
**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

January 31, 1992

A special meeting of the General Council of the Fellowship was convened at 7:10 P.M., Friday, January 31, 1992 at the Holiday Inn, La Coinage Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Thomas S. Allen, Claudia Ayers, Beth Bartley, Glenn Bell Jr., Robert Bruyn, Avi Dogim, Stephen Dreier, David N. Elders, Janet Farrington, Lucile Faw, Duane Faw, Scott M. Forsythe, Marvin Gawryn, John W. Hales, Janice C. Heinberg, Eef Hoedemaker, Gard Jameson, Geri Johnson, Paul Knott, Marilynn J. Kulieke, John L. Lange, Eileen Laurence, Lyn Davis Lear, Joe Liszka, L. Dan Massey, Harry McMullan III, Larry Mullins, Mo Siegel, Lee Smith, Brent St. Denis, Melissa Wells.

Absent were: Bill Hazen, James G. Johnston, Lynne B. Kulieke, Michael Painter, and W. David Robertson. Janice Heinberg arrived at 7:30 P.M. and Larry Mullins arrived at 9:00 P.M.

The President, Stephen Dreier, called the meeting to order with Lucile Faw acting as Secretary. Janet Farrington read a selection from The Urantia Book.

The President opened with welcoming remarks addressed to Councilors and observers and explained that the mid-year meeting generally follows a retreat format and that a similar format would be followed at this open meeting.

John Lange gave an overview of the week-end program and stated that it also included a mini conference. He stated that we look to this to be also a time of healing after the recent separation. Among the events scheduled for Saturday were: a morning presentation by the School of Meanings and Values, an afternoon presentation by First Society of Los Angeles, followed by a General Council segment of the program, then an open meeting of the General Council in the evening. A worship service would be held Sunday morning.

Reports of general interest to members of The Fellowship were made by Committee Chairs.

Domestic Extension. Mo Siegel, Chair, presented a survey of the availability of The Urantia Book in bookstores. Readers are more and more concerned about what has been happening to the availability of the book in the last 15 months since the change in Urantia Foundation policy. A discussion followed on book availability and the effectiveness of the Adopt-a-Bookstore program in increasing availability. This

program is regarded as a temporary emergency measure.

If we want books in bookstores, we will have to put them there--our purpose is to "disseminate books."

The discussion included the information that each person is now limited by Urantia Foundation to 3 books at \$20.40 each in any 365-day period.

Domestic Extension will prepare copies of its presentation materials for each General Councilor.

International Conference 1993. Brent St.Denis, Conference Chair, distributed a hand-out on the conference theme, "Touch the World". He stated that response outside the U.S. to the Triennial Conference has been very positive. Sue Tennant, Program Chair, and Gael Dubuc, Family Life Chair, were present and introduced to the group.

The logo competition closed January 31, 1992 and the winner will be selected before the June General Council Meeting. All conference committees are seeking help -- a major mailing is planned for June '92.

The Fellowship has spent about \$500.00 for broadcast equipment to facilitate simultaneous translation. Volunteers are needed to provide simultaneous translation.

The Fellowship plans to select the 1996 Conference site and Conference Chair to allow training at the '93 Conference.

There is the possibility of many smaller spiritual retreats at nearby sites.

Fraternal Relations. Gard Jameson, Chair, stated that a lengthy report on the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) will be ready in April. They have a lot of information on interfaith dialogue which will be on the program tomorrow.

Education Committee. Dan Massey, Chair, discussed the Wrightwood Series experimental program, which is designed to bring together a small group of people at headquarters to do a special topical study. Their meetings are closed to spectators to allow concentrated study and to develop a relationship conducive to working together. Each participant must have done much prior work on the subject and the group must produce a publishable paper. Some subsidy for travel may be available for participants. The first week in April seven participants are due to arrive to explore the topic "Building the Living Temple of Spiritual Fellowship" led by Janet Farrington, and a group on "Race and The Urantia Book" will be led by Barbara Dreier the first week in May.

Finance Committee. Harry McMullan, chair, and Joe Liszka, Treasurer, reported on the 1992 budget. As of the end of 1991 The Fellowship can be cautiously optimistic and can take a new look at some proposed projects which could not be funded before. Early in 1991 The Fellowship's monthly expenditures were exceeding its income. Two choices were available: reduce expenses or increase

income. Expenses were decreased \$90,000.00 per year. At the same time the number of small donors increased tremendously, though the major burden is still borne by the few large donors. A program to pursue Charitable Remainder Trusts as a way for donors to donate property, get income and still reduce taxes is in the planning stage.

Janet Farrington reported on a Matching Funds Proposal in which The Fellowship is looking at helping local groups with funding to assist with the following: regional conferences, telephone programs, Adopt-a-Bookstore, or booths at fairs for The Urantia Book.

Publications Committee. In the absence of the chair, the following report was made. Two new publications are about to be printed: The Pronunciation Guide and the summary of textual changes made in The Urantia Book since the first printing.

The status of The Study Group Herald is uncertain but a new issue is due out soon.

As concerns the Study Group Directory, local help is needed to remove any remaining errors. This issue may include worship groups and will surely include international Area Coordinators in the mailing of requests for information in order to include as many international study groups as possible. This request may be announced in the Bulletin and/or the Study Group Herald.

1992 Summer Seminar. The theme is "Personal Religion and Cosmic Citizenship" based on the second half of Part IV of The Urantia Book. Lake Forest College cannot accommodate more than 200, so early reservation is recommended.

The President opened the floor for questions and comments by General Councilors. The following observations and comments were made: need to develop good children's programs on The Urantia Book; a welcome and expression of appreciation for choosing the Los Angeles area for the meeting, including the belief that local readers appreciated seeing how the General Council works without having to go to Chicago; request for information on Fair Use Law; request for more comprehensive guidelines regarding the use of bulk mail non-profit rate for mailings by various individual and groups.

Several councilors expressed pleasure with the direction The Fellowship is going, with openness to Society and member input, with the greater tolerance and respect for different points of view, with the committee progress in exploring the issues raised by the 1991 Triennial Delegate Assembly including the Judicial Committee studies of organizational changes proposed. One person expressed a sense of loss in no longer being a part of a "great movement." Some expressed concern about effect of "messages" on new readers. Others expressed a sense that the Universe is peopled by very diverse personalities and there is a need to be tolerant, and that we should be about inspiring people to belief and to serve.

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 10:50 P.M., after which the Councilors remained to respond to questions and comments from the visitors.

(Not Signed) _____ Secretary

APPROVED: (Signed) Stephen Dreier, Chair