

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF
THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP
July 12, 1998

The Biannual Meeting of the General Council was held at 8:03 p.m., Sunday, July 12, 1998, at Mount Vernon College, Washington, D.C., USA.

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Beth Bartley, Sara Blackstock, Matthew Block, Robert Bruyn, Robert Burns, Gary Deinstadt, Lila Dogim, Stephen Dreier, Christel Garrick, Marvin Gawryn, Janet Farrington Graham, Earlene Green, John W. Hales, David Kantor, Michelle Klimesh, Lorrie Krasny, Marilynn Kulieke, John Lange, Joseph Liszka, L. Dan Massey, Harry McMullan III, Dolores Nice, Charles Olivea, Richard Omura, Stephanie Shaefer, Brian Smith, Paula Thompson, Steven Zendt.

Absent: Avi Dogim, Scott Forsythe, Eef Hoedemaker, Richard Johnson, Paul Knott,

Proxies were held as follows:

Scott Forsythe held by John Hales

Eef Hoedemaker held by David Kantor

Richard Johnson held by Dan Massey

The meeting was begun in closed session. There were no visitors present.

Welcome from Janet Farrington Graham, President.

Quiet Meditation

Inspirational reading from *The Urantia Book* by Harry McMullan.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. by the President, Janet Farrington Graham, with Lorrie Krasny serving as Secretary.

The Tentative Agenda was reviewed and approved unanimously.

The necessary elections by the General Council were announced. There were 3 vacancies on the General Council to be filled; replacements for Gard Jameson, Mo Siegel, and Lee Smith. A possible fourth vacancy was noted by the President in view of a recent phone call she had with Paul Knott. The Council would wait until the President could confirm this resignation by telephone.

The Executive Committee positions needed to be voted on by the General Council were Vice President, Secretary, Charter Committee Chair, Education Committee Chair, and Fraternal Relations Committee.

The General Council elections commenced with the following names offered for consideration:

Candidates: Bob Arkens, Claudia Ayers, Byron Belitsos, Bobbie Dreier, Phil Geiger, Larry Geis, Adrienne Jarnagin, Rebecca Kantor, Fred Smith

Replacing: Mo Seigel , Lee Smith, Gard Jameson for 2 year terms – to be elected formally at next TDA.

Discussion of candidates.

Ballots handed out. Each ballot submitted with three names on it. Ballots tallied.

Vote Results:

Bob Arkens 17

Claudia Ayers 10

Byron Belitsos 6

Bobbie Dreier 7

Phil Geiger 20

Larry Geis 7

Rebecca Kantor 6

Adrienne Jarnagin 20

Fred Smith 0

New General Councilors are Phil Geiger, Adrienne Jarnagin, and Bob Arkens

Based on our knowledge of a pending resignation from Paul Knott, Harry McMullan moved that we elect an alternate to become seated as a counselor (confidentially) under the provision that Paul Knott resigns within 7

days. Seconded: by Sara Blackstock. No objections. So moved.

The General Council voted for this possible General Council vacancy.

Ballots distributed. One candidate per ballot. Vote.

Claudia Ayers 13

Byron Belitsos 3

Bobbie Dreier 6

Larry Geis 6

Rebecca Kantor 3

Fred Smith 0

No majority

Floor opened for discussion:

Second ballots distributed. One candidate per ballot. Vote.

Claudia Ayers 25

Byron Belitsos 0

Bobbie Dreier 2

Larry Geis 2

Claudia Ayers is elected alternate.

Executive Committee Recommendation Slate: Filling vacancies on the EC.

Vice President – Steve Dreier (vacancy left by Mo Siegel)

Secretary – Lorrie Krasny (vacancy left by Michelle Klimesh)

Education Chair – Michelle Klimesh (vacancy left by Steve Dreier)

Fraternal Relations Chair – Marvin Gawryn (vacancy left by Gard Jameson)

Charter Chair – Robert Burns (vacancy left by Marvin Gawryn)

Call for additional nominees for these positions.

No additional nominees offered.

Discussion: Some discussion ensued regarding the process of shuffling EC members to fill slots that they might not be best suited without GC input. Maybe the best candidate was not selected for each job. Harry McMullan suggested we re-open the floor for nominations. Marilyn Kulieke suggests that we offer 2 candidates.

The President suggests that we conduct election – if you disagree with the process write "no" on the slate and we will reopen in the morning for nominations.

Marilyn Kulieke moves that we reopen nominations for EC selection. Robert Burns seconded. 23 in favor, 3 opposed , 2 abstentions

Recount requested: 6 in favor, 15 opposed.

Vote for Executive Committee Slate: Results: 30 in favor, 1 opposed.

The President recessed the meeting at 11:08 p.m. to be reconvened at 9:00 a.m. the next day.

The meeting was reconvened in closed session at 9:15 a.m., July 14, 1998.

27 Councilors Present: Beth Bartley, Sara Blackstock, Matthew Block, Robert Bruyn, Robert Burns, Gary Deinstadt, Avi Dogim, Lila Dogim, Stephen Dreier, Christel Garrick, Marvin Gawryn, Janet Farrington Graham, Earlene Green, John W. Hales, David Kantor, Michelle Klimesh, Lorrie Krasny, Marilyn Kulieke, John Lange, Joseph Lyszka, L. Dan Massey, Harry McMullan III, Dolores Nice, Charles Olivea, Richard Omura, Brian Smith, Steven Zendt.

9 Councilors Absent: Stephanie Shaefer Phil Geiger, Bob Arkens and Adrienne Jarnagin, Paula Thompson, Dick Johnson, Eef Hoedemaker, Scott Forsythe,

Paul Knott,

President requests nominations for open positions on the standing committees.

1. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: 3 openings. Chair, Avi Dogim nominates Linda Buscelli for a 2 year term opening. The Executive Committee had approved her earlier, and he is resubmitting for GC approval. Avi Dogim nominates Sage Waitts (4 year term). Replacing Jerry Johnson and John Thiele, respectively. Holding last open position – 6 year term. Robert Bruyn nominates Nancy Johnson for the 6 year term, pending her agreement. Sage Waitts must be kept on hold because she is not a formal member of The Fellowship.

2. DOMESTIC EXTENSION COMMITTEE: Paula Thompson absent. Will wait for her return.

3. CHARTER COMMITTEE: Tom Chocquette's and Francyl Gawryn's terms are expiring. Robert Burns recommends John Causland, (3 year term) Bob Arkens (6 year term). No further nominations. No discussion.

4. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE: Stephanie Shaefer's term is expiring and she wants to serve again for another 6 year term. No further

nominations. No discussion.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE: One definite vacancy left by Robert Burns and one anticipated vacancy left by Steve Wilsey. Joe Liska requests leaving them both open because he has not had a chance to talk with Joseph DiCosmo who he would like to fill one vacancy.

6. FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. Sue Tennant exiting a 6 year term. Marvin Gawyrn, Chair, nominates Rebecca Kantor (6 year term). No additional nominations. No discussion.

7. EDUCATION COMMITTEE. One opening for a 6 year term. Michelle Klimesh, nominates Nick Stefaro to fill Matthew Block's expiring term. Matthew Block adds his name to nominees. No further nominations.

8. SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE: This committee needs special consideration. All must be able to work with the website. David Kantor, Chair, wants to leave a vacancy (Anthony Finstad term expiring) open for a new project. Will seek recommendations based on new project.

9. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE. Dan Massey, Chair, nominates Phil Geiger to replace Tom Kendall. No further nominations.

10. DOMESTIC EXTENSION COMMITTEE: In Paula Thompson's absence, Larry Geis was recommended to fill his own expiring term. No further nominations.

Slate of Uncontested committee positions:

Publications: Linda Buscelli, Nancy Johnson

Charter: Bob Arkens, Causland

International: Stephanie Shaefer

Fraternal Relations: Rebecca Kantor

Judicial: Phil Geiger

Domestic Extension: Larry Geis

(Paula Thompson arrives at 9:40 am.)

Closed balloting.

Reopened discussion of Education Committee nominees. Mathew withdraws his name from nomination. Education committee spot is filled by Nick Stefaro. Mathew will serve as an adjunct member. Paula Thompson reports that Larry Geis does not want to re-up. Harry McMullan moves to declare this election void. No objections.

Paula Thompson suggests Doreen Heyne from NY society to replace Larry Geis for a 6 year term on the Domestic Extension Committee. Discussion.

New ballot, For or opposed vote on full slate.

Publications: Linda Buscelli, Nancy Johnson

Charter: Bob Arkens, Causland

International: Stephanie Shaefer

Fraternal Relations: Rebecca Kantor

Judicial: Phil Geiger

Domestic Extension: Doreen Heyne

31 in favor of the slate, 5 opposed.

Corrections of minutes of last meeting.

Correction p. 3. Beth elected to Fraternal Relations for 6 years. Misspelled Adrienne Jarnagin (correct). 1st page, Geri Johnson was not in OKC. Stephen Zents spelled incorrectly. Earlene Green has no "e" on end of last name.

Steve McIntosh was not present.

Marvin Gawryn moves to approve minutes as corrected. Beth Bartley

seconds. Passes unanimously.

Meeting opened to Fellowship members at 9:56 am.

Census report. Discussion. David Kantor wants to know if this is an accurate accounting? John Hales says Rocky Mountain went from 120 to 60 members. Didn't actually fill out the form. John Hales says this is the first time in many years that the Northern Lights Society has sent in a census. Members at large 281 – but we have no addresses for about 65 of them. Michelle says each society can choose what qualifications they want for their membership. Membership qualifications are so disparate that we can't get an accurate number. John Hales makes a point of order that we consider someone a member until the society says they are not a member. Dan Massey says that a society does not delete anyone from their rolls unless they request deletion. You cannot remove members without a valid process. However, if other qualifications are in your constitution, then it's okay. Paula Thompson says that the Rocky Mountain society wrangled for many years about dues and restrictions. At one point they blew it wide open and their ranks swelled. And they kept the numbers without doing a poll. They had no way to disqualify anyone as an active member. So this year, they phoned everyone and asked directly and pared down their list. Is the Ontario Fellowship defunct? We never heard from them (per John Hales) whether they are defunct or not. No one got a phone call. Harry McMullan says that when OKC developed a new constitution they decided to have 2 types of members: voting and regular, and dues paying and non-dues paying. They didn't want to lose their status as the no. 1 society. Dan Massey says that most non-profits tend to puff their mailing lists. Also membership is pretty common. You're usually members forever. We've always dealt with this ourselves. It's really up to each locality to decide. When we produce a standard constitution we can provide this provision. It may not be a one size fits all situation. Marilyn Kulieke says varied membership statuses exist within societies. Use distinction for voting vs. non-voting. Michelle Klimesh says she would need a constitutional amendment. Robert Burns says he is wrestling with this within the Charter Committee. FSLA's numbers are mailing list number, which he recently cleaned up. Avi Dogim says that these numbers are supposed to represent the actual numbers of members in societies. Each society must determine for itself. But, just a mailing list? The President suggests Charter Chair develop policy for census reporting. Dan Massey says it's a judicial matter. The problem is that Charter needs to clarify this for societies. Dan and Marilyn will advise Robert. We'll look at this in October and present in February.

Annual Reports from officers and committee chairs.

Vice Presidents Report - none from Steve Dreier

Treasurer's Report - Harry Macmillan's annual treasurer's report is the attached Financial Statement.

President's Report - Traditional for President to read her annual report once a year. Janet reads report. (on file) Send President's letter to full Fellowship distribution list.

Secretary's Report - submitted by Lorrie Krasny (on file) No comments.

Secretary General - report submitted by Marilynn Kulieke. (on file) No comments.

Harry McMullan offers thanks for 529 Wrightwood redecorating and organizing to John Hales, Jennifer Seigel and Marilynn. Let's send an official thank you to Jennifer. Janet will send note. Did send flowers.

Joe Liszka asks if we should invite Societies to visit Chicago and meet John. President replies that it will go in cover letter to the President's report.

Judicial: Christel Garrick, referring to report Dan Massey made in February, 1998, on TDA, point #2 of report where Dan was asked to provide a fact sheet, where is it? Dan replies that it hasn't been done. He was supposed to establish a subcommittee to renew the need for additional safe harbors. Dan never assigned it. . Interlocks with web oversight. Harry says that this work is ongoing in many committees, and that it simply hasn't been formalized by committee. Dan recommends this be assigned to the Judicial committee. (Two things that were covered in motion last winter from the TDA.)

President so assigned. David Kantor brings up last paragraph of Dan's report.

The rules for General Council and Executive Committee are really outdated. Dolores Nice asks for clarification of "associate status"? Longspeak and Loveland Associations. Associations are a growing contingency. Robert Burns says Associate groupings will be added in the near future along with PR campaign. Two potential societies to be added in the next 2 years are Vancouver Island and Florida. Avi Dogim says that the story of Longspeak is in the Mighty Messenger. Marvin Gawryn says that information was sent

out on new associate status under Avi Dogim, but we have to promote it as General Councilors. We cultivate it initially and send to Robert. Bruyn: Associate members are members of The Fellowship. Add them to census. Robert Burns agrees. Gary Deinstadt says that minutes of last GC meeting re Charter committee was supposed to simplify society affiliation. Any ideas on simplification? Robert Burns, Charter Chair says the time required to become a society is down to 6 months for a group to be organized. Instead of 20 charter members they have 10 that are 18 years or older. Re the authoring of a standard constitution, Janet wants to know the timetable. It will be put out by end of month to committee. Marvin Gawryn asks a procedure question, can a constitution change without Council vote. Dan says yes, but the EC has to agree with Charter based on the recommendations of the committee. Janet would not change anything without discussion with GC. Paula Thompson thinks of Jesusonian is an association. Also, Austin wanted to become an association. Avi Dogim says there was some talk of Jesusonian becoming an association, but there was never an application or letter. Marvin Gawryn reports that it never moved beyond the process of discussion. Regarding an Austin group, Marvin Gawryn communicated with them and they want to think about it. Matthew Block says that in the Korean case, the Fellowship doesn't know their names or addresses. The President recommends that Charter Chair send member-at-large applications to Association members. Dolores Nice thought we should have a collaborative effort between Charter and International, particularly for Columbia and Chile. David Kantor tells us that through the internet these groups are getting really active. David has been in contact with them. Robert Burns' final note: the ability to apply on the web will greatly aid in associate status, society, and member at large. David Kantor reminded us that we talked at our last meeting about getting memberships on the web. We already have 110 new names. Robert Burns has an auto-responder which would thank them and give them further contact. What are the benefits of being an associate member? Robert Burns said that they would be in the communications loop, and could lock into the calendar, and would be regularly invited to Fellowship events. Harry McMullan adds that they will eventually become a society. Avi Dogim says that one of the ideas for affording groups this type of status is giving them recognition for the work they're doing, and offering stimulation and opportunity to serve. Stephen Zents thinks stimulation is important – get rid of the apathy in certain standing societies. Joe Liszka asks if every query goes through the office? Christel Garrick asks why be an Associate? Anybody today can get on the website and get on the calendar.

Fraternal Relations: Marvin is very pleased that Rebecca Kantor has become a member of the committee. She has been involved in seminary

education and with a number of people in the academic religion community. Contact with members of the American Academy of Religion (all seminary professors and administrators). Stephen Zents: are they relegating the UB to a Gnostic text? Paula Thompson says that we discussed perhaps exhibiting the book at these events. Marvin Gawryn reminds of the World Parliament of Religions meeting November 1999 in South Africa. We had a booth and a presentation at the last one. This will require funds. Gard Jameson will probably go. Will need video. In a few weeks John Hales and Marvin Gawryn will be going to Finland. Asked for our prayers. No further questions or comments.

Education: Current Wrightwood series is "Cult and The UB". Next one is Parables, the Mighty Mustard Seed. An analysis of what parabolic utterance really is. The way they linger in the mind. The ways Jesus used them. Dolores Nice asks if we officially thanked the people who worked on this Summer Study Session?

Publications: Mighty Messenger is not ready because of publishing house. Still hoping to come out with Fellowship Herald.

Finance Committee: Joe Liszka reminds us that we need money. New member on committee is Jerry Pando. Another individual on committee has come to life dramatically. Looking for still another member of committee. Charitable Remainder Trust for Fellowship needs to be spelled out a little more. You have to work through a lawyer. Fundraising letter worked with PR committee. What we do, who we are. Thanks Lorrie Krasny and Alison Gardner and David Kantor. Beth Bartley asks if solicitation is done on individual and group mailing. Joe Liszka says that there are donations for a specific purpose. Marvin Gawryn suggests that SpiritQuest 2000 offers an excellent fundraising opportunity via silent auction.

Special Projects: Nothing to add to written report except that Tony Finstad is working on updating secondary resources guide.

Recess Break at 11:08am.

Meeting Resumes: 11:35 am

Domestic Extension: Applause for report. Robert Bruyn compliments Paula Thompson on study group letter. David Kantor talks about the website and creating study group resource tools. Study group leaders list? Paula Thompson apologizes for Study Group Directory. Printer in Boulder

uses a cold web press, and the cover is flawed. She had to beg for study groups to participate. Two letters and finally phone calls. Paula will renegotiate with printer.

International Fellowship: John Lange says we are being encouraged to cooperate with Foundation. Attending book fair in India next year in August. Foundation has allowed us to do anything we want to with our books, just not in the commercial arena. They can take books with them. Since IC99 is in conjunction with IUA – a lot of foreign visitors that we haven't seen for 10 years will be there. So international lounge will be very important. Individual and group missionary projects. Grassroots efforts taking off without our support. Norman Ingram's trip to Africa. Gay Games in Amsterdam. Larry Geis and a friend and Norman Ingram and Stella Religa are going to that. Paula Thompson understood that Norman is leaving from here and beginning his trip. Roger speaks from floor and thanks us for our contribution. They will be officially starting trip at the end of September. Leila Dogim speaks about the Russian translation. It took a lot effort to explain to the Trustees that the translation is a separate project of the NY Society . **It should not be mentioned in formal report.**
Friendly amendment accepted to delete that from posted report.

Special Projects: David Kantor reminds us to buy books via Amazon.com on web. We get a commission on every book we sell through them at <http://www.ubfellowship.org/bookshop>. There is a calendar on the website that all General Councilors can use. We should promote amazon.com in the Mighty Messenger.

Website Data Base Project: Lee Colbert and Scott Foerester came onboard as a result of this conference. This is to get our administrative databases on the web, and enhance study aids. Paramony will be on there and the bible in 3 languages. UB is coming in French. 3 months away from having the administrative data base workable on a trial basis. The President recommends that Robert Burns work with the PR committee on the launch of this database.

Family Life: Sara did a workshop yesterday at Summer Study Session which had 10 parents.. The committee for IC99 is Robert Burns, Robin Wisdom and Sara. She wants to add Claudia Ayres to committee. Family Life Day in LA is in the works, scheduled for Oct.23rd. Not a lot of activity on Family Life Chat list. Family Activity Manual is still being worked on. She is getting direct editing advice. Larry Mullins developed The Chronicles of the Life of Jesus, and for a children's study group where they read a couple of pages with pictures. Sara wants to give it to families to use

it in their homes right now. She wants to ask IUA members to be on committee as adjuncts. Locals did an excellent job of childcare for this conference. The FLC sent the guidelines to them. Sara Blackstock wrote to Carlos Zapata about families in Colombia. He'll be in contact with them. Sara would like to go to the World Parliament of Religions as a representative of Urantia youth. She would love to have kids go. She feels that this is another age and that we should think in terms of beginning to use what Jesus tried to use 2000 years ago; the family idea more than the kingdom idea. Claudia facilitated a workshop for youth on what it's like to be a UB kid. She will do it again at IC99. Paula Thompson says that Larry did The Chronicles of Jesus, but didn't have copyright on pix. Mary has Spanish version of The Young Child's Guide to the UB. Bob Slagle is doing the Family Book in Spanish. Marilynn Kulieke has a proposal in conjunction with Family Life Committee. The EC basically sees the Ad Hoc committees as a part of the EC, since they report to them. The EC has a constant continual relationship with the Ad Hoc committees. It was accepted at EC. (This is a report on an EC decision). Robert Bruyn suggests that the Secretary General become a liaison to EC for Ad Hoc Committee chairs. Marilynn will take that under advisement. The President says that what the EC is requesting is that the chairs of all Ad Hoc committees come to the EC mtgs. Sara Blackstock only comes to the EC meetings at the General Council meetings. The President thinks that Sara Blackstock should come to all EC meetings for integration purposes. Charles Olivea thinks it's an evolutionary accommodation and dignifies a process. Avi Dogim suggests that Sara give a report there as an observer. Then President suggests that we strongly encourage the ad hoc committee chairs to observe the work of the Executive Committee.

Proposal to hold our February mid-year General Council meeting in Los Angeles. Dolores Nice recommends San Diego. Steve Dreier offers Chicago. Robert Burns asks what a hosting society should be prepared to do. Miami is also suggested. The general feeling is not this year, but that we consider Miami for other mid-year meetings. Marilynn Kulieke talked about Houston. They were willing to host. We should consider Texas.

Simple vote by hands.

Los Angeles and/or San Diego 20

Chicago – 0

Houston – 8

Richard Omura and Brian Smith will arrange the next General Council meeting, to be held in San Diego on February 5, 6 & 7, 1999

President asks to close meeting. Visitors leave.

Publications: Sage Waitts membership application is on the way. The EC needs to make her a member. We can elect her provisionally. We will do this backwards for practicality. We will vote provisionally contingent on the EC 's approval of her member-at-large application . No further nominations. No discussion. Vote: 31 for, 0 opposed.

Recess for lunch

Closed session reopens at 1:25 p.m.

Dan Massey moves that we allow Alison Gardner Massey to attend meeting to give PR Committee Report with Lorrie Krasny. Seconded by Beth Bartley. Discussion. Only decisions made in during this report be recorded in the minutes.

17 in favor. 12 opposed.

PIPTUB (Public Information Program for *The Urantia Book*) Report given. (on file).

Lorrie Krasny moves that: Whereas the General Council has desired to create a system of public information concerning The Fellowship; and whereas the General Council has appointed an ad hoc committee on Public Relations to organize work toward this end; and whereas the General Council has received a report from that committee recommending that the Fellowship conduct its business under a name clearly designative of its association with and commitment to *The Urantia Book*; **now therefore the General Council resolves that The Fellowship shall consistently conduct its general public activities using " The Urantia Book Fellowship" as its business name. Constitutional and corporate designations of the organization shall remain unchanged for the present.** Seconded.

Vote on Name Change: 29 in favor, 2 opposed

Discussion on various logo presentations.

Votes on logos

No logo was selected.

Meeting opened to visitors at 3:07 p.m.

Lorrie Krasny announces the new organization name, "*The Urantia Book Fellowship*" to the visitors.

IC99: Conference Chair Steve Dreier reports that the conference committee has reorganized without Gard Jameson. There was a site meeting on June 6th, 1998, in Vancouver. Many site and program issues are being worked on. There are four thematic days. There will be participation outside the fellowship. Bruce Porter and Gard Jameson are in charge of day one. Sioux Harvey is co-chairing Day 4, Ron Louie is in charge of excursions, and Nathan Jansen will do catering. These are all IUA members. We will do a mailing in the next month or so to people who have attended conferences in the past – approx. 1500, to get early information and registration. Commitments from as many as we can from as much as we can, hopefully, 500 – 700 responses. Then we'll go to the greater community. Marvin Gawryn is chairing the Program Committee. We can do mailings to both lists. Marvin Gawryn lists day themes and descriptors. We have a state-of-the-art auditorium for our plenaries, the Chan Centre. Based on last conference, the planning continues. The program for under 18 folks needs \$22K. Entertainment is requesting substantial funding. This will mean an approximate \$100 registration fee. Facility is beautiful. There is a real incentive to firm up registrations early to get the cheapest registration fee and insure requested housing. Children's fees are half. Joe Liszka asks if we are doing any advertising within the college community itself, for the family program, for example. Also, entire study groups will be doing workshops. Talk to your groups. The President asks if they are planning to have another committee meeting in February. Steve Dreier says that we don't want to burden our planners (who aren't on the GC) with another travel expense.

FLOWERS: Marilyn Kulieke reports that the Flowers Committee, composed of John Lange, Michelle Klimesh and herself, are doing a lot of business because they are using FLOWER applications to distribute the Uversa Press book. We've distributed 261 in USA, and 286 internationally (including 200 to Norman Ingram). There was also a request for Urantian Emprise. FLOWERS is out of money. They spent it on Norman Ingram, the NY society's work with the Gay Games in Amsterdam, and Urantian

Emprise (but not with money for them). Michelle Klimesh reports that between 800-850 Uversa Press books have been distributed. All the hardbacks are gone. One book went to every area coordinator. Applications went to societies and to each study groups. They're on boat libraries and even nuclear submarines. Michelle Klimesh says we earmarked 1000 for domestic and 1000 for international.

OFFICE OVERSIGHT: Marilyn Kulieke says the office clean up is finished.

The redecorating was done by Jennifer Siegel and her father. The upcoming tasks include back-filing catch up. Matt Block left the Fellowship office on 5/15/98. John Hales has been doing it with Brian Harris as a helper. We need to work on work-flow distribution. We're giving all the financial stuff to Glorianne Harris. The Database Project is important to us. We can use the calendar system on website to communicate what is going on in the office. Our big upcoming task is SpiritQuest 2000. John Hales thanks Marilyn and Jennifer Siegel for getting us moving forward with the office. The President offers that during the next year, most of the efforts of the council and our workers will be the conference. Thanks to Steve Dreier and The Fellowship office. Steve has our commitment to make that conference a resounding success.

UVERSA PRESS: Avi Dogim says the Publications Committee is beginning to use Uversa Press for all new publications. Steve Dreier tells Dan Massey that there has been a request put in for a little more time to complete the registration to use Uversa Press as a corporate entity for our publications, like Deseret for the Mormons, Christian Science Publishing House for Christian Scientists, Unification Church owns Washington Times. A lot of these enterprises lose money. We would like to make money. No plunging ahead. We're decades from those being issues. We should just establish a source for secondary works. John Lange says that we should go to book fairs as Uversa Press with our secondary works for sale. We would get more name identity around the world. We could market what we do not publish. Dan feels that this may need to be clarified. Paula Thompson tells us that Jesusonian often gets a good secondary work that someone is asking them to publish. Would Uversa Press want to publish? Dan Massey says that's a Publications Committee job now. EC has to discuss it. John Lange says we need a stable place to get our printing done. Dan asks if Jesusonian ever prints stuff like that? Paula Thompson answers that we're not funded to publish everything that comes along. The Call Of The Spirit by Merrit Horn goes unpublished. Joe Liszka asks Paula Thompson, how Jesusonian makes its decisions on what to publish? She answers that most generally they put out a work to get feedback on it first.

Uversa Press is just a name right now. The President asks if we have the will to invest time and energy in a publishing venture. Avi Dogim says this would be a tremendous undertaking and asks if we want to go into publishing business. Do we want it to make money? Break even? Subsidize it? Are we a vanity press? Joe Liszka says we would be remiss in not exploring the possibility. We might look at it from a simple view first; printing what we know will sell at break even. Harry McMullan says that we're printing the Paramony for \$20K. He thinks it's a pipe dream to talk about publishing. We should use the web. Joe Liszka offers that the website could sell the publications. David Kantor agrees. Michelle Klimesh says that projects by the Education Committee may need publication. Could we appoint a committee to present this issue? Dan Massey suggests that we need a group of people to recommend something here. Richard Omura says we should look into having a publishing house and using the funds we can make from it to fund other activities. We could be very selective using UB values. Paula Thompson tells us that The Paramony is only a possibility. Mo Siegel hasn't been enthusiastic. Jesusonian has first right of refusal. Now that Fellowship wants to do it, Mo says Jesusonian will do it now. Dwayne has another great book. His publisher went out of business and he needs a publisher. Dan reminds us that our sales are only to ourselves right now. We have no expertise in this. Brian Smith says if you don't know anything about a business, don't get into it. We are spending so much money on outside printing. If it would be cheaper for us to do our own, then we should do it. Christel Garrick says that there are ways that small publishers can get out into the market. They make deals with larger publisher. Stephen Zents asks if we can keep the business entity alive? The President says that's what we're trying to do now. John Lange asks for a straw vote. Should we explore publishing projects under Uversa Press banner? The President asks if we should begin to actively look for those projects that may be suitable for Uversa Press? Marvin Gawryn tells us that he's been a small publisher, and that he echoes what Brian said. The President suggests we revisit this next summer after the conference.

Status of TDA Resolutions from last summer:

Publication of Spiritual Fellowship Journal. Avi says it's off the table.

Religious initiatives proposal is in process.

Public Information Plan is underway under PR Committee

Study Group Information and Communications Plan is underway via Domestic Extension for more contact with study group leaders.

There is no leftover TDA business.

Current Status of Foundation/Fellowship Relationships

The President reports that in April, members of IUA, CC & Trustees and Fellowship met together. During the first part of the meeting we discussed who we were, how we worked, and cleared up misconceptions. We came to understand the different cultures of the organizations. There is no reconciling of the differences in the way we work, but we will try to work more cooperatively where we can. In the afternoon, we assigned working teams toward this end: Reader Referral team to solve the impasse; a Video Production team to create an Introduction to TUB. (This one may not be viable. Foundation has no one so far); Translation team, headed by Avi Dogim, to discover if there is some benefit to communicating on issues relating to translations; Website team with Dan Massey; and a Unity team with Marvin Gawryn.

Reader Referral Committee: Steve Dreier is the chairperson and reports that they met with a delegation from Foundation including Kathleen Swadling, Cathy Jones, Tonia Baney and Gard Jameson. Tonia Baney began by connecting the reader referral issue to the Foundation's property titles. This did not seem a tenable discussion. They broke up the meeting with Foundation representatives saying they need acknowledgment of trademark, and Fellowship representatives saying that's not likely to happen. Subsequently we've had communication that they're changing their policy. The latest news is that they've brought their database problems at the office under control. And now everything should be just fine. The President reads a letter she received. (She solicited a progress report). The President asks if anyone has had a referral. Dolores Nice got one. Earlene Green has gotten some. Houston reported getting one. Harry McMullan reports that he hasn't had one referral in ten years, and he used to get one every few weeks. Each member of the GC who has a study group – send a note.

Steve Dreier suggests that Domestic Extension makes this happen so we know that the Foundation has been given the information they've asked for. Paula asks them if they'd like to be in the database? Then she will send the information. Richard Omura says that hardly any L.A. study groups get referral; that even the IUA has only had one referral in the last few years. Stephen Zents relates a personal experience with an outburst in his own

study group attended by Jay Peregrine. Jay Peregrine said Foundation would never promote their study group. The President will send Tonia a letter saying we will verify what the study groups want. Marilyn Kulieke has gotten a referral. Would anyone listed in the study group directory not want to be in the Foundation database? The President will send them a Study Group Directory. Harry McMullan says that we have false expectations. Nothing has ever happened and probably won't in the future. Avi Dogim says that we need to canvass specific groups and get their information. Then we should report it to the Foundation and see what happens. Paula Thompson says that if we just send a Study Group Directory it won't work. Let's send a letter with the application, where they cc: the Fellowship. Harry McMullan says that this is just a source to send info to our readership.

Richard Omura agrees. Beth Bartley tells us that at an Atlanta expo, an excited reader found them, they had called the Foundation and the Foundation told them that there were absolutely no readers in their area. The Foundation was not referring new readers to their own study groups. Maybe it's not us. Harry McMullan says that what we can depend on is that the Foundation will do everything they can to suck up our donors. The President tables discussion.

Video Team: Since the Foundation has come up with no participants, we will close participation with the Foundation by August 1.

Translations: Leela offered to look at specific sections of the Russian translation for the Foundation. She received no response. Michelle Klimesh reports that she called Georges Dupont regarding translations. She left 2 messages regarding the Serbo-Croatian translations. There was never any reply. Then she spoke with Travis Binion about the translation committee, and he didn't even remember the committee, but said he'd look into it.

Unity Committee: Marvin Gawryn has had informal communiqués with Ron Louie. The imprecision of it makes it a method of redirecting it other places. No clear statement from Foundation to deal with. John Lange tells us that the Foundation went to Korea and got in touch with our affiliates there. Steve Dreier says this is a unique situation with uncertain outcomes, but his situation is filled with possibilities. We should be very careful with this and not allow the past to overly cover the potentials for the future. We can prejudice the outcome. This may have potential. Gary Deinstadt says that these may be incredible times but there are some things we can do; the video project will represent *The Urantia Book* Fellowship. It would a tremendous asset for this particular project to do it on our own. Charles

Olivea agrees with Steve Dreier. What happens to us, and how we respond to it, is very important. Steve Dreier reminds us that when one door closes another one opens. We have a lot of opportunities to make things work. We need to live our teachings. Stephen Zents says the tide is flowing in our direction. Reader referrals can recover. We are creating something true beautiful and good. Claudia Ayers says that what she realizes is that we shouldn't let these opportunities go by. Steve Dreier says that all he is suggesting is that there is a lot of transitional activity and flux going on in the Foundation. Their situation is inherently confusing. He continues that during Mo Siegel and Gard Jameson's meeting here at Hand Chapel, they said if we have any concerns to send them directly to the Trustees, not to the office.

Leela Dogim says that she hears that we live in the time of transition every year. This is flux. This is life. There is nothing in particular different now. We should not ignore the past. Marvin Gawryn agrees with Steve Dreier that this seems to be time of ferment and transition for the Foundation. There is a lot of desire on the part of readers to find comprehensive solutions to these problems. There are two basic problems that cut like a swath: 1) the ability of the broad readership to work creatively with text; and 2) the word Urantia and the 3 concentric circles.

WEBSITE OVERSITE COMMITTEE: Dan Massey suggests that we read the report. The first problem with the website was "badmouthing". The President had a fax from Tonia Baney and the Trustees with a document, in the report. The General Council should trust the team to carry the ball on this and not get into trying to analyze the documents now. They are for our edification. Review the report. What the license does is unprecedented, even with its enjoinders. It appears to be an opening gambit and not the final word. The documents state their view of how the relationship can be normalized. It's all in the report.

Dan Massey continues that Mo Siegel had asked him how to solve the problem. Dan said to get a general public license, and to turn loose the commercial rights while retaining control over contents. Marvin Gawryn elaborated on this idea as a way to get past all this. Dan Massey continued that this is a response to what they laid on the table after 8 months. Our next step is to engage in an informal dialog while the website committee considers. Our next steps will be discussed in October with Executive Committee. We will continue to engage in dialog every chance we get.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution presented from Charles Olivea on prayer and worship **Get from email**. We engage in some kind of continuous process of prayer while we deliberate. The President suggests we table this and bring it up in February in a timely fashion. She suggests Charles ask for help framing the resolution. Charles Olivea feels that unbroken communion with the Father might have a profound effect on the mode of thinking and behaving of the General Council. This technique is being offered only for our General Council internal edification. Charles wants 2/3rds to vote it up. If not, it should not forward. General Councilors will contact Charles regarding this motion.

Marvin Gawryn moves to table this motion. Seconded by Michelle Klimesh.

Passes unanimously.

Paula Thompson wants to know if Doreen is going to get our phone number in the phone books, which number should we use? This will be discussed in Executive Committee meeting.

Joe Liszka moves to adjourn

Michelle Klimesh seconds

Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.