
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL OF FIFTH EPOCHAL FELLOWSHIP**

July 5-6, 1990

The regular meeting of the General Council was convened at 2:25 P.M., Thursday, July 5, 1990 at the Snowmass Convention Center, Snowmass, Colorado.

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Thomas S. Allen, Robert Bruyn, Avi Dogim, Stephen Dreier, David N. Elders, Marta Elders, Berkeley Elliott, Lucile Faw, Anthony R. Finstad, Scott M. Forsythe, John W. Hales, John D. Hay, Bill Hazen, Janice C. Heinberg, Gard Jameson, James G. Johnston, Thomas A. Kendall, Lynne B. Kulieke, Marilyn J. Kulieke, John L. Lange, Eileen Laurence, Peter Laurence, Lyn Davis Lear, R. Steve Law, Leonard D. Massey, Harry McMullan III, James McNelly, Larry Mullins, Michael A. Painter, Brent St. Denis, Mo Siegel, Paul Snider, Melissa Wells.

Also in attendance was Gloriann Harris, Director, Office Operations.

Absent were Douglas Fraser and David Robertson. A letter was later received from David stating that his absence was for medical reasons.

(Note: Copies of all reports and documents referred to herein are on file at headquarters.)

Chairman David Elders called the meeting to order with Brent St. Denis as Secretary. David welcomed everyone to the meeting and made special mention of Councilors Lyn Davis Lear and Marta Elders who had been elected at the January, 1990 Special Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The meeting began with a moment of prayer.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the agenda with the following changes:

Action I-7 Appreciation - John Hay, Chairman, and members of the 1990 International Conference Committee. (Marilynn Kulieke)

Discussion II-5 Fellowship's use of name "Urantia" and symbols - Concerns over failure to address this issue. (Steve Law)

Discussion II-6 1993 International Conference - concerns regarding location. (Lyn Davis Lear)

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the minutes of the 1989 Regular Meeting as circulated to Councilors prior to this meeting with the corrections made today.

The Secretary read the Membership Census Report as of December 31, 1989, as follows:

First URANTIA Society 77
First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles 93
URANTIA Society of Glenview 21
First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma 184
Orvonton URANTIA Society of Chicago 41
Fort Wayne URANTIA Society 31
Evergreen URANTIA Society of Washington 15
First URANTIA Society of Houston 30
First URANTIA Society of Western Springs 13*
San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society 50
URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut 46
URANTIA Society of Dallas 53
Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver 73
URANTIA Society of San Fernando Valley 26*
Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska 35
Pilot Light URANTIA Society of Seattle 31
Heart of America URANTIA Society of Kansas City 50
URANTIA Society of Greater New York 25
Couchiching URANTIA Society 41
Finnish URANTIA Society 56*

Society members 989

Members-at-large 255

Total Fellowship members 1,244

* No report submitted. Figure based on office records. Concerning the Finnish URANTIA Society, the Chairman reported that no official word had yet been received by the Fellowship concerning the former's decision to affiliate with the Foundation's Urantia Brotherhood Association.

In order to deal with the election to fill the vacancy on the General Council created by the resignation of Phil Rolnick and to fill various committee vacancies the Chairman appointed Councilors Mo Siegel and Scott Forsythe to act as tellers.

It was agreed to conduct the Council election first. Mrs. Geri Johnson's name was placed in nomination completing the list of candidates as follows:

John M. Andrews James H. Johnson Fred G. Farha Steve McIntosh Janet Farrington Charles Montgomery Marvin Gawryn David Owen Katharine Harries Lee F.S. Smith Geri Johnson

With 33 Councilors voting, 17 votes were required to elect the new Councilor for an interim term ending with the 1991 meeting of the Triennial Delegate Assembly. Councilors were given the opportunity to comment on the various candidates. Two successive ballots were required with Lee Smith emerging the winner. The balloting results were as follows:

1st Ballot 2nd Ballot Andrews 1 0 Farha 0 0 Farrington 1 0 Gawryn 2 0 Harries 0 0 G. Johnson 9 13 J. Johnson 2 0 McIntosh 3 0 Montgomery 0 0 Owen 0 0 Smith 15 20

Lee Smith took his place at the Council meeting about 3:30 P.M. and was given a generous welcome.

In Proceeding to the committee elections the following points were made:

- The Fellowship's constitution requires that committee chairs also be General Councilors
- Harry McMullan's term on the Domestic Extension Committee (and as Chairman) has expired
- Councilor Peter Laurence has resigned as Chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee due to new responsibilities with a global inter-faith organization.

The secretary of the Executive Committee, Lynne Kulieke, read the slate of nominees for the vacancies on the nine standing committees:

COMMITTEE NOMINEE(S)

Judicial 6 year term Steve McIntosh

Charter 6 year term Cindy Hopper

Fraternal Relations 6 year term Wesley Smith 1 year term Marvin Gawryn Eileen Laurence chair (no one slated)

Domestic Extension 6 year term Paul Knott chair (no one slated)

International Fellowship 6 year term John Hales 3 year term Lawrence J. Bowman Adrienne Jarnagin

Education 6 year term Joan Neumann

Publications 6 year term George Sammis 3 year term Byron Belitsos

Finance 6 year term Dale Sztejnberg 3 year term Geri Johnson Robert DeMatteis

Special Projects 6 year term Barbara Kulieke The Chair asked for nominations from the floor for the chairmanship of the Fraternal Relations and Domestic Extension Committees with the following Councilors nominated:

Fraternal Relations:

Gard Jameson Eileen Laurence

Gard Jameson tendered his resignation as chairman of the Finance Committee.

Domestic Extension:

Tom Allen Bob Bruyn Mo Siegel

Mo Siegel tendered his resignation as a Domestic Extension committee member with one year left in his term in order to allow his nomination as chairman to stand.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that since there were two vacancies with terms of one year and six years available on each committee, the new chairman be elected to the six-year term.

It was agreed to conduct the election of the Fraternal Relations Committee Chairman first. The two candidates left the room during a discussion by Councilors of their relative merits.

The Tellers reported the results of the ballot were as follows:

Jameson 27 Laurence 6, (Abstention 1)

The chairman declared Gard Jameson elected to the six-year term as chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee.

With the resignation of Gard Jameson as chairman of the Finance Committee it was agreed to open nominations to fill this vacancy and by unanimous resolution nominations were also reopened for the chairmanship of the Domestic Extension Committee.

Nominations were as follows:

Finance Committee:

Harry McMullan Mo Siegel Domestic Extension

Tom Allen Bob Bruyn Mo Siegel

Nominations for the chairmanship of the Domestic Extension Committee were closed. The nominees left the room during Council discussions concerning them. For this election only, Melissa Wells replaced Mo Siegel as a teller.

The tellers reported the result of the vote:

Siegel 22 Bruyn 10 Allen 2

The chairman declared Mo Siegel elected to the six-year term as chairman of Domestic Extension Committee. He withdrew his name from nomination as a candidate for chairman of the Finance Committee.

Even though there was only one candidate for the position of Finance Committee chair, the Council proceeded to the secret ballot as required.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the chairmanship of the Finance Committee be for the three year term since the four year term was also vacant.

The tellers reported the results of the ballot were unanimous for. The chairman declared Harry McMullan elected to the three year term as chairman of the Finance Committee.

The General Council proceeded to deal with the remaining positions on the various committees. Councilor John Lange resigned from the Charter Committee to accept nomination to the Finance Committee.

Because the Executive Committee had not yet dealt with the membership--at-large application of Finance Committee nominee Robert DeMatteis, and because Geri Johnson needed to be contacted concerning her nomination to a one year term on the Charter Committee, it was agreed to defer these committee elections until after a brief Executive Committee meeting planned for Friday, July 6, and to deal with the Geri Johnson election as an Executive Committee appointment.

The list of committee nominees and election results were as follows (Eileen Laurence left the room during discussions concerning Fraternal Relations Committee candidates):

Committee Term Name Result

Judicial 6 Steve McIntosh elected Charter 6 Cindy Hopper elected Fraternal Relations 1 Wesley Smith 1 Marvin Gawryn elected 1 Eileen Laurence *Domestic Extension 1 Paul Knott elected Int'l. Fellowship 6 John Hales elected 3 Laurence Bowman elected 3 Adrienne Jarnagin Education 6 Jean Neumann elected Publication 6 George Sammis elected 3 Byron Belitsos elected Special Projects 6 Barbara Kulieke elected

*Paul Knott later resigned from Domestic Extension to stand for the Finance Committee.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the next item of business be agenda item I-1(a) concerning a proposal to open Council meetings to Fellowship members and that the President's Report follow. Tom Allen had submitted a draft resolution to the Council prior to the meeting which read; "All future meetings of the General Council be open to the membership of Fifth Epochal Fellowship."

A lengthy and involved discussion ensued and included the following points:

What does "open" mean? Does it mean to watch or to participate?

Those who agreed in favor of opening the meeting to observers felt we had "nothing to hide," that "members feel left out." Opening the meetings would be "a wonderful gesture" of goodwill toward the membership.

Councilors who gave qualified/conditional support to the concept of openness expressed the view that there may be times when meetings should be open and other times closed. Could a committee establish some rules concerning this issue? Some guidelines were needed which possibly the Judicial Committee could review. Would a constitutional amendment be required if a policy of "openness" was to bind future councils? Perhaps this meeting could be opened and a committee formed to establish rules for future meetings?

Councilors against the idea of opening up council meetings felt it would require observers to be discrete and that Councilors might not so readily discuss issues openly and frankly thereby stifling full debate on the issues faced by the Council. It was felt by some that this could lead to a situation where the Council would be forced to make its more difficult decisions "in the hallway" away from the observers. In view of the small group of members who had stayed after the 1990 International Conference hoping to observe this meeting it was suggested they be allowed to observe the debate over the issue of opening the meetings. At one point this group briefly entered the meeting room to make a point in favor of openness. It appeared some expectations had been created that this meeting of the Council would be open. There definitely was the feeling of pressure on the Council on this matter.

A motion was made, seconded, and defeated that we continue discussion on this issue.

The chairman recessed the meeting at 6:20 P.M.

Lee Smith excused himself from the remainder of the meeting in order to catch his flight home.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:15 P.M. He asked that we try to finish by 10:00 P.M.

The meeting was recessed for informal discussion.

The Council returned to the question of opening up its meeting. In a straw vote it appeared a majority favored moving towards the goal of openness in some way.

The following key points and comments were made during the evening's discussion:

· "With the right rules it could work--a committee should look at it. · "There would be definite value in allowing the 1991 T.D.A. delegates to attend. · "There is 'frustration' among some of the members, we need to address the broader issue of inclusiveness." · "While we need to deal with the current 'emergency,' we should evolve toward limited open meetings." · "The Phoenix (Scottsdale, AZ, Jan/90) experience with society representatives and Area Coordinators shows we can interact." · "Let's define the problem--this is a Pandora's box. · "We are evolving a new participatory process, we must eliminate 'us vs. them.'" · "Could agenda items be divided between 'in camera' and 'open' items at the beginning of each meeting?" · "We can't get feedback until we give information out!" · "There are two issues, 'openness and input.' The Triennial Delegate Assembly is the legitimate forum for input, 'openness' is a much broader issue." · "If members could attend council meetings, could Councilors attend society meetings?" · "There is formal and informal input. Observers at a meeting could allow for the latter." · "We could publish our Council agenda and allow time for the members to have input. · "There is a tendency to move toward a solution without fully exploring the problem, e.g. the question of openness is also linked to individual councilor accountability." · "Are we slaves to the past? We must take action now!" · "As an initial step, consider allowing society representatives to attend Council meetings; they would then report back to their societies. There is an underlying 'trust' issue." · "To allow transition to a more permanent structure, call for an annual delegate assembly to be held before each regular council meeting. The Council would deal with assembly resolutions and allow for assembly observers. Provide members-at-large with delegate status to these annual assemblies. (This idea prompted concerns over the Council's agenda being taken over by special interest groups and that the short notice would not allow for adequate preparation.) · "We were discussing openness, now we are discussing 'closedness.' We have to open up meetings in some fashion." · "Let's find uncomplicated ways for interaction; dividing 'open' and 'closed' agenda items before each meeting could take hours." · "We have to encourage members to realize they each have a responsibility, real action is at the local level." · "The bases of current complaints may be representation--should terms of office be shorter?" · "If Council meetings are open, what about Executive Committee meetings?" · "Let's get some society input on this issue." "It's important that the emphasis be on the societies' role, not on the Council."

After a favorable response to a straw vote on the concept of opening Council meetings to society and

member-at-large representatives, the discussion focused on the evolutionary means to achieve openness.

The meeting returned to formal session.

A motion was made and seconded that: 1) society delegates and alternates be invited to observe the entire General Council meeting of February 1991 with the exception of election processes or such agenda items that require confidentiality in the judgment of the Council and that the General Council endeavor to provide opportunities for members of Fifth Epochal Fellowship to observe its meetings; 2) The Executive Committee will appoint a subcommittee which will study the matter and which will seek input from societies and members-at-large. The committee will make recommendations detailing a procedure for the implementation of this goal at the February 1991 meeting.

In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that this would be costly for the delegates. A mechanism to involve members-at-large would need to be designed.

A motion was made, seconded, and defeated to extend the council meeting beyond 10:00 P.M. Discussion continued.

The meeting was recessed at 10:25 P.M. to be reconvened Friday morning, July 6, at 9:00 A.M.

The chairman reconvened the meeting at 9:10 A.M. John Hay was absent due to illness.

Before returning the Council to the issue of "openness," the chairman suggested that the Council was doing much of the staff-work on this question, and that in the future, proposals of this magnitude should be presented with rationale, mechanisms, an implementation plan, and the pros and cons. The chairman recessed the meeting for informal discussion.

The Council returned to discussion of the resolution concerning openness placed in debate the previous evening. In reference to part (1) of the motion, discussion followed relating to the inclusion of Area Coordinators and members-at-large in an invitation to observe the February 1991 Council meeting. Questions of space, confidentiality, notice, and appropriateness were raised.

Concerning part (2) of the motion, discussion centered on the input mechanism, make-up of the study committee, and its terms of reference. It was proposed that the study be part of the broader constitutional review. It was also suggested that we consult with societies on the process and consider opening the February 1990 Council meeting for that portion only relating to discussions on "openness." The Chairman reconvened the meeting in formal session.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting in formal session.

The motion under discussion was amended to include Area Coordinators in part (1). The vote was called on part (1) only, the motion carried.

Based on this motion it was calculated that space for up to 136 persons would be needed to accommodate everyone at the February 1991 Council meeting.

Discussion continued on part (2) of the motion relating to a committee to study the "openness" issue. It was suggested that the committee be expanded beyond the General Council.

A motion which was a friendly amendment to part (2) of the motion under discussion was called for a vote and carried as follows:

That the Executive Committee appoint a committee which will study the matter of endeavoring to provide opportunities for members of Fifth Epochal Fellowship to observe General Council meetings and which will seek input from societies and members-at-large; its report will be presented at the February 1991 Council meeting.

A motion was made, seconded, and placed before the Council for debate that any member of Fifth Epochal Fellowship be permitted to attend, as an observer, the February 1991 General Council meeting except during those agenda items as declared closed by a majority vote.

It was pointed out that this motion, if carried, would supersede the earlier vote concerning invitations to observe the February 1991 Council meeting. There was discussion about logistics and space requirements.

A roll call vote was called for on this resolution.

A motion was made, seconded, and defeated to take action on the motion under discussion. (It did not receive the required 2/3 support.)

After considerable discussion, a motion was made, seconded and defeated that a roll call vote be held for the resolution under debate.

The vote was called on the main motion. It was defeated.

The chairman recessed the meeting for informal discussion.

David Elders presented the council with his Annual President's Report. In summary he said that even though the last year had been a difficult and challenging year, he was grateful to have been a part of it. He thanked the office staff for all their hard work during the crisis, and in particular the move to the 529 Wrightwood building under difficult circumstances. For the Council it was a test of each Councilor's commitment to the work we have undertaken together. In calling us to be wary of fracturing, David felt we were still in a "high risk" period, but that we had successfully achieved separation from the Foundation and that as the successful 1990 International Conference suggested, "we were thriving." He

believed that the Fellowship had room for both conservative and liberal points of view, but that we should not get caught up in our own personal opinions--personal agendas should not take precedence over that of the group. He saw the Council's move towards open meetings as a step in the right direction: "let's see how it works." We need to trust each other and our decision-making. We must not just react to events. We must find balance in our efforts; there is no need to be uniform, but we can find compromise which is the "fair way" to come together.

He concluded by asking that we each remain personally committed to group process, be willing to compromise, avoid using political means to achieve our purposes, and have faith in the process.

In the discussion which followed Dave's report, the following represents a sampling of remarks:

"Our Council experience can be one of 'worshipful problem-solving.'"

"Let's move to a 'unity of spirit,' we must give ourselves time, savor what we do achieve." "The Fellowship will become more participatory, it won't fragment, it will eventually evolve as a key central co-ordinating organization."

"Be aware of the pendulum which swings between "me first" and blind dedication to the group. Let's stay in the middle so we can mold the uniqueness of each individual in the group effort."

At 11:20 A.M. John Hay joined the meeting.)

The Chairman asked for questions and comments on the Annual Reports of the Officers and Committee Chairs.

Councilor Dan Massey pointed out that the exact dates of the 1991 Education Workshops have not yet been set. It was noted that the 1991 Triennial Delegate Assembly and regular Council meeting were on successive weekends respectively bracketing the mid-week workshops. He expressed concern at the possible "politicizing" of the workshops. The question was asked if this would not provide an opportunity to uplift our decision-making as opposed to the need to train teachers and leaders outside of organizational concerns.

Treasurer John Hay pointed out that our assets are not as high as they appear on paper due to valuation for balance sheet purposes.

The Council addressed itself to agenda item I-1(6) relating to distribution of minutes. It was suggested that the General Council/Executive Committee letter which is sent out to members regularly is sufficient. Is it practical to mail the entire minutes to all members in view of printing, labor, and mailing costs? It was the sense of the meeting that the current reporting be maintained, but that member could obtain, upon request, copies of approved minutes.

Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Marilyn Kulieke, led the discussion concerning a proposed Mailing List Policy for the Fellowship (agenda item I-2). She referred Councilors to the report previously distributed. The main concerns addressed in the policy are related to maintaining mailing list confidentiality and ensuring that the request of readers on the list who do not want to receive other solicitations is respected. In view of the generally broad availability of reader names through conferences etc., it seemed unreasonable to unduly restrict ourselves. We should only be concerned with our own use of the lists. It was pointed out that before new names are added to the Fellowship's list, readers were first given the opportunity to decline. The guidelines were a good start and could be refined and improved as time goes by. The chairman reconvened the meeting to formal session.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to adopt the mailing list policy as proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously that the Fellowship continue its current reporting of General Council and Executive Committee meeting summaries to the membership and that copies of approved minutes, excluding sensitive matters, be made available to members upon request.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously that Councilors may keep draft minutes circulated to them.

The meeting was recessed for informal discussion.

In response to agenda item I-3, concerning the Fellowship's response to the Foundation's "Special Report" which was broadly distributed in April 1990, discussion centered on the contents of the packet of commentaries written by various individuals to be provided to readers on request and whether this packet should be mailed automatically to Area Coordinators.

John Hyde would be asked to allow the Area Coordinator portion of his letter to be included. David reported that a few of the items proposed for the package were being checked by legal counsel to ensure the Fellowship was not exposing itself to a lawsuit.

The Council broke for lunch at 12:20 P.M.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:30 P.M. in formal session.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that with permission, John Hyde's enclosure in the Fellowship commentaries packet include excerpts relating to the Area Coordinator program only.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously that the packet of commentaries comprising the Fellowship's response to the Foundation's Special Report as modified at the meeting be circulated upon request, but that each society be automatically sent one copy for informational purposes with an appropriate cover letter.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that all Area Coordinators be automatically provided with a copy of the Fellowship's packet and an appropriate cover letter in response to the Foundation's Special Report. If additional material is to be added to the packet, such as a "history of the early days," it would be circulated to Councilors for their prior approval.

The chair recessed the meeting for informal discussion.

Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Brent St. Denis, provided an update on a proposal by the Ad Hoc Committee on Councilor Responsibility (Ethics).

It was recommended that the "Oath of Office" proposal be tabled and that the Council consider adopting the voluntary guidelines concerning Councilor Responsibility which had been circulated earlier. (Agenda item I-4).

Amendments to the voluntary guidelines proposed (included):

· add "strive to" in #4 · add "as appropriate" in #5 · change #8 to refer to Robert's Rules of Order on "abstaining from voting" · change #9 to more generally refer to a Councilor's obligation to attend meetings and to suggest three consecutive absences as cause for voluntary resignation delete · #10 as superfluous.

The chairman reconvened the meeting to formal session.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Voluntary Guidelines Concerning Councilor Responsibility (Ethics) be adopted as amended.

The guidelines would be redrafted and submitted to the Executive Committee for approval of a distribution plan.

The chair recessed the meeting for informal discussion.

Councilor Jim McNelly declared that he felt that he had a conflict-of-interest based on his understanding of the just-adopted voluntary guidelines. He was asked to defer discussion of same until the subject of his conflict (i.e. agenda item I-6., Name Subcommittee of Executive Committee Report) came under discussion.

Councilor Avi Dogim reviewed a proposal circulated to the Council by Leela Dogim concerning the establishment of an independent ethics committee. In summary this committee would be appointed by the General Council, would have no power, would be independent, and should deliberate on ethical matters referred to it or of its own choosing. It would report annually to the Council, but there would not be any Councilors on the committee. It would make recommendations only, and would meet on an "as

needed" basis.

The points raised in the following discussion included: the cost of operating such a committee, the difficulty of selecting members, and whether this should be a constitutional consideration? It was pointed out that this committee would not officially be part of the Fellowship organization. Questions concerning the value of present mediation processes, the separation of judicial and legislative powers, and the importance of an outside, impartial viewpoint were debated.

The chair reconvened the meeting in formal session.

A motion was made, seconded, and defeated that the Council adopt in principle the Ethics Committee proposal and mandate the Executive Committee to flesh out details and propose possible members to consider for service on the committee.

The Council returned to the election of committee members to fill the vacancies on the Finance Committee.

The nominees for the four year term were:

Dale Szejnberg John Lange Beth Bartley

The nominees for the six year term were:

Geri Johnson Robert DeMatteis Paul Knott

The tellers collected and counted the ballots and made their report as follows:

for the four year term, Lange 33, Szejnberg 1, Bartley 0 for the six year term, Knott 30, Johnson 2, and DeMatteis 0

The chair declared John Lange and Paul Knott elected.

This created single one-year term vacancies on the Charter and Domestic Extension Committees. It was reported that Paula Thompson had agreed to stand for the latter vacancy and that efforts were being made to contact Geri Johnson about her willingness to stand for the former. There were no other nominations from the floor for either position.

It was agreed to proceed with the election of the Domestic Extension Committee with the single nominee Paula Thompson. After a secret ballot was taken, Paula was declared elected.

It was agreed to refer the filling of the Charter Committee vacancy to the Executive Committee which

could fill it by appointment, once Geri had been contacted.

The chairman recessed the meeting to informal discussion.

Name Subcommittee Chairman, Steve Dreier, led the Council through discussions concerning its report [see agenda item I-6, (a) through (d)]. He presented the Council with two memoranda, one which had been presented to the Executive Committee at its March 9-10, 1990 meeting and one reporting on the Subcommittee meeting held April 27, 1990. Steve described the two main issues: a) the legal issues and b) the process to choose the organization's name.

What follows is a brief summary of the main points in an attempt to avoid breaking lawyer-client privilege (i.e. discussions on these matters must remain confidential).

Before discussions commenced, Councilor McNelly raised what he perceived to be a conflict-of-interest on these matters as he was actively pursuing the establishment of an alternative organization to be called Urantia Book Fellowship. (He referred the Council to his June 14, 1990 letter which was broadly distributed.) He indicated his willingness to suspend these activities until the Fellowship's constitutional and name issues are resolved.

Councilor Steve Law also raised a similar question believing he too had a conflict-of-interest because the Memphis group was thinking about using "Urantia" in its name.

Both Jim McNelly and Steve Law indicated their willingness to resign if necessary.

At 4:18 P.M. Jim McNelly and Steve Law excused themselves from the meeting to facilitate open discussion while minimizing conflict-of-interest, especially regarding legal matters.

(There appeared to be a common understanding by the remaining Councilors on what could not be discussed about the legal and name issues beyond this meeting, the bottom-line being that only resolutions which were brought to a vote could be discussed with others. This is based on legal client-attorney considerations.)

The Chairman pointed out that the Fellowship's new letterhead included the descriptive phrase "for readers of The Urantia Book." There was general agreement to move to the use of "The Fellowship" in referring to our organization in view of the provisional status of the corporation's name, Fifth Epochal Fellowship.

The chair reconvened the meeting in formal session.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously that the General Council accept the report of the Name Subcommittee and request that it continue the name selection process including provision for involving societies and members-at-large and further that it provide a progress report at the next meeting.

In view of the very successful 1990 International Conference, a motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to thank Conference Committee Chairman, John Hay, and his committee for an excellent job.

It was the largest conference of Urantia Book readers ever.

At 6:00 P.M. the Council recessed for dinner and reconvened at 7:30 P.M. for informal discussion.

Lucile Faw and Lyn Davis Lear were excused from the meeting in order to catch flights.

Discussion proceeded to agenda item I 6(c) as 6(b) had been dispensed with during discussions in 6(a). Confidentiality provisions remained in effect.

A report was provided updating the actions of the Finnish, Oklahoma, and Glenview Societies. The Governing Board of the Finnish Urantia Society recently voted to affiliate with the Foundation's Urantia Brotherhood Association.

Jim McNelly and Steve Law returned to the meeting.

The Council turned its attention to agenda item II-1, the report of the Programs and Services Subcommittee. The discussion was lead by Sub-committee Chairman, Marilyn Kulieke. She referred councilors to the Strategic Planning report distributed earlier. She provided a brief overview and outlined the components of a strategic plan. In this effort they referred to the five Mission Statements as outlined last year by Paul Snider, and to the Fellowship's Purpose Statement as contained in the constitution.

As a continuation of the Phoenix plenary meeting held in January 1990, it was proposed that the plan be shared with the broader membership at the February 1991 meeting and that an action plan be presented at the June 1991 meeting. From June to October 1991, committee chairs would then propose 1992 budgets based on the plan for approval at the November 1991 meetings of the Executive Committee. For the next two years the first strategies would be implemented.

The need for grass-roots involvement was emphasized as well as the need to coordinate the Fellowship's committees during implementation. Personal involvement at all levels of the organization and commitment are needed to make this work.

The chair reconvened the meeting in formal session.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the General Council commends the work of the Programs and Services Subcommittee, agrees with the philosophic approach, and charges the Executive Committee to move this effort to the next stage which is to involve a broader range of Fellowship

members.

In view of the lateness of the hour it was agreed that written reports be submitted for agenda items III-1 (June 30, 1990 Society Conclave meeting -Harry McMullan) and III-2 (June 30, 1990 Area Coordinators' meeting - Mo Siegel).

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to table agenda items II-4 (a review of the constitutional appropriateness of last year's decisions and actions) and III-3 (Judicial Committee response to the Phil Rolnick letter).

Discussion proceed to agenda item II-2 (constitutional convention).

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize the calling of a constitutional convention and that the Executive Committee complete the details including a timetable, to be reported to the Council's February 1991 meeting.

This proposal was based on feedback from society representatives at the June 30, 1990, Conclave in Snowmass prior to the International Conference.

In the discussion which followed, the following points were made:

All societies should be asked on a more formal basis; Should the societies prepare such a plan and present same to the Council? The Executive Committee would "get the ball rolling," then a committee would plan and prepare for the meeting.

A number of people were listed as potential members of such a committee which included about 20 non-councilors and Councilors, as well as legal counsel, and members of the Judicial Committee.

As the debate progressed it became apparent that too many issues remained unresolved such as: involvement by international members, the chairmanship, and society involvement in creating such a committee. There were many questions and concerns about the process, whether it would work and whether we were starting out the wrong way. A more fundamental problem was related to the meaning and consequence of a full-blown "constitutional convention." Does it mean the Fellowship must first dissolve itself?

Some wondered whether the current constitution had been fully tested or whether a steering committee should be created to set the parameters or to study the question further.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried by a 2/3 vote that the motion relating to the calling of a constitutional convention be rescinded.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the meeting adjournment be extended to 11:30 P.M.

A motion was made, seconded, and defeated that in response to a resolution passed by the 1990 Society Conclave, the General Council invite all societies and members to submit proposed constitutional changes to be considered in accordance with the Fellowship's duly constituted processes. All such proposals will be assessed and responded to by the Judicial Committee and the results presented to the 1991 Society Conclave and Triennial Delegate Assembly.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that a subcommittee be established to arrange a meeting of society delegates and members-at-large to be called at a time convenient to them for the purpose of commencing the process of discussing our organizational future including an examination of the Fellowship's constitution. The said subcommittee would be comprised of the chairs of the Judicial, Charter, Domestic Extension, and International Fellowship Committees.

It was understood that this subcommittee would first plan the initial process and convene the proposed meeting.

Councilor Berkeley Elliott introduced agenda item II-3 which concerned the current requirement that all Area Coordinators be members of the Fellowship. It was pointed out that in some countries it may be a problem to be a member of a U.S.-based organization. The primary consideration should be a willingness to serve rather than official membership in the organization. While it was argued that membership should be a minimum requirement for all Area Coordinators, it was generally felt that a less formal relationship to the Fellowship's work would be satisfactory in some circumstances.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Executive Committee may waive the membership requirement for an Area Coordinator if in its judgment circumstances warrant it.

It was agreed to postpone consideration of agenda item III-4 (1991 Triennial Delegate Assembly call and report on 1988 TDA resolutions). It was pointed out that a preliminary call for the 1991 TDA had been made to allow the Finnish Society a full year's notice to comply with their TDA delegate selection rules.

The Chairman advised the Council that the proposed site for the 1993 International Conference, originally scheduled for Victoria, B.C., Canada, was now in question due to a change in proposed dates by the university and the need to accommodate at least 1200 conference attendees based on the 1990 experience. The Executive Committee would be reconsidering the venue and would report to the General Council.

It was agreed to add agenda item II-5 (Fellowship's use of name and symbols) as proposed by Councilor Law to the agenda of the February 1991 Council Special Meeting.

A Councilor suggested that a time limit be placed on agenda items to prevent the spending of too much

time on any given issue.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:28 P.M., sine die.

(Not signed) _____, Secretary

APPROVED: (Signed) David N. Elders, Chairman