
**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF URANTIA BROTHERHOOD**
January 30-31, 1988

The special meeting of the General Council of URANTIA Brotherhood was convened at 8:08 A.M., January 30, 1988 at Nordic Hills Resort and Conference Center, Itasca, Illinois.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Thomas S. Allen, Robert Bruyn, Charles R. Burton, Lewis A. Clark, Stephen Dreier, David N. Elders, Berkeley Elliott, Duane L. Faw, Scott M. Forsythe, Polly Friedman, John W. Hales, Gloriann Harris, John D. Hay, Bill Hazen, Thomas A. Kendall, Lynne B. Kulieke, Marilynn J. Kulieke, Peter Laurence, Ronald Steve Law, Daniel Massey, Harry McMullan III, James McNelly, Michael Painter, Marjorie Reed, David Robertson, Phil Rolnick, Mo Siegel, Helena Sprague, Paul Snider.

The following members were absent: William M. Hales, James P. Jarnagin, Gene Joyce, Marian T. Rowley, Nancy Grimsley, Douglas Fraser, Larry Mullins.

The meeting was called to order by the President, David Elders, and he appointed John Hales acting secretary in the absence of Marian Rowley.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed agenda for the special meeting. After discussion, the motion was carried.

A motion was made to appoint Mrs. Betty Zehr to fill the vacant four-year term on the Education Committee. There were no nominations from the floor. The Chairman appointed Polly Friedman and Chuck Burton as tellers who passed out the ballots. It was suggested and accepted that since there was only one candidate, a simple voice vote would be taken. The motion carried and the President declared Betty Zehr elected.

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

Foundation/Brotherhood Meeting. Steve Dreier, Marilynn Kulieke, and David Elders reported on their meeting with Foundation Trustees Martin Myers, Gloriann Harris, and Frank Sgaraglino on the evenings of January 27 and 28. Beginning with its letters to URANTIA Brotherhood, just prior to the General Council meeting last summer, the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation had expressed their desire to communicate to the Council their concerns in several areas. This was outlined in a letter from the

Trustees of January 6, 1988, which is on file.

These concerns seem linked to a common principle:

URANTIA Foundation, as part of its trust, is deeply committed to the long-term protection of the copyright of The URANTIA Book and to the maintenance of the integrity and reputational excellence of the marks and symbols associated with the book, which marks will serve far into the future to identify both the authentic, original material and those organizations created to utilize these same marks in carrying out this trust. The discussion helped to make clear to us that the use of these marks to identify URANTIA Brotherhood and its constituent societies is considered a fiduciary trust not unlike that of URANTIA Foundation in terms of insuring that our actions and behavior charge these symbols with ethical and personal standards which reflect on all levels the essential excellence of the teachings they symbolize.

Some of the specific areas of concern elucidated by the Trustees were:

1. The need for URANTIA Brotherhood to follow carefully the procedures set up in the Constitution for group interaction so that true group wisdom is facilitated and so that standards of excellence in organizational behavior are left as legacies for those who serve after us in functional roles. The emphasis here was that if we were not attentive to required procedure, especially as concerns the passage of Constitution or By-Law changes, we might leave a deficiency in our Constitution which could hamper URANTIA Brotherhood in the future. In other words, one of our primary organizational responsibilities is to eliminate any gaps between how we act and how we say we act.

2. In its role as Sales Agent, URANTIA Brotherhood is just that--an agent of the principal, URANTIA Foundation, publisher of the URANTIA Book. As such, while it is entirely appropriate for the agent to make recommendations to the principal, it (the agent) also has the obligation to be responsive to the principal's business plans, strategies, and guiding philosophy. The Trustees felt that in broadly publicizing its testing and pricing recommendations and intentions, the Brotherhood was placing undue popular pressure on the careful, considered decision-making procedures used in these areas by the Trustees to insure that any decision of this sort are evaluated from the broadest possible short and long term perspectives and are not simply the product of majority vote.

3. Together with the Trustees we discussed what is meant by ethical standards, and how certain types of organizational behavior, in those organizations using the symbols and marks, can negatively affect the integrity of these marks and their future utility in clearly identifying the original, authentic teachings. We all agreed that it was and is appropriate for any organization using the marks to accept as a privilege the responsibility of reflecting in every way possible the ethical excellence of the teachings these groups represent (The URANTIA Book). These high standards might include an unfettered commitment to the work of the organization, without conflicting outside interests, during the term of service in a Brotherhood office; a greater acceptance of the fiduciary responsibilities of the Brotherhood during the term of service; the willing and active recognition that gossip, disparaging and demeaning commentary,

and personal criticism are simply not acceptable expressions of the standards for interaction which are so clearly defined in The URANTIA Book, and which can certainly be associated with the Concentric Circles symbol, the badge of our Creator Son. These observations did not seem intended to stifle honest, critical, and healthy debate, but rather, to raise the level of that debate and couple it with a heightened sense of respect for the participants, the recognition of the relativity of each opposing viewpoint, and the willingness to accept and operate by the group decision (even if counter to one's own), at least while part of the group.

The Chairman indicated that after discussion and a brief recess he would invite the Foundation attorneys and Trustee Frank Sgaraglino to join the meeting for the purpose of further clarification as to the Foundation concerns.

During discussion, points of view expressed range from: we do not have to spend our time discussing this matter further; there are moral and ethical issues here which each member sees differently; each organization is fallible and therefore there is the potential for negotiating issues; agreement that copyright and marks are the purview of URANTIA Foundation whereas distribution of the book is part of the Brotherhood business.

The Chairman recessed the meeting from 10:02 A.M. to 10:19 A.M. Quin Fraser and Irwin Salt, attorneys for URANTIA Foundation, and Trustee Frank Sgaraglino were invited to join the meeting.

The Foundation attorneys presented written and oral rationale supporting their position that both the provisions of the previously approved Removal Procedure By-Law Amendment and the manner of its process of approval by the General Council were flawed. They outlined their view of the risks involved in not following the procedures detailed in the Brotherhood Constitution with regard to processing an amendment to the By-Laws and/or Constitution, emphasizing that all recommendations and decisions in this area should be based upon complete, objective, and factual information, and not simply on opinion. Duane Faw, in the process of responding to the attorneys' comments, clearly made the point that significant amounts of discussion of the Removal Amendment had taken place by both of the primary decision-making bodies of URANTIA Brotherhood--the Executive Committee and the General Council--and, in view of the fact that this was a By-Law change, and the powers of Standing Committees are advisory only, not decision-making, that any variation from procedures represented minor risk.

Discussion followed in which questions were asked to elicit clarification. Additionally, there was comment concerning the attorneys' failure both to ascertain the manner in which decisions are made in URANTIA Brotherhood, and to research, via personal interviews with the Committee Members involved, the actual processing of this amendment, prior to reaching the conclusions they had reached. It was clearly suggested that at least part of their conclusions were based upon limited information.

It was the consensus of the group that we should have the best possible procedures in event that a removal procedure might have to be initiated. The Foundation attorneys expressed a willingness to be available for consultation in this matter.

The Chairman thanked the attorneys and Frank Sgaraglino for their contribution to our deliberations and recessed the meeting at 12:05 to 1:30 P.M.

A sense of the meeting was expressed that the Executive Committee should consider asking the Judicial Committee to re-evaluate the removal procedure in order to make appropriate recommendations to ensure that it is the best possible.

Charles Burton, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Sales Agency relationship between URANTIA Brotherhood Corporation and URANTIA Foundation, Marilyn Kulieke, and John Hales gave their report which is on file. The assumption on which the report was based was that in some manner URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood will work in close cooperation. He then outlined a workshop-type program in which, upon recess of the meeting, Councilors will be divided into small groups to facilitate the exploratory process. The program is meant to enable the Council to project the consequences of possible decisions which could be made ranging from continuation of the current relationship to resigning as sales agent altogether.

The Chairman recessed the meeting at 3:03 P.M. to reconvene the following morning at 9:00 A.M.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting in formal session at 9:16 A.M., Sunday.

John Hay and Steve Law were absent.

It was brought to the attention of the Chairman that the process for filling vacancies on committees required voting by secret ballot.

The Chairman therefore requested the tellers to pass out new ballots naming Mrs. Betty Zehr as filling the vacant four-year term on the Education Committee.

The tellers reported that 26 votes were cast in favor. The Chairman declared Betty Zehr elected.

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

A spokesperson for the five small groups reported the conclusions of their respective groups. The sense of the meeting was that, at this early stage of the evolutionary process of the outworking of the revelation on the planet, we need to deepen our commitment to working harmoniously with URANTIA Foundation, and that was the real issue to be dealt with, the sales agency issue being secondary. The Council agreed to continue work on this matter.

The Chairman recessed the meeting from 10:32 A.M. to 10:55.

A request was made that the Council consider scheduling another special meeting before the regular

meeting at the end of June. The purpose would be to continue work on the sales agency relationship. After discussion, a straw vote defeated this suggestion.

Bill Hazen gave a report on goals and priorities.

Marilynn Kulieke passed out copies of her summary of the URANTIA Brotherhood reader survey report. This report is on file. It was requested that members use their best judgement in drawing conclusions from this report as well as how they share this report with societies and readers. The conclusions are only based on the self-selected group which responded. There was general discussion and appreciation expressed for Marilyn's work. A summary will be prepared for publication in the Brotherhood Bulletin.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting in formal session.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried tabling item 8 on the agenda: proposal to open General Council meetings to observers.

The Chairman, noting that the items on the agenda for this special meeting of the Council had been covered, adjourned the meeting at 12:30 P.M.

Acting Secretary APPROVED