

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE FELLOWSHIP

AUGUST 5, 1993

The Annual Meeting of the General Council was held at 7:20 P.M., Thursday, August 5, 1993, at 7:20 P. M. in l'Auberge des Seigneurs, Saint Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Thomas S. Allen, Lucile Faw, Lyn Davis Lear, Claudia Ayers, Scott M. Forsythe, Joe Liszka, Beth Bartley, Marvin Gawyn, L. Dan Massey, Eileen Laurence, John W. Hales, Harry McMullan III, Sara Blackstock, Bill Hazen, Brent St. Denis, Robert Bruyn, Janice C. Heinberg, Mo Siegel, Avi Dogim, Gard Jameson, Lee Smith, Stephen Dreier, Lynne B. Kulieke, Melissa Wells, David N. Elders, Janet Farrington, Marilyn J. Kulieke, Duane Faw, John L. Lange.

Absent were: Glenn Bell, Jr., Eef Hoedemaker, Geni Johnson, Paul Knott, Larry Mullins, Michael Painter and David Robertson. John Hales and Lyn Davis Lear arrived prior to any voting.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Stephen Dreier, with Lucile Faw serving as Secretary. At the beginning of the meeting four guests were present.

Lynne Kulieke read a passage from the new Spanish translation of The Urantia Book (El Libro de Urantia), and Mo Siegel then read the English version followed by a brief period of meditation.

During the review of the Agenda, four items were added, and the Agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the June 26-27, 1992 General Council meeting, which had been mailed to the members for review, were approved unanimously.

Minutes of the February 6, 1993 General Council meeting were amended to add the phrase "Thru September 4, 1993" at the end of the next to the last paragraph of page 1. They were then approved with four abstentions.

The Secretary reported the census as reported in writing by the societies. Those societies not reporting will be contacted again, and the report will be updated.

The Secretary read the Membership Census Report of The Fellowship as of December 31, 1992 as follows:

Society Members The First Society 73 First Society of Los Angeles 93* Society of Glenview 17 First Society of Oklahoma 183* Orvonton Society of Chicago 38 Fort Wayne Society 29 Evergreen Society of Washington 13 First Society of Houston 29 Golden Gate Circle for Students of The Urantia Book 49 Connecticut Fellowship for Readers of The Urantia Book 55 Dallas Society 54 Rocky Mountain Spiritual Fellowship 118 Northern Light Society of Alaska 36* Pilot Light Society of Seattle 36 Heart of America Society 54 Society of Greater New York for Readers of The Urantia Book 24 Ontario Fellowship for Readers of The Urantia Book 38* Grand Canyon Society of Urantia Book Readers 41
Total society members 980 Members-at-large 270

Total Fellowship members 1250 * No report submitted for 1992. Figure based on office records.

Total Society Members as of 12/31/91 929 Total Members-at-Large as of 12/31/91 293

Total Fellowship Members as of 12/31/91 1222

The President announced the resignation of Brent St. Denis as Secretary-General (who is running for the Canadian Parliament). The General Council expressed its appreciation to Brent for his service and all his work on the Conference, and he in turn thanked the President -for his support and cooperation. Brent expressed gratitude as well to Beth Bartley, Lucile Faw and also John Hales.

There were nominations for two candidates to fill the vacancy of Secretary General: Beth Bartley and Janet Farrington. There being no further nominations, the candidates were requested to leave the room.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried (yes 21, no 3, abstain 1) to convene the meeting in closed session.

The observers left the room.

There followed discussion of the duties of the office of Secretary- General. Along those lines, it was pointed out that the duties included keeping up with the activities of the various committees in addition to being available to go into the office in case of inability of staff to be there. Comments included: both are good candidates--its a win,win situation. The candidates and observers were rejoined the meeting the room and ballots were distributed, voted and collected. The ballots were counted and the tellers reported Beth Bartley received 20 votes, Janet Farrington 7 votes and 1 abstention. The Chair declared Beth Bartley elected to serve out the remainder of the term until the next regular meeting of Council following the Triennial Delegate Assembly.

The Chair, Stephen Dreier, presented the slate of candidates recommended by the Executive Committee

to fill expiring terms or temporary vacancies on the standing committees:

COMMITTEE NOMINEE(S)

Judicial 6 year term Thomas Kendall

Charter 6 year term Larry Geis 4 year term Larry Bowman

Fraternal Relations 6 year term Scott Forsythe

Domestic Extension 6 year term Peggy Douglas

International Fellowship 6 year term Adrienne Jamag'm

Education 6 year term Irwin Ginsburgh

Publications 6 year term Robin Robinson

Finance 6 year term Harry McMullan

Special Projects 6 year term Cece Forrester

The Chair then asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and discussion of the candidates followed. It was noted that there may be a vacancy occurring on the Publications committee, but no resignation has been received; so no candidate could be nominated. The election of Beth Bartley as Secretary General created a vacancy on Finance, but Harry McMullan did not have permission of his proposed candidate; so he will delay until later. Because some General Councilors are not familiar with all the candidates, the committee chairs explained the reasons for their selections.

The tellers distributed copies of the ballot and the Chair gave instructions on marking the ballot for the entire slate or for individual candidates. The tellers collected and counted the ballots and then reported the following results:

COMMITTEE NOMINEE(S) VOTE (yes,no,abstain)

Judicial 6 year term Thomas Kendall 28,0,1

Charter 6 year term Larry Gels 29,0,0 4 year term Larry Bowman 29,0,0

Fraternal Relations 6 year term Scott Forsythe 29,0,0

Domestic Extension 6 year term Peggy Douglas 28,0,1

International Fellowship 6 year term Adrienne Jarnagin 29,0,0

Education 6 year term Irwin Ginsburgh 29,0,0

Publications 6 year term Robin Robinson 28,0,0

Finance 6 year term Harry McMullan 29,0,0

Special Projects 6 year term Cece Forrester 29,0,(1

The Chair declared all candidates elected and asked the Secretary to notify them of the results.

The President's report (which is on file) was distributed. He highlighted changes over the past few years in the Fellowship's culture -- from its Midwest beginning to the entire United States, and to the Americas. The next step is to truly internationalize. This may be more difficult partly due to language and cultural differences. Discussion followed:

o We are not nearly as representative as we think--Native Americans, etc. which will be pointed out to us by others--especially by Latin Americans. o We have study groups that are fairly homogenous, societies which are a broader representation, and The Fellowship which encompasses even broader variations in culture and attitudes. o We cannot by force of will effect such changes, but we are now in the position in which the Chicago group found itself 20 years ago, but, we have more experience now with change and should begin to plan and to expose members to this possibility. Whether we are joined by many others speaking different languages or have other organizations form for such readers and need to relate to them. There will be other times when we will hold conferences or attend them where the primary language is not English. o We cannot look at ourselves as an American organization seeking to become international--that is backwards; we must be international and look to how to facilitate cooperation among all readers. o We cannot be one umbrella organization worldwide, because no organization will be recognized by all countries as official, but like the Red Cross, we could form chapters in each country for official organization purposes of identity and still work as brother/sister organizations related to the same inspirational purposes and mission. o Years ago the objection was raised that Americans do not think about how organizations function in the same way as other peoples do. o As we look at the revision of our Constitution we should think in global terms in order to be prepared to act globally. o We can look at other international organizations which have established chapters in other countries. Our purpose is not to perpetuate this organization, but to serve this revelation. Twenty-five years ago most of the readers were in Chicago, and because the book was primarily in English it spread throughout the US and membership grew all over. Because few of Chicago readers went outside area to conferences, and readers all over the country came to Chicago, fraternized, and relieved apprehension, the movement spread, and the organization began to have broader

representation. We need to examine the symbolism by which we are perceived by others. One good symbol is our emphasis on the family.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 10: 00 P.M. and reconvened it at 10: 10 P.M.

The Vice President, Marilyn Kulieke reported on the FLOWERS program. A question was asked: Is there a system for evaluation of the various projects? Vice President's response: There is a portion of the form which suggests ways to evaluate progress, but this is the first year and none have been received yet. She has encouraged recipients of grants to write an article about their project.

Question: What exactly is the Dali Moyzes project? He may have The Urantia Book on Internet, and he may be sending out paragraphs of inspiring quotes around the world. He wanted funds to buy disks to send quotes to other parts of the world. The application submitted stated that he was working with others in the Los Angeles Society, and mentioned Duane Faw and Lyn Lear as references. Duane Faw stated that he was not consulted about use of his name and had advised Dali not to place the entire Urantia Book on Internet. Duane did not know that funds had been requested or furnished by The Fellowship. He had been told that Dali had private funding. The Executive Committee was not aware of the extent of the quotes he intended to use, and will write a letter to Dali stating that we have heard that his project goes beyond that stated in his application. Our FLOWERS program specifically states that applicant agrees to abide by all laws and copyrights of the United States.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried (26,0,0) that the Executive Committee take appropriate action to correct any misunderstandings in the Dali Moyzes matter.

Society's Report. Lucile Faw stated that the Oklahoma Society and First Society of Los Angeles had stated that they had to request new census forms and would send report later. Others will be contacted again.

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer presented a written report. There was a question regarding reduction of income in 1992--is it the same for '93? Answer: Pretty much so, because of reduction of investment income of some of the major contributors. Most income comes from a very few people; so we need broader base of small contributors.

The IC93 Store made about \$5,000 profit. Thanks were expressed to Paula Thompson.

Finance Committee Report. Compliments to Harry McMullan on the new fund-raising letter.

The chair recessed the meeting at 10:50 P.M. to reconvene the following morning at 9:00 A.M.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M.

Judicial Committee Report. The only question regarded the amount of response to the constitutional

change proposals --very small.

Charter Committee. There was a question whether any inquiries were received from any potential societies. There were some conversations but nothing formal. Quebec readers asked questions about the split in organizations and since this was new to them they want to ponder the matter longer.

Question: Has Charter Committee taken any steps re: the requirement to have read the entire book?

Answer: They took a survey, found about half still require it. The original attorney who helped draft the constitution is reported to have advised against such a restriction. There was a long discussion of the advisability of such a requirement.

Domestic Extension Committee. One question regarded which projects are most productive of results and whether all projects get the same amount of attention. Response: Expos and training of teachers to work in introducing the book to new readers, are most productive. Question: Are you likely to suggest that The Fellowship begin such a program? Answer: People brought in their friends to these workshops which are live and were advertised in Los Angeles with about 150 persons present. The response was good and such workshops should be continued.

International Fellowship Committee. Question: Is there a mechanism for helping readers from other countries to attend conferences and meetings in this country? Answer: The Committee funds are used for committee travel and postage. There are no funds for other activities.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Executive Committee of The Fellowship at its Fall budget meeting examine the possibility of funding travel of readers of other countries to the USA for 1994.

Question: How many US readers attend European conferences'? Response: quite a few during the last three years.

Education Committee. Dan Massey reported that they held the Wrightwood Series last year, and have one scheduled 'in May. The balance of the report was covered in Item 21 of the Agenda. Question: Is the committee going to hold committee evaluation of series to see whether it is worth doing? Response: We have seen productive results from the first one, and the one on race has very divergent reports, but they may publish several papers to stimulate discussion on this sensitive subject.

Publications Committee. Question: Is the committee going to continue the use of symbols such as planet earth on latest revision of the Fellowship information pamphlet? Answer: It gives good impression to non-readers. Question: Is the brochure in French? Response: No, but would suggest we get that and the Introduction to the Urantia Book in French and Spanish. Question: Is a video of this conference going to be available in French and Spanish? Response: Instead of a motion to publish in languages any specific publication, we should instruct the committee to review all conference-related publications for propriety of translation.

Gard Jameson joined the meeting.

Fraternal Relations Committee. Comment: We made a mistake in not joining the Conference of World Religions--even Mother Teresa blessed it. Question: Is there any way we could make presentations at this late date? Response: Actually we will have a presentation by First Society of Chicago on the Introduction to The Urantia Book, but it is in the adjunct program.

A motion was made and seconded that The Fellowship become a cosponsor of the Parliament of the World's Religion.

Discussion: Mr. Kinney's talk was presented to us. As one of the Parliament's organizers, he advocates an agenda of political issues. Our objection at the time was to becoming involved in a political action organization, or any of its political acts. Question: How do we justify a change of position in the light of the society conclave motion?

Comment: Some regret our late entrance into sponsorship but better late than never, and we might be able to get a lecture on the program, but this is not likely--can get into the on-going planning process. Some feel the Kinney presentation was slanted toward environmental issues because that was one of the main concerns; and later talks were brilliant on cults; so we may have a misperception of the actual direction of the Parliament.

Question: Do we want to be identified as a member of an organization of evolutionary religions? comment: the Church of Latter Day Saints are cosponsors and they are revelatory. Comment: We are not totally a revealed religion, we are now evolutionary. Comment: If we cannot be listed as The Fellowship for Readers of The Urantia Book, we may waste our money. Answer: We have the opportunity to identify ourselves by on-going participation and we belong among those interested in inter-faith activities. Comment: Since twelve of the eighteen societies are represented in this meeting, there is enough representation for consensus. A motion was made and seconded to close debate. The motion failed for lack of 2/3rds vote.

Comment: If we are to internationalize the organization we must take steps such as this. Comment: Even if this is appealing, we commit a grievous blunder in reversing a previous decision.

Vote on the motion : Yes= 19; No=5; Abstain= 1. Motion carried.

Special Projects Committee. Installation of the scanner is delayed.

Question: Is there any plan to join Internet? Response: There are some more sophisticated materials than those on current network, so may look into joining later.

A compliment was paid to Special projects and especially to Cece Forrester for the new Resource

Guide--very good.

Domestic Extension Committee. Area Coordinator Report. Reorganization of this committee is being undertaken because the duties of the Director are too much for one person. Study groups are steady in some areas, and increasing in others. With regard to channeling - for Area Coordinators: The Committee is not on a witch hunt, but is following the guidelines of the General Council last year: if the Area Coordinator says he or she will do the job of referring readers to study groups without reference to channeling groups, then they are reappointed, but one said frankly that he would mention channeling, and was not reappointed.

Question: What are current guidelines for appointing Area Coordinators: The job is to help study groups; so they must show interest in study groups and be willing and available when called by groups.

Comment: Agree with policies of committee as stated, and we can also relate to the Foundation for referrals of readers, as they are becoming more open. Comment: The Executive Committee at the January meeting some Area Coordinators were not reappointed and their names had been crossed off the list and were not approved. One couple was also eliminated at the meeting. Mo will make certain that all are notified that they are still Area Coordinators.

A concern -- when people will not accept referral to a study group because it has been identified with channeling. We need some sort of education of Area Coordinators on how to handle referrals. We should ask all Area Coordinators to send in names of those who come to them independently for inclusion on the mailing list.

Report of Office Manager. Gloriann Harris is manning office during John's and Matthew's absence. New carpet has been installed on the first floor; new book shelves are being installed to house donated books into the resource library. During the conference we have had volunteer help from Carolyn Kendall to do routine items, while Matt & John worked full time on the conference. Jim Jamagin will come to the office in October to install the scanner. On the 800 toll free telephone number we get several calls a week and some on the answering machine at night. We still need to repair the front porch and do painting. Question: Have you put up the sign? Answer: It is not yet authorized by the Executive Committee. The Foundation sign with the circles has been removed from their building. We need to check the zoning in a residential section to install a sign on the building. It will be done before the end of September.

President: The office staff has worked this year to accommodate three Wrightwood Series meetings with housing, use of facilities, and equipment.

The Chair raised the question of adding to the agenda the matter of tile excessive absence of Councilors. The item was added to the Agenda without objection. Also, added was discussion of steps to improve relations with the Foundation.

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

The Chair called the meeting back 'into session at 1:20 P.M. and began with a few minutes of silent meditation.

Agenda item 12: organizational Restructuring. Judicial Committee Chair, David Elders, reported very little response to the mailings to societies, but First Society of Chicago made a proposal that the General Council take no action for one year and get more input.

A suggestion was made by David Elders that the General Council take no action for one year and the Judicial Committee continue to work with societies and individuals.

There was a general feeling that much more study by societies needed.

Question: Is there so much apathy out there that this issue is not worth pursuing, or do we continue?
Comment:: no action is contemplated until '97; so some may think they have plenty of time.

Comment: It is a very important process --we are in our infancy as an organization and it is well worth exploring, and we have made progress in becoming more representative. The committee has done a wonderful job, ---some societies have not yet had a business meeting to discuss it, others like the idea but do not want to invest their time or the hundreds of hours needed to get up to speed. One question we should address is how this plan fits with our intent to become more international in direction.

We need to make some movement on this, so that with more input we can eventually move toward closure on this. One of the ideas behind this was more direct representation so that areas were represented by those of their own choice, lines of direct communication between General Councilors could interact directly with those at home on issues -- some already being addressed, but we need improvement. The committee didn't want to wait to '97 to move on this.

Bob Bruyn's suggestion, i.e., notify societies as soon as possible, and as much in advance of General Council meeting and notify them well in advance the subject on the Agenda for the meeting and ask for sharing by delegates with society before coming and do this before the Mid-year meeting.

Point of clarification: The Secretary General should inform societies of the mid-year meeting as soon as possible, and encourage them to elect their Triennial Delegate Assembly representative before that meeting and suggest that they inform the society that there are speakers available. There is a need for some sort of summary of a consensus list of items to study and pros and Cons which is received in advance. It was suggested that the committee scan all committee work on the Constitution and all responses and correlate this by sections of the Constitution.

It was agreed to continue the committee work for the next year-

Agenda item#13. Initiatives on Family. At the request of the General Council at the February 1993 meeting, the Executive Committee was instructed to develop a plan at their April meeting. After discussion, the Executive Committee felt that the request was not specific enough on the nature of the program desired.

A motion was made and seconded that an ad hoc committee be formed to explore how our long term concerns for the support of family life can best be facilitated within our organization. The committee of Lee Smith, Claudia Ayers and Sara Blackstock, Chair will report to the next mid-year council meeting.

Discussion: We need to consider how this committee fits into our organization. There is no constitutional provision for action on any proposals from the committee. It is just a phase, a first step. An ad hoc committee exists only until it completes its work and reports back to the General Council. If the committee convinces the council that there is more work to do, then the Council can ask them to continue.

It was expressed that there are other mechanisms for in-depth study of topics, such as the Wrightwood Series. Another concern is the quality of the work done in this area. We want to be certain that the Council keeps control over what is produced. It was agreed to let the committee study the best forum for further action: Standing committee, Wrightwood Series, or under some other committee.

A Call of the Question was made. Vote 26-0-0. The vote on the motion was 23 yes-2 no- 1abstention. Motion carried.

Book Availability Report. One distributor obtained 500 books, but they disappeared quickly; one B. Dalton has two on the shelves; Barnes & Noble can get them directly from the Foundation. All sell at the new retail price of \$48. Even stores with old inventory have marked up the price after notification by the Foundation.

Translations Report. The Spanish edition of The Urantia Book was published about two Months ago. One can order in quantities of five books through bookstores. The Executive Committee has approved an expenditure of \$9,000 to purchase 150 Spanish books for sale or donation in South America and Spain. Those who can pay all or part of price are asked to do so and the offer applies only to known readers. We could add provision for making these books available for placing in bookstores if we have need. If anyone got books because of their contributions to the Spanish translation fund and they don't want them, they might give them to The Fellowship.

The Finnish translation is reported to sell for over U.S. \$100. 00.

John Lange reported on the visit to Mexico City. He tried to get them to come to the IC93 conference. John Lange is planning to go back with Berkeley Elliott and others in December of 1993.

Tatiaia Antonyn came from Russia to the IC93 conference because of her contacts with readers here. In

Latin America, you must first visit them before they will visit here. We need to think about future subsidies for those making these trips, who are now funding their own expenses. Another trip to Moscow is planned in November.

Lyn Lear left the meeting to catch a plane.

The Mid-year meeting of the Council is to be scheduled around February 4-6 in the New York City area.

A Wrightwood Series costs about \$1,000--depending on the number of persons assisted with air fare. There have been about eleven requests for institutional religion and/or cultural effects on religion.

The Summer Education Program. The site is Oklahoma City University, July 1-9,1994. The first day has Plenary activity, the rest of the week is split in two groups: Triennial Delegate Assembly and Summer Seminars Monday, Monday night social at Harry McMullan's, Tuesday Scientific Symposium --- General Council and Education program, simultaneously. The Theme: Man's Universe Integration. Probably expect 150-200 people. The Committee wants written requests from anyone who wants presentation space during the summer meetings. The plan is to let people choose whether to go to program, which program, or take in a social event or have a committee meeting, or visit with friends.

Mo Siegel left the meeting to catch a plane. 4:15 P.M.

Society Conclave. Eleven of 18 society representatives attended. Besides consensus of approval of the concept of direct representation for the organization, there was concern about Member at Large representation, with a suggestion of perhaps by region and yet not being totally sold on proportional representation. They also suggested that The Fellowship set up a mechanism for societies to write up accounts of their outreach programs for others who express interest in similar programs. Question :: The attitude of Societies toward the function of Area Coordinators seemed to be that Societies should perform referral function and support of study groups, and Area Coordinators should function in areas not served by societies.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously that the General Council express its gratitude to all volunteers who worked on the International Conference and all of the hotel staff who worked on the conference.

International Conference 1996 update: Southern California was mentioned, and Florida because of lower fares and ease of reaching from Europe, also there is a strong reader group on the West Coast.

The question of absentee Councilors was discussed. Do we want the President to contact them? We cannot remove them without Constitutional process.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried (26,0,0) that any General Councilor who has more than two unexplained absences be asked to resign, and that the General Council authorize the President to call

such individuals to discuss the matter with them. This applies to people who have already missed that many meetings.

It was reported that there have been no formal steps taken to improve relations with the Foundation.

With regard to bequests meant for us or to be split with us, one bequest had already been distributed and signed off by the court; so it could not be reversed. Another bequest is being reviewed by the attorney for the estate and there is still hope of receiving \$2,500. The Foundation filed their 1991 tax eighteen months late. The Chair expressed the opinion that nothing is accomplished by openly expressing our frustration with the acts of the Foundation.

Question: .- If the copyright is lost, what would The Fellowship do to preserve the text of The Urantia Book?' Some said print lots of copies at once and sell cheap. Comment: In the future we should consider who we would want to see printing the book and what would be required. Comment: As a formal matter of General Council business, we should not be looking into this. Information is already available among the reader community if individuals want to inquire. We might want to send the Foundation a copy of the Study Group Directory and suggest that it might be useful in referring readers. The Foundation is also planning an audio tape with hired voices.

Communications with Urantia Foundation have not been too pleasant in recent years, but we could ask their help in supplying books for Spanish speaking readers.

A request has been made by Tatiana Antonyn to sponsor her organization in this country. Question: What does she want to do here that she needs our sponsorship for? Perhaps to make donations tax deductible? We need to have the Judicial Committee look into it and report to the mid-year meeting. It was requested that the Judicial Committee investigate with our attorney any liability we might incur by actions of Urania under our sponsorship in case they want to recommend sponsorship.

Motion, made, seconded, and carried unanimously to send a birthday card to Marian Rowley, retired long-time volunteer worker of The Fellowship on her 94th birthday.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to send flowers to Jim Mill's family in sympathy on his death.

At 5:44 P.M. the chair adjourned the meeting sine die.

Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman