

APPROVED

The Urantia Book Fellowship
Special Meeting of The General Council
Hollywood, Florida, February 3, 2001

A Special Meeting of the General Council of The Urantia Book Fellowship was held on February 3, 2001 at the Ramada Hotel, Hollywood, Florida.

President Avi Dogim called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM on Saturday, February 3, 2001.

Lee Smith read a passage from The Urantia Book.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Agustin Arellano
Claudia Ayers
Beth Bartley
Sara Blackstock
Robert Bruyn
Robert Burns
Linda Buselli
Avi Dogim
Lila Dogim
Steve Dreier
Marvin Gawryn
Larry Geis
Doreen Heyne
David Kantor
Michelle Klimesh
Marilynn Kulieke
John Lange
Rosey Lieske
Joe Liszka
Dan Massey
Harry McMullan III
Charles Montgomery
Dolores Nice
Charles Olivea

Susan Ransbottom
Stevie Schaffer
Lee Smith
Paul Snider
Paula Thompson
Steven Zendt

Absent: Matthew Block, Gary Deinstadt, Christel Garrick (now Schmidt), John Hales, Richard Johnson, Brian Smith.

30 present, 6 absent

Proxies: Matthew Block to Charles Montgomery, John Hales to Paul Snider, Gary Deinstadt to Steve Dreier, Richard Johnson to Marilyn Kulieke, Brian Smith to Robert Burns.

Total of 35 votes present, including 5 proxies.

A motion to approve the minutes of July 2, 2000 passed unanimously.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Report of Negotiating Team (negotiating with Urantia Foundation)

Dan Massey reported for the Fellowship's Negotiating Team. Attorney Ross Plourde was hired to represent fellowship. UF and UBF attorneys interacted, and subsequently suggested hiring a mediator. The Foundation wants a March meeting with the UBF Negotiating Team, the Trustees and members of IUA.

Urantia Foundation is now claiming that the Urantia Book Fellowship website is commercial and therefore not covered by licenses issued a couple of years ago. Lawyers suggested that a new license would be the way to resolve this, but no specifics were suggested. Dan reported a UF breach of a secrecy agreement in their fund raising material. An agreement not to enter into new legal actions was agreed to through counsel; within days UF filed an action against UBF names registrations. This was done by UF without the knowledge of their attorney. The UBF team will suggest mediation as the next step. The major problem is the UF refusal to adjust demands.

Various questions and comments were addressed to Dan Massey:

President Avi Dogim stated that we have repeatedly asked to meet with the Trustees, perhaps with attorneys present, since these are the decision makers. UF insists on a larger group.

Charles Olivea offered a prayer for reconciliation.

Amendments to the Constitution – Dan Massey

Dan Massey – Chair of Judicial Committee presented proposed amendments to the Fellowship Constitution:

An amendment was presented to change the name of the Domestic Extension Committee to the Outreach Committee.

The proposed amendment passed unanimously.

An amendment was presented to transfer the responsibility of local societies from the Outreach Committee (formerly Domestic Extension) to the Charter Committee.

The proposed amendment passed unanimously.

An amendment was presented to change the name of the Fraternal Relations Committee to the Interfaith Committee.

Vote on the proposed amendment: 34 yes, 1 no. The amendment is passed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept email as sufficient notification for constitutional amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

A question about extending email communication to all matters of business was deferred to another discussion.

Education Committee – Lee Smith

Lee Smith reported on SS2001 in Santa Cruz. The theme is “Experiencing Your Faith.” Registration is Thursday evening, August 9, 2001. The TDA will meet a day or two earlier.

International Conference 2002 – Steve Dreier reporting

IC02 will be held from Sunday, June 30- Friday, July 5, 2002. An additional Saturday night stay in Denver(June 29) is recommended. Beth Bartley volunteered to work on an altitude adjustment program. What theme? Not yet determined. Claudia Ayers suggests “The Second Mile.”

Family Life Committee Report (ad hoc) – Sara Blackstock reporting

Sara requested input from anyone who has ideas. Rosey Lieske reported that some work is being

done in South America children's programs. Sara would also like to see a program to weave the UB teachings into the best of family research.

Public Relations Committee (ad hoc) – Dan Massey reporting for Alison Massey

A new brochure will be produced introducing the Uversa book.

Uversa Press – Harry McMullan III

Harry McMullan reported that Behz Sarmast's book will be published by Uversa Press. Saskia Revouri and Matthew Block will do copy editing for \$4000. We have \$10,000 invested in this project.

Duane Faw's Paramony will be reprinted by Uversa Press. It contains updated references with paper/section/paragraph and line number notation. 3000 copies will be printed.

Finance Committee Report – Robert Burns

The Finance Committee needs the wish lists and visions of the committee chairs. We have received some large donations which have put us ahead for this year.

Question - Paul Snider: How have contributions been affected by the tension between the Fellowship and the Foundation? Answer: Probably to some degree, but UBF is hurting this year.

Other Matters

Joe Liszka will volunteer for Publications or Public Relations Committees.

David Kantor, webmaster, requested that materials be prepared for the website. David suggested that each General Councilor submit one article per year for website publication.

Harry McMullan III described a method for raising money for UBF from a bingo parlor. A discussion followed on whether this was acceptable to council. A motion was made and seconded to recommend the fund raising method and send the matter back to the EC for further consideration and exploration.

Vote: 25 yes, 5 no, 4 abstain

Motion carries. The matter goes to the EC for further discussion.

Recess for lunch at 12:45 PM. Resume at 2:15 PM

Special Presentation by the International Fellowship Committee

Councilors David Kantor and Agustin Arellano reported. Printed material was distributed.

Agustin reported about 1500 readers in Mexico, with about 200 going to study groups. Many are afraid of past experiences in religion. A conference is coming up which may help heal some of these concerns. The website “Guetza.org” shows a 9 level pyramid symbol topped by concentric circles. It is a very diverse group, interested in all kinds of things. Guetza means “bread of light,” also brotherhood, fellowship, and sharing.

A Spanish audio version of the book is being produced because there are many people in Mexico that do not read. Many people looking for study aids, and discussion with other readers. There is a service project involving visits to an old age home.

The Urantia Book is now down to \$20 per copy, possibly less this year with additional help. Books are greatly needed. 500 books given out last year, would like to do 1000 this year. The culture is very different in North and South Mexico. A conference is planned for April 10-13, 2001 in Mexico City. The topic will be faith. Most of the readers are under 25. There are now 22 groups in Mexico City.

Rosey Lieske reported on Norman Ingram’s trips in Africa and South America.

Report of the Charter Committee – Bob Bruyn

Bob reported on the December 8, 2000, installation of The Urantia Book Aloha Society of Hawaii in Captain Cook on the Big Island. He reviewed the history of the group and how Bud Kagan initiated and organized the application and chartering process. Photos of the event were circulated. Charter is currently working on a Society Chartering Packet of materials that can be sent to groups interested in affiliating with UBF.

Publications Committee – Linda Buselli

Linda reviewed committee work. Linda requested contributions for the publications. The theme next Fall is articles submitted by societies.

Special Projects – Michelle Klimesh

Inactive for the last 6 months. Linda Buselli would like to do a calendar featuring the work of Urantian artists. It seems to be a go.

Education Committee – Lee Smith

The proposed Wrightwood Series – Parables of Jesus – turns out to be more difficult to take on than was anticipated.

Domestic Extension (now Outreach Committee) – Paula Thompson

Paula questioned the continuing value of the expos, and the trouble they are having with them.

Warm thanks and a round of applause was given to the visitors from Latin America

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Submitted by Steve Dreier, Secretary