
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE FELLOWSHIP

August 9, 1996

A regular meeting of the General Council was convened at 8:54 a.m., Friday Adjust 9, 1996, at the du Bois Center, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona.

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Elizabeth Bartley, Alison Gardner, Eileen Laurence, Sara Blackstock, Marvin Gawyrn, Joseph Liszka, Robert Bruyn, John Hales, L. Dan Massey, Robert Burns, Michael Challis, Avi Dogim, Lila Dogim, Richard E. Johnson, Stephen Dreier, Janet Farrington, Lucile Faw, Scott Forsythe, Janice Heinberg, Eef Hodemaker, Gard Jameson, David Kantor, Marilyn Kulieke, John Lange, Eileen Laurence, Joseph Liszka, L. Dan Massey, Steve McIntosh, Harry McMullan III, Mo Siegel, Brian D. Smith, Lee Smith, Melissa Wells, Steven Zendt.

Dave Elders, Ann Garner, Geri Johnson, Paul Knott and Paula Thompson were absent. The meeting was called to order by Steve Dreier, President, with Elizabeth Bartley acting as Secretary. Steve Dreier read from The Urantia Book - 39:3.4. The agenda was approved unanimously.

As provided in the constitution President Stephen Dreier, presented the slate of candidates recommended by the sub-nominating committee -- the Executive Committee to fill expiring terms or temporary vacancies on the standing committees:

Judicial 6 year term Steve McIntosh

Charter 6 year term Robert Bruyn

Fraternal Relations 6 year term, Chair Gard Jameson

Domestic Extension 6 year term, Chair Mo Siegel, 5 year term Brian Smith

International Fellowship 6 year term Susan Ransbottom

Education 5 year term Patrick Yesh, 6 year term Michelle Klemish

Finance 6 year term Steve Wilsey

Special Projects 6 year term Barbara Newsom Kulieke

The meeting was closed to visitors during this time. Marilyn Kulieke and Scott Forsythe acted as tellers and passed out ballots. Thirty one councilors were present plus three proxies, equaling 34 votes available. The chair asked if there were any additional nominations. There were none and the nominations were closed. During discussion of the candidates, it was noted that Ellen Montgomery had recently resigned from the Judicial Committee and no candidate was recommended at this time. 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 (for, against, abstain)

Judicial 6 year term Steve McIntosh 33,0,1
Charter 6 year term Robert Bruyn 33,0,1
Fraternal Relations 6 year term Gard Jameson 34,0,0
Domestic Extension 6 year term Mo Siegel 34,0,0; 5 year term Brian Smith 34,0,0
International Fellowship 6 year term Susan Ransbottom 34,0,0
Education 5 year term Patrick Yesh 33,0,1; 6 year term Michelle Klemish 33,0,1
Publications 6 year term Carolyn Kendall 34,0,0
Finance 6 year term Steve Wilsey 33,0,1
Special Projects 6 year term Barbara N. Kulieke 34,0,0

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

A recess was called at 9:50 a.m. Observers were readmitted to the meeting, which resumed at 10:05 a.m. Janet Farrington read from The Urantia Book 157:4.5.

The minutes of the meeting of Feb. 2-5, 1996 which had been previously mailed to the members, were accepted unanimously. The Secretary read the Official Census Report of The Fellowship as of Dec. 31, 1995 as follows:

Society members

The First Society 65
First Society of Los Angeles 119*
Society of Glenview 15
First Society of Oklahoma 197
Orvonton Society of Chicago 36
Fort Wayne Society, 25
Evergreen Society of Washington 17
First Society of Houston 30*
Golden Gate Society 43*
Connecticut Fellowship 56*
Dallas Society 48
Rocky Mountain Spiritual Fellowship 126*
Northern Light Society of Alaska 36*
Pilot Light Society of Seattle 36
Heart of America Society 57
Society of Greater New York for Readers 26

Ontario Fellowship for Readers 35*

Grand Canyon Society of U.B. Readers 67

Total members 1,034

Members at large 290

Total Fellowship members 1,324

*No report submitted for 1995. Figure based on office records.

The annual reports of the officers and committee chairs were reviewed. These reports are on file.

President Steve Dreier's report noted the Fellowship's increasingly inclusive attitude. Other matters mentioned were publication of *The Urantia Book*, involvement with the Internet, activities of the societies, and a growing interest in family activities. The full report is on file.

Vice President Janet Farrington reviewed her position as chairperson of IC96 (International Conference 1996). Attendance at IC96 was estimated at 1,050 including about 200 children. There were confirming comments about the high quality of the conference.

Treasurer Joe Liszka reported that there were several large, one-time contributions in 1995. The mortgage on the Wrightwood office was paid down by \$55,000 in August, 1996. Questions about restricted funds brought the explanation that the Matthew Fund is an endowment fund for administrative expenses.

Beth Bartley, Secretary-General, noted that correspondence between the members of the Executive Committee and the General Council was shifting to the use of the Internet and E-mail.

A ten minute recess was taken to give South American attendees a chance to express their thanks for IC96.

Additional comments that were added to the written reports included the following:

Charter. Avi Dogim: There needs to be some kind of evaluation of how we take the organization to the next level (whatever that may be) and how to enlarge the membership. It might be necessary to have someone designated that would nurture the process and present members. We might want to consider becoming a task oriented organization and let the members have ownership in our process and thereby more involved and responsive.

Fraternal Relations. Gard Jameson explained that Interfaith involves sharing values and meanings, not sharing your religious views and beliefs. Therefore, *Urantia Book* readers can enter interfaith activities without the need to define their belief system.

A lunch recess was taken from 12:01 to 1:10 p.m. Scott Forsythe left the meeting.. Domestic Extension. Mo Siegel: The committee is trying to switch the emphasis to the local level with the Book Expos, by offering assistance but not sending someone out unless it is requested or it is a new location.

International Fellowship. John Lange- The Berkeley Elliott International Lounge was successful at IC96 as a meeting place for international and stateside readers.

Education. Dan Massey: The committee needs to look at new paradigms. We need to be more reader oriented, which is why the Summer Seminars have been moved to local areas instead of always being in Chicago. Comments from councilors suggested that education should be responsible for developing materials for family use and education. The Wrightwood Series needs to be evaluated to see if it is cost effective. We should also look at how the committees are overlapping, and let the Education committee be the facilitator for the activities, but not directly responsible.

Brian Smith left the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Publications. Melissa Wells: The conference has provided ample material to produce an immediate issue of the Study Group Herald (SGH). Melissa would like to put the SGH on the Internet. We need to write a good introduction to The Urantia Book for use on the Internet and in print. International readers are writing introductions in their languages and we might be able to help them get printed and distributed.

Office Managers Report. John Hales: A lot of time has been spent this year in preparation for IC96. The new Internet address is checked everyday for e-mail; we will not broadcast our address until we see how it is used. There are book orders coming in everyday from the phone number printed in our new edition of The Urantia Book.

Area Coordinator Program. Brian Smith is the new coordinator of this program. He will need about a year to evaluate the program and recommend changes that will give it new energy. There are about 95 AC's at this time.

Flower's report. Marilyn Kulieke: The committee approached three groups doing translations - Korean, Russian, and Croatian - and offered them \$500 grants to assist their work. That is the only activity this year.

Family Life Ad Hoc Committee. Sara Blackstock: Costumes that were made for the IC96 activities are available for loan to Urantia groups. The Unnamed Journal will have works by and for children. The committee is considering a family camp and the preparation of secondary works. There is interest in making this a standing committee.

International Conference 1999. Gard Jameson has been appointed as conference Chair by the Executive Committee. The committee is looking for a site somewhere in the Southeast or Northwest. The topic being considered is dialogue. Several councilors expressed reservations about the proposed topic. There

needs to be a brainstorming session or two to develop and refine the topic.

Organizational Restructuring - Judicial Committee. Janet Farrington was asked to chair this discussion by President Steve Dreier.

Marilyn Kulieke, Chair of the Judicial Committee, presented the proposed language for the constitutional amendment providing for societies to directly elect a member to the General Council:

ARTICLE VIII THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Section 8.1 Organization: There shall be a General Council of THE FELLOWSHIP composed of thirty-six (36) Members elected by the Triennial Delegate Assembly and one (1) member each from Societies, with an active membership of not less than 10 members, which choose to elect one. Section 8.2 Election and Terms of Councilors: ((a)) Members Elected by the Triennial Delegate Assembly: Twelve (12) Members of the General Council shall be elected by each Triennial Delegate Assembly for full terms of nine (9) years. The Triennial Delegate shall also fill any vacancies which may have occurred since the last election. Councilors shall be elected by secret written ballot from nominees presented to it by the Nominating Committee and nominated from the floor of the assembly with the prior consent of the nominee. A delegate or seated alternate shall cast not more than one vote for each Councilor to be elected. Cumulative votes and Proxy votes are not allowed. A nominee must receive a majority of votes cast to be declared elected.

((b)) Members Elected by Local Societies: Each local society with 10 or more active members may, at its option, elect a General Councilor for a term of three years. The term of office shall be ongoing from the opening of the General Council following one Triennial Delegate Assembly until the opening of the General Council following the next Triennial Delegate Assembly. In case of the vacancy, the local Society may elect a successor for the remainder of the term of office. Council members elected directly by local Societies shall be of equal status with Council Members elected by the Triennial Delegate Assembly. The number of active members of a local Society shall be determined in good faith by the Governing body of that Society in accordance with the By-Laws of THE FELLOWSHIP.

Section 8.5. Filling Vacancies: Whenever a vacancy shall exist in the office of Councilor elected by the Triennial Delegate Assembly by reason of death, resignation, or removal, the General Council shall elect a temporary successor from among the members of THE FELLOWSHIP in good standing to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term thereof or until the next Triennial Delegate Assembly if the term of such vacant office shall not expire until thereafter, in which latter event the Triennial Delegate Assembly shall elect a successor to fill such vacancy and to hold office for the remainder of such term.

She summarized the results of the society survey, copies of which were handed out to the council members. A majority were in favor of the amendment. Avi Dogim reported that eleven societies were represented at the Society Conclave. Of this number seven were for the restructuring. However, four of the seven were lukewarm to the need for such a change.

During discussion the following comments were made: The amendment is not pertinent anymore since the meetings are open for any member to attend. We have a better representation now. The quality of the people on the council is crucial and it may go down if we change the method of selecting the councilors. If there is a communication problem with the societies that already have councilors then this resolution won't change that. The societies that don't have representatives on the General Council didn't present people to the TDA for consideration. The spirit of this change has already been integrated into the Fellowship. The additional councilors would make the group decision process unwieldy.

It was pointed out that an amendment takes a 3/4 majority to pass. Some societies feel this proposed amendment involves the autonomy of the society and the Judicial Committee recommends that if it passes it be sent to the 1997 Triennial Delegate Assembly for approval or disapproval.

A motion was made, seconded and defeated (for 20, against 12, abstain 0) that:

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed language for Article VII of the Fellowship Constitution and Chapter VI of the by-laws be approved by the General Council, and that if it is approved, that it be submitted to the 1997 Triennial Delegate Assembly for consideration of ratification as per Article XIV of the Fellowship Constitution.

Alternative Fellowship Affiliation. Avi Dogim recommended an affiliation for readers that are not interested in being a society, but desire some form of attachment with us. They would receive the Fellowship mailings and could attend out meetings; however they would not have voting rights, or a representative at the TDA. This would assist groups, such as those doing translations, who might want an affiliation less formal than a society.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried (for 26, against 0, abstain 0) that, in order to afford proper recognition and a sense of unity to groups of Urantia Book readers who are interested in furthering the work of The Fellowship, but for any reason are not ready to become a local society, The Fellowship create a new group affiliation category, additional to and different from Local Societies.-

It was left to the Executive Committee to finalize standards of admission for these groups and the Charter Committee shall assist them through the affiliation process.

The Triennial Delegate Assembly schedule for 1997 was discussed.

A motion was made, seconded and defeated (for 9, against 18, abstain 1) to hold the Triennial Delegate Assembly separate from the Summer Seminars and the Annual Meeting of the General Council.

A proposal made by Harry McMullan concerning publishing Part IV of The Urantia Book as a separate volume. The money for this project would be privately provided and would not come out of the Fellowship budget. Mo Siegel indicated he was also interested in this. However they had different

requests of the General Council, Mr. McMullan is seeking our approval that if they act as private citizens there would be no conflict of interest; Mr. Siegel was requesting the use of the Fellowship's new architecture for the book.

The council was reminded that when The Urantia Book first went into the public domain, that we had voted unanimously to protect and preserve the text inviolate; this project of , publishing Part IV as a separate volume would conflict with that resolution. Discussion was suspended for the dinner break to give everyone time to consider the topic A dinner recess was taken from 6:00 to 7:14 p.m. Lee Smith and Steve McIntosh left the meeting. Harry McMullan and Mo Siegel withdrew their request, stating that they needed time to rethink the project and the various opinions expressed to them over dinner. They both expressed their dedication to the revelation. It was requested that feelings and thoughts about this matter be communicated directly to them.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE BOOK - We have claimed a copyright in our edition of The Urantia Book, which in effect claims a copyright in our architecture, e.g. the two column format, and the paper,, section and paragraph numbering system.

A motion was made, seconded and carried (26 for, 2 against, 0 abstain) that we assign to the Executive Committee the issue of developing a policy of letting others use our text architecture if their purpose is within the purpose and goals of our constitution. It was also the consensus that we should develop an electronic version of The Urantia Book using our text architecture, with the potential of putting it on the Internet. Further development was assigned to the President.

David Kantor, chair of Special projects, reported that a team of eight people experienced in using the Internet are assisting with fellowship web activities. All General Councilors were encouraged to get an email address.

The receipt of a letter from Urantia Foundation concerning a matter at the American Booksellers Association convention was acknowledged and assigned to the president for further action.

A question about assisting groups who are translating The Urantia Book was raised. The principle of Fellowship sponsored translation was agreed to by consensus. It was to create a Translation Ad Hoc Committee to assist with these projects. It was agreed that the mid-year meeting of the General Council would take place in Kansas City, Missouri. The dates in January or February are to be determined.

The council took a brief period of quiet. The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 8:36 p.m. sine die.