
MINUTES OF THE TRIENNIAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE FELLOWSHIP

July 7, 1994

The Triennial Meeting of the General Council was held at 7: 10 P.M., Thursday, July 7, 1994, at 7:20 P. M. at Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, U.S.A.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Beth Bartley, Sara Blackstock, Robert Bruyn, Robert Burns, Michael Challis, Avi Dogim, Lila Dogim, Stephen Dreier, David N. Elders, Janet Farrington, Lucile Faw, Ann Garner, Marvin Gawryn, John W. Hales, John D. Hay, Janice Heinberg, Gard Jameson, Geri Johnson, Richard E. Johnson, Marilyn Kulieke, Paul Knott, John Lange, Lyn Davis Lear, Joseph Liszka, L. Dan Massey, Steve McIntosh, Harry McMullan III, Mo Siegel, Lee Smith, Paula Thompson, Melissa Wells, Steven Zendt.

Absent were Scott Forsythe, Eef Hoedemaker, Eileen Laurence, and newly elected Councilor David Kantor. Beth Bartley, Secretary-General, was trapped in an elevator and arrived late.

At the beginning of the meeting five visitors were present.

Richard Johnson read an inspirational passage from The Urantia Book.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by the President, Stephen Dreier, with Lucile Faw serving as Secretary.

The President introduced those newly elected Councilors who were present: Robert Burns, Michael Challis, Lila Dogim, Ann Garner, John Hay, Richard Johnson, Steve McIntosh, Paula Thompson, and Stephen Zendt.

The Tentative Agenda was reviewed and six items were added, after which the Agenda was approved unanimously. The additional items included: approval of the past minutes, a resolution to thank retiring councilors, an interfaith council festival in December, and the timing of the TDA and the Triennial meetings of the General Council.

The Minutes of the August 5, 1993 were reviewed and accepted.

The Minutes of the February 4-6, 1994 mid-year meeting were reviewed and approved.

The Secretary read the following Census Report and thanked those societies for that sent in their reports. Only three failed to report this year: members The First Society 70 First Society of Los Angeles 120 Society of Glenview 17 First Society of Oklahoma 193 Orvonton Society of Chicago 37 Fort Wayne Society 27 Evergreen Society of Washington 13 First Society of Houston 29 Golden Circle for Students of The Urantia Book 46 Connecticut Fellowship for Readers of The Urantia Book 55 Dallas Society* 54 Rocky Mountain Spiritual Fellowship 130 Northern Light Society of Alaska* 36 Pilot Light Society of Seattle 37 Heart of America Society 53 Society of Greater New York for Readers of The Urantia Book 25 Ontario Fellowship for Readers of The Urantia Book* 38 Grand Canyon Society of Urantia Book Readers 55

Total Society members 1035 Members-at-Large 291 Total Fellowship members 1326

* No report was submitted for 1993. The figure is based on office records.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

President's Report: The President read his report noting that The Fellowship appears to be in good condition and moving in the direction of greater service to the readers. We still have problems to resolve and much to learn, but we are growing in our ability to be tolerant of very diverse opinions among the membership. He suggested that societies need to become more active in the whole process. Additional comments included a suggestion that we may well expect significant change and growth in the organization in the next months and years. There seems to be an increasing level of confidence in the process and that if we do better the universe may well reward us with new responsibilities. Steve noted that societies need to take a more active role in the organization. He then made note of our expanded activities outside the U.S. And, perhaps a 'suddenly' will take place. He believes that while we seem to be in a less stressed position at this time, the pattern in the universe suggests that we can expect some kind of challenge in the future. Steve was asked about the path toward internationalization. He spoke about the challenges but noted that it is noteworthy that there are several attendees this summer from Eastern European countries. This interest is as a result of a concerted effort on the part of some members and committees of The Fellowship to go to and meet interested people from other countries.

The Vice-President's Report was printed in the reports booklet and Councilors were asked whether they had any questions. The only question regarded the amount of FLOWERS funds spent and balance remaining. Marilyn Kulieke responded that all money allotted was spent, and that more was loaned, most of which now has been repaid.

The Secretary's Report was printed and there were no questions.

Treasurers Report: Joe Liszka reported on the status of the treasury. Our major liability is the mortgage on the building--\$238,000. He noted that we paid down the mortgage by \$50,000 because of the interest

rate situation (low return). We look reasonably healthy at this time. It was suggested that we develop a reporting format for the status of our financial situation which is easier to read and which will clarify our situation. Harry reported that the gift of land by an anonymous donor who valued the land at \$81,500. Harry checked with the real estate broker and determined that the property is actually valued at a \$40,000-45,000 level. This puts us in a bind since the donor claimed a tax deduction for the higher number which results in our carrying on our books a much lower appraisal level. John Hay suggested that we look into liability insurance on the property.

A Councilor requested that the meeting go into executive session for a brief discussion of sensitive financial issues. At the President's request, the visitors left and discussion continued

At the conclusion of the discussion, the visitors returned

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Judicial Committee report by David Elders, Chair, was printed and accepted John Hay asked a question about the statute of limitations concerning our status as a prior licensee. He believes it might be useful to obtain a legal opinion on our current status.

Domestic Extension Committee: Mo Siegel, Chair, explained several areas of the committee's work and a discussion followed on the problem of obtaining books at less than full price or in quantities. Paula Thompson reported that Domestic Extension had much success going to small independent bookstores and offering to pay \$35.00 each for books in orders of 10. (The cost from Urantia Foundation is \$28.50 to bookstores sold on 60-days net). In response to filling a committee vacancy, Mo noted that they needed a committee member who would be willing to work hard. This generated a question: does the committee subsidize travel by members? Mo's response was that DE now has committee members on each coast and in Boulder; so members can work near home. But, if the committee needs more funds to function, it will go to the Executive Committee to request them. Ann Garner noted that the Area Coordinator Committee will listen to suggestions or complaints and endeavor to resolve problems.

The President called a brief recess at 8:38 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 8:50 P.M.

Publications Committee: Melissa Wells, Chair, submitted her printed report and there were questions regarding the future of the Study Group Herald due to the resignation of Marty Greenhut. Melissa stated that the Herald would continue, and thanked Marty for his past work. There were compliments for Barry Bradley, the professional journalist hired to help with The Bulletin.

The meeting was recessed briefly at 10:12 P.M. and reconvened at 10: 18 P.M.

Charter: Avi Dogim was asked questions concerning the size of societies based on the Standards of

Admissions. He noted that the current number was 10 founders and 10 charter members. He was also asked if the Charter Committee was aggressively seeking new societies or simply waiting for groups to apply. Generally it is the latter. Avi also noted that since the split with the Foundation there has been a general decline in the number of groups requesting information about society membership. Lyn Lear asked what value we have for the international study groups and how are we work-ing with them to seek their affiliation? What is our value? What do we offer study groups? Steve McIntosh asked if we have a brochure or other materials we hand out to groups who are interested Avi noted that we do not really have any materials other than our standard packet and the brochure on The Fellowship. There was a sense that we need to begin to frame our organization as something worthwhile to join by speaking for the concept of Supremacy, for international cooperation, for the group application of resources, for training, to encourage people and offer our help in moving them toward society level of participation. Lyn Lear suggested that we should perhaps consider the possibility of some sort of small group affiliation--not just individual members and societies. Dick Johnson echoed the idea that we need to be a bit more pro-active in reaching out to people. He noted that just the work on becoming a society was helpful in bringing their group together and allows them to be a part of a local, active group as well as an international fellowship. Dan Massey commented that we might consider that we approach the formation of societies in a more parental role. Dan suggests that we consider a radical change in the way we look at a society and make the requirements far less ponderous and onerous. Mo suggested that we really reconsider the purposes and functions of the Charter Committee. Avi stated his belief that we should not be in the business of "selling" others on the value of becoming a member group but rather what can the constituent group do for the whole of the organization.

The International Fellowship Committee report by Chair John Lange was printed, and discussion centered around the potential for societies in other countries. It was noted that in Russia and Latin America there is growing interest in the revelation and possible interest in affiliation with this organization. Sara Blackstock asked if it was time to do anything more formally to establish a specific mission for the direction of the IFC. John responded that they do have a mission and a plan for the next year or two. He stated that they intend to make the rounds of all the active groups around the world and develop programs to facilitate interaction. Lyn Lear noted that there is a group in Japan, and perhaps, if we contact the general readership, we may find that there are other readers in groups in other places. John stated that he is going to start a separate 501 (c)(3) foundation to facilitate the work he is doing and as a vehicle for partnering with other groups interested in international religious activities. Lyn urged that there be cooperation between several of the Fellowship committees since there seems to be increasing overlap between the work of these committees.

The Finance Committee Report as submitted by Chair Harry McMullan was accepted as printed. One issue surfaced was that the committee is in need of additional working members. Harry also was asked by Janet if it is the policy of the committee to send second solicitation letters to those people who have already pledged and/or given a contribution. Harry made a specific appeal to the members of the Council and pointed out that in his opinion each had a special re-sponsibility to donate to the well-being of the organization. Lee Smith suggested that the Councilors in a local area could act as local fund raisers and contact people in the local area to encourage greater giving. Janice Heinberg also agreed that it would be useful to make local contacts--not only for money but also to enhance the level of communication.

The Fraternal Relations Committee report was submitted by Chair Gard Jameson, who also handed out a report on NAIN. There were two questions regarding the dates of meetings, including one in Tulsa and the major one in Canada.

The Education Committee Report was presented in printed form by Dan Massey, Chair. There was a question and discussion regarding the theme, nature, and location of the next Summer Seminars. The theme has not been selected as yet; additionally, there were suggestions that by setting the locations in different areas around the country, more local talent would be available for workshops and other programs. It was also noted that we might even have two such study sessions per year at the time and place of General Council meetings.

The Special Projects Committee report by Chair Robert Bruyn was printed. Bob emphasized the opening of the Resource Library at Headquarters, which elicited questions regarding what kinds of books are wanted, what methods are used for selection of resources, etc? Stephen Zendt asked about the methodology involved in developing a resource library in Chicago. Bob noted that the selection guidelines are very broad, but that emphasis is placed on writings around the time the papers were received; anything that would be helpful to students of The Urantia Book. There have been commitments from readers of books from their personal libraries, too. Bob noted that Stuart Kerr has agreed to donate his library, on his death, to the Fellowship. Stephen suggested that he might be willing to donate his library and that of his father and grandfather to the resource library as well. It was noted that the committee soon would be providing a list of books already in the Resource Library and those being sought. Bob also spoke about the success to date with the scanner, and also noted that Dan Glazer has agreed to look into setting up a network in the office to increase efficiency there.

The Report of Secretary general Beth Bartley, was printed and elicited no questions.

The next order of business was the election of officers. The Secretary announced that there were two proxies being voted: Scott Forsythe's proxy will be voted by John Hales and Harry McMullan's proxy will be voted by John Lange.

Beth Bartley, secretary of the Executive Committee, presented the report of the nominations committee as follows:

OFFICERS: NOMINEE(S) President

3 year term Stephen Dreier

Vice-President Dave Elders 3 year term

Secretary Janet Farrington 3 year term

Treasurer Joseph Liszka 3 year term

Secretary-General Bcth Bartley 3 year term

COMMITTEES:

Judicial Marilyn Kulieke 6 year term

Charter 6 yr term Avi Dogim 5 year term Dale Sztejnberg

Fraternal Relations 6yr Eileen Laurence 5 year term Sue Tennant

6 year term (vacant) 5 year term Robin Jorgenson 4 year term Larry Geis

International Fellowship Berkeley Elliott 6 year term

Nominations were opened for President. The Executive Committee submitted the name of Stephen Dreier There being no nominations from the floor, Lucile Faw moved that nominations be closed and Janice Heinberg seconded. Without objection, nominations were closed for President. The vote was postponed until other officer nominations were concluded.

Nominations for Vice President were opened with the Executive committee nomination of David Elders and the nomination from the floor of Janet Farrington. Joe Liszka moved that nominations be closed, which was seconded by Melissa Wells. Without objection, nominations were closed.

Before the candidates left the room for discussion, new Councilors requested information on the nominees views concerning the future of the movement. The President suggested that the discussion of the nominees would probably surface characteristics or attitudes of the candidates which might be helpful to those voting.

After discussion the candidates returned to the meeting.

The President appointed Marvin Gawryn and Steve McIntosh as tellers and gave instructions on voting procedures. The tellers collected the ballots and retired to count the votes. July 7-8, 1994

The vote counts were (for, against, abstain):

President: Stephen Dreier 32 Vice President: David Elders 5 Janet Farrington 25 Abstentions 2

The President declared Stephen Dreier elected as President and Janet Farrington elected as Vice President.

Nominations were opened for Secretary and David Elders and Marilyn Kulieke were nominated.

The nominees left the room and, after discussion about the relative qualifications of the two candidates for this and other available positions, ballots were distributed, collected, and counted. The tellers reported the results as follows:

Secretary: David Elders 28 Marilyn Kulieke 3 Abstentions 1

The President declared David Elders elected as Secretary and instructed him to begin taking minutes when the meeting reconvenes in the morning. He thanked Lucile Faw for her long, unselfish service as Secretary.

The President recessed the meeting at 11:15 P.M., to be reconvened at 9:00 A.M. the next day.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:10 A.M.

For Treasurer: Joe Liszka was nominated by the Executive Committee and John Hay was nominated from the floor but declined.

The ballots were collected by the tellers who reported that Joe Liszka received 32 votes with no abstentions. The President declared him elected.

For Secretary-General: Beth Bartley nominated by the Executive Committee and there were no nominations from the floor. After collecting and counting the ballots, the tellers reported that Beth had received 32 votes with no abstentions. The President declared Beth elected.

For Publications Committee: Melissa Wells was nominated for a six-year term and as chair of the committee. The tellers reported that Melissa received all 32 votes cast. The President declared Melissa elected.

For International Fellowship. Berkeley Elliott was nominated, and there were no nominations from the floor. The tellers reported that an 32 votes were cast for Berkeley. The President declared her elected.

For Finance Committee: Marta Elders resigned from the committee. Michael Wisenbakcr was elected to a 6-year term; Robert Burns was elected to a 4-year term; Steve Wilsey was elected to a 2 year term. The tellers reported that 32 votes were cast for each nominee.

For Domestic Extension: Robin Jorgensen was nominated for the 5 year term and Larry Geis nominated for the 4 year term. The tellers reported that 32 votes were cast in favor of each. The President declared that each was elected. There were no nominations from the floor for the pending 6-year term. Committee chair, Mo Siegel asked that the position be held open pending consultation with his committee.

For Publications Committee Members: Carol Hay was nominated for the 3-year term; Carolyn Kendall was nominated for the 2-year term. The tellers reported that 32 votes were cast in favor of each. The President declared that each was elected.

Fraternal Relations: Eileen Laurence was nominated for the 6-year term; Sue Tennant was nominated for the 4 year term. The tellers reported that both received 32 votes. The President declared that each was elected.

Dan Massey returned to the meeting after executing his responsibilities for the Summer Seminars.

The tellers for this morning's ballots were Steve McIntosh and Gard Jameson.

For Judicial Committee Chairman: Marilyn Kulieke and Steve McIntosh were nominated for the 6-year term and as chair. The tellers, Gard Jameson and Marvin Gawryn, reported that Marilyn Kulieke received 29, Steve McIntosh 3, abstentions 1. The President declared that Marilyn Kulieke was elected.

For Charter Committee: Avi Dogim and John Hay were nominated for the 6-year term and as chair. Nominations were closed.

The President declared a brief recess at 10:00 A.M. The meeting was called back to order at 10: 15 AM.

Voting for Charter Committee continued after the break. The tellers reported the following vote count: Avi Dogim 23, John Hay 9, abstentions 1. The President declared Avi Dogim elected.

For Education Committee: Dan Massey was nominated for the 6-year term and as chair. Marvin Gawryn was nominated and declined. The tellers reported the vote count as follows: Dan Massey 32, abstentions 1. The President declared Dan elected.

For Special Projects Committee: John Hay and Michael Challis were nominated The tellers reported the vote as follows: John Hay 29, Michael Challis 4, no abstentions.

For Charter Committee: Dale Szejnberg was nominated for the 5-year term. The tellers reported that all 33 votes were cast in Dale's favor. The President declared her elected.

For Finance Committee: John Hay resigned from the Finance Comniittee when he was elected chair of Special Projects. Lucile Faw and Michael Challis were nominated for the 3 year term. The tellers reported the following vote count: Lucile Faw 29, Michael Challis 4. The President declared Lucile elected.

For Education Committee: Janet Farrington resigned from the committee when elected Vice President. Lila Dogim was nominated for the 3-year term. The tellers reported that: 31 votes for Lila Dogim with 1

abstention. The President declared Lila elected.

The elections were now complete.

Steve Dreier reported that we have three resolutions which have been forwarded by the 1994 TDA for consideration by the General Council. These three resolutions were placed on the floor in the form of a report for discussion and for possible consideration as motion (s) placed before the Council for vote.

TDA Resolution # 7: WHEREAS it is our purpose to support the General Council of the Fellowship in its decision making process, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the meetings of the Executive Committee be open to General Council members as observers.

Discussion ranged from a question concerning whether or not closed Executive Committee meetings were constitutionally mandated. The response was was it was more a matter of custom than a requirement and that no one had ever even asked before. Discussion also included the issue of executive session, etc. The question was called with one abstention. The resolution was passed unanimously by vote of the Council.

TDA Resolution # 12: WHEREAS many Urantia Book students desire harmonious relationships between the organizations devoted to the spread of the fifth epochal revelation, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fellowship extend and reaffirm an invitation to Urantia Foundation trustees and affiliates to attend Fellowship functions, and request that Foundation and Fellowship sponsored events be scheduled non-concurrently whenever possible, and that each leader--at Fellowship or society level--recognize his or her responsibility to the revelators and planetary overseers to foster and promote unity and cooperation among all sincere believers in the teaching of The Urantia Book.

Discussion ranged from assessing the motives of the Foundation based on behavior not words. It was also noted that we have absolutely no policy which would prevent members of the Foundation from coming to our functions. In fact, they would be welcome, as was one member who did attend this week and was warmly welcomed. It was also noted that Urantia Foundation has chosen to set up an organization, IUA, the effect of which is to separate the reader community, and is willing to use the book as a mechanism to further their own ends. One suggestion is that there be a paper crafted which explains the history of the split from a more objective point of view and that discusses where we (The Fellowship) are going and what our philosophy is with regard to our interactions with Urantia Foundation.

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:05 PM The meeting was called back to order at 1:10 PM

Discussion of the resolution on the floor continued. One of the points made was that we should not base

what we choose to do on what any other organization may do. We need to make decisions based only on what is the very best decision we can make with regard to our organizational and broader purposes. One suggestion was that if we decide in any way to develop a communication stating any position, that it should be directed toward the readership not the trustees. Marilyn Kulieke also indicated that it is the plan of the Chicago area societies to hold a Jesus' birthday celebration at the 533 Diversey Parkway building. This represents a bridge-building activity which was taking place on the grass-roots level. A comment was made that we might be sending a wrong message back to the TDA and readership if we rejected the resolution forwarded to us by the TDA.

There was a motion to end further discussion on this resolution. It was carried by more than the required two-thirds vote.

Bob Bruyn moved that we accept this resolution as passed by the TDA and we pass it along to the trustees of Urantia Foundation for their information and consideration. It was seconded. Discussion ensued. The motion failed by a vote of 2 for, 28 against, with 2 abstentions.

Paula Thompson then moved that we turn the resolution over to the Fraternal Relations Committee and give them the authority to act consistent with that resolution and subsequent to a report to the Executive Committee on and approval of their intended actions at the October, 1994 meeting. Discussion ensued. It was again pointed out that the TDA felt strongly about this motion and would be disappointed with non-action by the General Council. The point was made that the readership needs to know how we feel about renewing a relationship with the Foundation and on what basis. There was a motion to call the question; it passed, with a vote of 26 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions.

The Council then voted on the original resolution and it passed by a vote of 21 for, 7 opposed, 3 abstentions.

TDA Resolutions 5 and 10 combined: BE IT RESOLVED that the Fellowship give its support to areas through that group function called a society and that societies be encouraged to actively develop within their areas outreach and extension methods which include designated annually-elected individuals functioning as an Area Coordinator who would function as a part of the activities of that society, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Domestic Extension Committee inform the societies that the Area Coordinators representing any area supported by an existing society can be elected by that society, as the terms of the current Area Coordinator in that area expires.

A motion to approve the resolution and send it to Domestic Extension Committee for action was approved unanimously by the members of the General Council.

The next item discussed is the issue of Organizational Structure. Steve set the scene with a brief reprise of the status of this issue. He mentioned that the origin for consideration of the change was the last TDA, and that since that time, the General Council has taken up this issue extensively. At the February, 1994

GC meeting the Council passed a resolution asking the Executive Committee to develop a mechanism to provide for the direct election of up to one additional councilor from each society. Subsequently, the Executive Committee considered this proposed provision and determined that prior to enacting such a change in the constitution the question of what constituted a society for voting purposes needed to be clarified. To facilitate the discussion, the Executive Committee drafted a motion for consideration by the General Council which motion was moved and seconded:

"That if the membership in a society falls below the standard of 10 persons as established in Section V. I of the Fellowship Constitution as that minimum level required for chartering as a society, then that society, while retaining its charter, shall lose its voting privileges until that minimum level is once again regained."

Discussion ensued. It was pointed out that what this issue leads us to is the question of what constitutes a viable society. Perhaps just the idea of giving up voting is not sufficient; perhaps a society that falls below the minimum stated should not be allowed either to send delegates to the TDA or participate as a society in other organizational activities. The question of society viability becomes an issue of greater concern in conjunction with a change in organizational structure to facilitate any kind of direct representative election. Steve McIntosh noted that the underlying issue was not necessarily just direct representation, but rather, the broader idea of decentralizing responsibilities and the re-energizing of societies by virtue of more active participation. Paula Thompson suggested that consideration be given to providing the option for those societies who do not have an elected representative (elected by the TDA) to send a representative directly.

Another series of comments focused on the apparent change in the mood of the members with regard to the need for this issue: some people feel now that there may not be any issue; that the process is apparently working; that the TDA seems to be successful at electing delegates who in turn elect the members of the General Council; that we may not need to address the issue of society viability since if a small society is able to meet, elect, and send a TDA delegate, they should be allowed to do so.

A motion to call the question failed to receive the required two-thirds by a count of 19 in favor, 12 opposed, with no abstentions.

It was suggested that the original amendment be modified to make sure that the motion had only to do with direct representation and not election of a TDA delegates.

After additional discussions, a motion again made to call the question passed by a vote of 29 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

The vote on the original motion failed by a vote of 6 for, 21 opposed; 3 abstentions.

A new motion was made by Marvin Gawryn: It was moved and seconded that the Executive Committee proceed with implementing the procedure for enabling the society representational constitutional change

as mandated at the February, 1994 General Council meeting. Further, the issue would be sent back to the Executive Committee to draft the enabling language.

A motion to call this question passed by a vote of 30 for, none against and no abstentions. The original motion was then passed with a vote of 19 for, 12 against and no abstentions.

The meeting was recessed at 3:45 P.M. The meeting was called back to order at 4:15 P.M.

Dan Massey surfaced the idea that the Council recess from 7-9 PM to listen to Dick Prince's closing remarks at the Summer Seminars and participate in a worship service. Steve asked that we defer the decision until we see how many agenda items we can complete before that time.

Discussion then returned to the subject of the organizational restructuring amendment. It was suggested that we conduct a straw vote (by secret ballot) to see if there is sufficient support to pass the proposed constitutional amendment if it were worked on by the Executive Committee and returned to this group. No action was taken on this suggestion and it was agreed that the Judicial Committee would continue its work on the issue and report back to the Council at its next meeting.

The next agenda item discussed was affiliation with other groups--NAIN, Parliament of the World's Religions, Urantia Foundation, etc. Steve gave a brief background on our involvement with several interfaith organizations. Gard Jameson asked for the authority to have the Fraternal Relations Committee participate in December in an interfaith conference on the family in conjunction with Canada's celebration of the year of the family. The sponsor of the symposium is the World Interfaith Association located in Canada and there is no cost to the Fellowship. This would be held December 3--4, 1994 and the Fellowship would be a co-sponsor and have a booth at the conference and we also can conduct a workshop, perhaps on the subject of "Jesus' attitude toward the family." Sara Blackstock will be a speaker at the conference. Sue Tennant is a member of this organization and is heading up this particular conference. This conference is a part of the United Nations year of the family. Discussion ensued. While it was expressed that we didn't want to appear to be endorsing a particular social or political platform, it was generally felt that this sounded like a worthwhile activity in which to participate. A motion to approve the request was seconded and passed unanimously.

The issue of whether or not Fraternal Relations could participate at its own behest, without the need seek GC approval for every such participation, was raised. There was a general consensus was that they did not need to seek approval each time, and that they should go forward consistent with the spirit and requirements of past approvals of such participation in interfaith activities.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to authorize the Executive Committee to make any decision with regard to participation by either Fraternal Relations or International Fellowship in activities and conferences outside the organization.

The next issue was the timing of the mid-year meeting of the General Council. Generally this meeting

has been held in late January or early February (not Superbowl weekend). It was suggested that we consider the Arizona area for the meeting. Dick Johnson will talk to the Phoenix Society members to see if they would accept the responsibility for facilitating this meeting.

The next item is the celebration of Jesus' 2,000 Birthday. It was noted that the announcement of the Fellowship's 2,000 Jesus' Birthday celebration activities was included in the mailing of the 1994-95 Study Group Directory.

A discussion of IC 96 was next on the agenda. IC 96 chair, Janet Farrington, outlined the status of this conference to be held in Flagstaff, Arizona--at Northern Arizona University. She is now populating the various sub-committees and indicated that the main theme may be "Living Faith." The conference is geared toward an experiential tenor. She also indicated that there could be an altitude problem for some of the older attendees and there will be a warning issued when appropriate. Lee Smith suggested that Janet talk with Dan Massey to solicit Education Committee participation from a program standpoint. Janet also mentioned that she is planning a team-building, conflict-resolution program prior to initiating active committee work in order to help the committees work more smoothly. There is some question about the date inasmuch as our original date coincides with the Olympics in Atlanta. Janet also asked for any volunteers from the GC who might be interested in participating.

The next item covered is the Family Life Ad-hoc Committee: The members of the committee gave a report of their progress to date. It is on file. Summarized, they presented a suggested pamphlet for distribution containing quotes from The Urantia Book pertaining to family and family values. They also presented a survey which would be used to assess the needs and desires of the readership in the area of family life. Sara confirmed that she will be a speaker at the International Conference on Family to be held in December, 1994 in Toronto. Finally, the Family Life Committee will be involved in the planning of the afternoon family sessions at IC 96. Rose Lieske of Arizona, the contact person with readers in South America, will be involved the development of a newsletter for the purpose of generating ongoing dialogue between readers in the Americas. One of the first topics to be covered will be the family. The general consensus seemed to be appreciation for the quality and depth of the work product to date. Bob Bryun asked that Sara's committee interface with other Fellowship committees for the purpose of insuring consistency and quality. while the committee wants to focus on Jesus and the family, it was suggested that perhaps they give consideration also to ways in which to internationalize the material so that it appeals to people in other nations and religions, notwithstanding the fact they might not acknowledge Jesus.

Next item: Spanish books. Steve updated the group on the application of the funds allocated for the purpose of buying books and selling them on a subsidized basis in South America. He noted that the fund is nearly half-depleted due, in no small part, to the postage and duty costs.

Discussion then focused on the following resolution on retiring Councilors which was moved, seconded, and which passed unanimously:

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the General Council, express our appreciation to the following individuals for their years of service to the Fellowship:

Tom Allen, Glenn Bell, Duane Faw, Bill Hazen, Lynne Kulieke, Larry Mullins, Michael Painter, and David Robertson; and, that the President be directed to send a letter to each retiring Councilor expressing our gratitude.

Lucile Faw left the meeting at 5:00 P.M. The meeting recessed for dinner at 5:30 P.M. The meeting was called back to order at 6:45 PM.

The Council next discussed the timing of the TDA. This item, the possible scheduling of the TDA at another time during the year was discussed briefly and Steve suggested that it is an issue that the Executive Committee will consider at an upcoming meeting.

The meeting was recessed at 7:10 P.M. The meeting was called back to order at 8:20 PM

Several other members left the meeting at this time: Mo Siegel, Lila Dogim, Steve McIntosh, John Hay, Paul Knott, Avi Dogim, and Lyn Lear.

The development of a Fellowship symbol was surfaced for discussion.. We have discussed the development of a symbol several times before. Gard suggested that we consider asking the membership to develop and submit symbols for the Fellowship for display at IC 96. It was agreed that we would assign this project to Special Projects and ask for a report at the mid-year meeting of the General Council.

The issue of Committee Relevancy and Restructuring was raised. Marilyn Kulieke suggested that each committee review its constitutional charter, its name, and see how it is doing relative to its constitutional charge.

The next item discussed was the possibility of scheduling an Annual Delegate Assembly. Although there seemed to be no additional impetus for holding this on an annual basis in view of the current discussion about direct society representation, we did do it that way this year; TDA delegates were elected early and many attended the mid-year meeting in February, 1994. Dan spoke about the need for a greater level of TDA orientation and training prior to the actual TDA meeting itself Ann Garner commented that she had read all the mail sent out prior and felt very comfortable at the TDA meeting. Stephen Zendt offered the idea that perhaps we might develop a video-tape explanation to help with the orientation process. It was suggested that we should ask the Charter Committee to evaluate the TDA process and recommend changes to help it work better. Robert Burns suggested that we develop a check list of those items of importance which would help the TDA process. Marilynn suggested that our mid-year program could be crafted to include a subject of a more outreach nature and making sure that society representatives are included in that process. Joe Liszka offered the idea that we might put together a "pro-forma" on the Fellowship, how it works, what the functions are, and include the TDA in this process to help with an

enhancement of the TDA process. Many of the delegates made the point that they felt unable to deal with resolutions inasmuch as most of them were not sent out in advance for consideration.

An issue of new business was raised by Dan Massey. The first issue he surfaced is whether the GC members felt it would be worthwhile to hold the summer seminars in more than a single place during the same summer. The comment was made that the Area Coordinators are considering holding regional meetings and perhaps the two could be blended together. Bob Bryun noted that in addition to regional meetings, it is very important to maintain at least one central, national meeting each year because it offers a maximum of cross-fertilization. Another suggestion was made that the summer seminars could be shifted to locales in association with societies. A speaker's bureau offshoot from the summer seminars was suggested.

Dan also proposed that we consider a "right-brain" festival of the creative arts. Melissa also suggested that two other symposia themes could be considered as a part of a symposia triad--philosophical and religious. Other ideas which were surfaced included: a summer family camp, and leadership training seminars.

At 9:15 P.M. the chair adjourned the meeting sine die.

Secretary

APPROVED: Chairman