

APPROVED

The Urantia Book Fellowship
Special Meeting of the General Council
Hyatt Newporter Hotel, Newport Beach, California
Saturday, February 7, 2004

A special meeting of the General Council of *The Urantia Book* Fellowship was held on Saturday, February 7, 2004 at the Hyatt Newporter Hotel, Newport Beach, California.

President Avi Dogim called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M. Ken Raveill read a passage from *The Urantia Book*. Tom Orjala read a poem.

The following members were present constituting a quorum:

Claudia Ayers
Sara Blackstock
Robert Bruyn
Robert Burns
Linda Buselli
Michael Challis
Lenny Cowles
Gary Deinstadt
Lila Dogim
Avi Dogim
Steve Dreier
John Hales
Doreen Heyne
Larry Geis
Marvin Gawryn
Jack Kane
David Kantor
Michelle Klimesh
John Lange
Harry McMullan
Charles Montgomery
Dolores Nice
Charles Olivea

Richard Omura
Thomas Orjala
Susan Ransbottom
Ken Raveill
Bill Rocap
Stevie Shaffer
Lee Smith
Paul Snider
Paula Thompson
Joanne Wiedeman

Absent: Agustin Arellano, Susan Cook
Vacant: 1 seat due to Rebecca Kantor's resignation
Summary: 33 present, 2 absent, 1 vacancy, no proxies

Review of agenda: Additions: add Family Life Committee report and Website report.

A motion to accept minutes of July 20, 2003 passed unanimously.

President Avi Dogim announced the resignation of Rebecca Kantor from the General Council. This leaves a vacancy on the General Council and the Executive Committee since Rebecca was the chair of the Interfaith Committee. Avi asked for suggestions for nominees for the vacant position.

Sale of the 529 Wrightwood Avenue building – Robert Burns reporting.

The Council expressed appreciation for the work of Robert Burns and John Hales in arranging and completing the building sale.

Barcelona Parliament – Paula Thompson reporting.

About 30 people are planning to go, including individuals from Zambia, Senegal, and youth. Sara asked that some coordination be arranged to involve all attendees in the *Urantia Book* booth. Marvin Gawryn noted that it is usually possible to occupy abandoned booth space as “squatters.”

Uversa Press Report – Harry McMullan

About 1300 *Urantia Books* were sold last year. About 300 Paramonies were sold. We are finished with IPG but it will be some time before accounts are finally settled.

The insert in the *Mighty Messenger* resulted in a spike in sales.

A book marketing effort involving direct contact with distributors will be executed this year. Discussion followed concerning various suggestions and experiences in marketing *The Urantia Book*.

Summer Study Session 2004 – Lee Smith reporting.

The planned theme is “interfaith.”

The date is September 17 in Kansas City. The Summer Study Session will attach to the Kansas City regional. Susan Cook is managing the KC conference. The General Council will meet on Sunday, September 19, 2004. Santa Fe, New Mexico is holding a space for 2006

IC2005 – Doreen Heyne and Lila Dogim reporting.

IC05 Conference dates: July 30 – August 4, 2005

Mark Kulieke will run bookstore. Free day tour options compiled by Bill Rocap. A variety of tours are available through a commercial tour operator. A formal dinner dance is planned for the 50th anniversary of publication of *The Urantia Book*. The cost will be included in the registration fee.

Estimated costs at this time: \$135 for meal package. Rooms are quads – two doubles or four singles. Double \$185, single \$210. Full quad will cost \$650

Two shuttles will be provided to take people from housing to program areas.

Program chairs: Linda Buselli –Science; Steve Hecht – philosophy and religion; Beasleys – experiential spirituality; John Causland will be bringing his telescopes.

Family Life Committee – Sara Blackstock reporting.

Jerusalem Marketplace is in Alaska, being used locally. Marriage and family life curriculum prepared by Buck and Arlene Weimer in progress. Truthbook’s Website under development.

Bill Rocap will manage the UB tweens program at IC05. Tom Choquette and Fred Harris will manage the older teens program at IC05

SOAP – Service Opportunity Action Program – is under development. Charles Olivea and Tom Orjala working on this.

Thanks to Robert Burns for helping to raise funds for the attendance of Zambian youth at the Barcelona Parliament.

Several members commented on the importance of the Fellowship's youth programs. Marvin Gawryn suggested a daylong Appreciative Inquiry conference with youth in conjunction with IC05. Tom Orjala suggested forming a youth subcommittee.

Recess for lunch at 12:00 P.M. Resume at 1:30 P.M.

Website – David Kantor reporting.

A search engine being developed for the website. See written report

Finance Committee – Robert Burns reporting.

Phone contact campaign underway, and going well. The website is providing essential information to support this effort. Fund raising target for last year was not met. This year's goal will be set at a more realistic level.

Harry McMullan explained some of the complications concerning donor restricted funds. The current audit is complicated by the requirement to account for the disposition of these funds.

Membership Committee – Bob Bruyn reporting

Four new members at large have been approved. New members receive a welcome letter and a copy of Bill Sadler's "Simplification of the Forward."

There have been no inquiries about forming a society. No further information has been received from the Wenatchee Society.

Judicial Committee – John Lange reporting.

No activity in this period. A review of organizational structure is planned.

Publications Committee – Linda Buselli reporting.

Inserts have been useful in promoting sales of *The Urantia Book* and the Paramony. It is a very cost effective way the send materials to the mailing list.

A new upgraded look for the Mighty Messenger is planned. Linda Buselli needs material for the Mighty Messenger – society information, retreats, book fairs, etc.

Special Projects Committee – Larry Geis reporting.

There are no special projects at this time.

Chic Montgomery, committee member, reported he went to Gabriel of Sedona's compound with Saskia and Matthew. Chick was favorably impressed and is going back next week for a more in-depth visit.

Education Committee – Lee Smith reporting.

Lee Smith suggested changing the charge of the committee to develop teachers and leaders to something else. Lee feels the charge is presumptuous.

Dolores Nice suggests there should be something for the children at Summer Study Sessions to attract readers with families. It need not be elaborate.

Avi Dogim suggested we think about having a special meeting on fostering effective committee work.

International Fellowship Committee – David Kantor reporting.

There are 4 countries in Latin America in the process of creating non-profit entities. There will be a meeting in Brazil later this year to develop a pan Latin American organization.

A group in Mexico is sending books to Cuba. They took the books to Cuba personally. They report 19 small study groups in Cuba, sometimes working with hand copied portions of the text. Since Cuba has cut off internet communications, the Mexican group is communicating with the Cuban readers regularly by telephone. Agustin Arellano is responsible for bringing this program to fruition.

Susan Ransbottom, committee member, suggests establishing "sister" relationships with groups in South and Central America. There seems to be less concern with "copyright" matters.

Ken Raveill reports that JJ Johnson has established reader groups in Pakistan. Ken has communicated with JJ and is now in touch with the people in Pakistan. A Kansas City group is sending funding to Pakistan to assist them with the expenses of spreading the book. Nadia requested a laptop computer which the Kansas City group has sent to her. She also needed a printer. Some 45-50 books have been sent to Pakistan.

Agustin Arellano has another visa interview this month. Hopefully he will be able to visit the US shortly.

Outreach Committee – Paula Thompson reporting

The committee is still doing Expos – San Francisco, Sacramento, etc.
The “speakers bureau” is being developed – based on “Toastmasters.”

Interfaith Committee – Chair vacant

No report – chair vacant

New Business

The 2004 Annual Meeting of the General Council will be held in Kansas City on September 19, 2004.

Retreat Group Reports – Avi asked for reports from each of the three groups by Feb. 28. Each group moderator will determine how the information will be gathered and sent to the council.

The secretary’s notes on the afternoon session will be shared with the group.

Michelle Klimesh announced that she will be contacting unassigned councilors to help out with Fellowship work.

David Kantor, Susan Ransbottom and Lila Dogim spoke of the need for UB travel agents (or a volunteer that Michelle can find)to help with individual and group travel arrangements.

Ken Raveill spoke of Byron Belitsos 2 hour radio interview on 473 radio stations. It seemed to stimulate sales of *The Urantia Book* at a subsequent “psychic fair.” Ken has begun preparing a list of 50 questions which can be used by someone participating in a radio interview.

An extended discussion took place about presenting the book through radio programs and other media.

Richard Omura has a series of media tapes which he is giving to David Kantor. The community website is generating favorable reviews. Richard would like more photos, including historical photos.

Jack Kane discussed a variety of matters that are not clear to him as a new councilor. He suggested that attention be given to providing new councilors with adequate information for them to understand what motions are currently in effect and/or pending completion. It was noted that the General Council has no process for reviewing the status of prior motions to determine their state of progress or completion. Jack Kane volunteered to review General Council minutes for the

last five years and report back on the status of motions and resolutions passed during that period.

David Kantor asked for help in getting back copies of minutes. He is missing many copies of minutes. John Hales will provide copies from the office files.

Lila Dogim suggests we review status of decisions from prior meetings at subsequent meeting. There was considerable agreement that this should be done in the future. The EC will develop a method for doing this.

Charles Olivea read several passages from *The Urantia Book*.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.

Submitted by:
Steve Dreier, Secretary