA Brotherhood, the committee to consist of Peter Laurence, Chairman, John Hales, Gloriann Harris, Dan Massey, Jim McNelly, Jim Mills, Mo Siegel, and Helena Sprague. The committee will report to the Council no later than its next meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to re-affirm the following statement:

We support the policies and positions of URANTIA Foundation and the Executive Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood which reject and disregard alleged unidentified voice communications to an individual as a basis for official action.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to provide two names as candidates for nomination for every position to be filled unless there is reason for not doing so.

The Chairman appointed Peter Laurence and Berkeley Elliott as tellers and ballots for three amendments to the Constitution were passed out. The vote was taken and the tellers retired to count the ballots. Upon their return Mr. Laurence reported the vote.

There were 34 votes for and 1 against the following two amendments:

Section 6.2. Delegates: Delegates to the Triennial Delegate Assembly (Triennial Delegates) must be members in good standing of URANTIA Brotherhood and of any URANTIA Society which they represent, and must have read The URANTIA Book in its entirety. Triennial Delegates shall be elected in the manner provided by the By-laws of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD. Equal representation shall be accorded to each URANTIA Society at the Triennial Delegate Assembly.

Section 8.3 Qualifications of Councilors: Any member of URANTIA Brotherhood in good standing who has read The URANTIA Book in its entirety shall be eligible to hold the office of Councilor, but only while such person remains a member in good standing.....

There were 32 votes for and 3 against the following amendment:

Paragraph 6.3. Notification and Certification of Election: .....Such notification shall be accompanied by a certificate of each Delegate and Alternate that he or she has read The URANTIA Book in its entirety.

The Chairman declared all amendments adopted.

The tellers passed out the ballots for the election of committee members. The nominations were read by the Secretary of Executive Committee and the Chairman asked for nominations from the floor. Tom Kendall was nominated for Judicial Committee, Vern Grimsley for Fraternal Relations, Dan Massey for Chairman, Education Committee. Nominations were declared closed. Supporting speeches were made for the candidates, the vote taken, ballots collected, and the tellers retired to count the vote. After a short recess the tellers returned and Mr. Laurence reported the results as follows:

Judicial Committee 6 years Philip A. Rolnick 20 for, Tom Kendall 15 for  
Charter Committee 6 years Avi Dogim 35 for, 4 years Irene Sprunger 35 for  
Fraternal Relations 6 years Ronald S. Law 27 for, Vern Grimsley 8 for  
Domestic Extension 6 years Harry McMullan III, Chairman 35 for  
International Fellowship Committee 6 years Mary Snider 35 for  
Education Committee 6 years Lynne Kulieke, Chairman 20 for, Dan Massey, Chairman 15 for  
Publications Committee 6 years Dan Massey 35 for  
Finance Committee 6 years James G. Johnston 35 for, 2 years Marta Elders 35 for  
Special Projects Committee 6 years Bill Hazen 35 for

The Chairman declared the candidates with the majority of votes as cast elected.

A prayer was said at the close of the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m. sine die.

(Signed) Katharine J. Harries, Secretary

APPROVED: (Signed) John W. Hales, Chairman